A HISTORY OF SOME OPTOMETRIC PERIODICALS, PART 3

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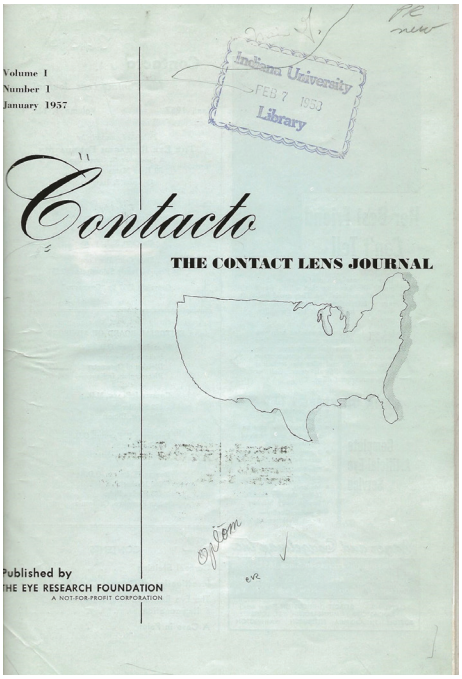
Parts 1 and 2 of this series looked at some American general optometry periodicals, including *Optical Journal and Review of Optometry*, *Optometric Weekly*, *Optometric World*, *American Journal of Optometry/Optometry and Vision Science*, and *Journal of the American Optometric Association/ Optometry*. Each of those had started publication by 1930 or much earlier. Later in the 20th century, some specialized optometric periodicals began. This part of the series will look at some American optometric periodicals in contact lenses, vision therapy and optometric education.

Contact Lenses



Contacto, Volume 1, Number 1, January 1957

The first contact lens journal was *Contacto*, published from 1957 to about 1999 by the National Eye Research Foundation (originally the Eye Research Foundation).[1] Leonard Bronstein, a well-known contact lens practitioner, who served as the first editor of *Contacto*, noted in its inaugural issue that: "The contact lens field is growing to such proportions that it needs an organ of communication."[2] *Contacto* published articles on cornea, contact lenses, orthokeratology and related topics. It had two temporary title changes, to *Contacto Mini-abstracts* in 1984-1985 and *Global Contacto* in 1991-1992.

Many contact lens manufacturing companies started publishing newsletters and regular informational mailings in the late 1950s and early 1960s. For example, Precision-Cosmet Digest was published from 1960 to about 1977.[1]

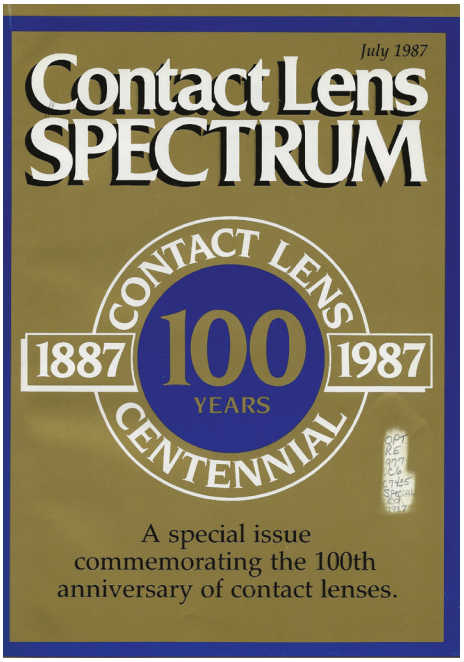
International Contact Lens Clinic, with more emphasis on research papers, started publication in 1974. The year 1974 is notable in contact lenses because soft contact lenses were beginning to be popular. The first issue of *International Contact Lens Clinic* featured several articles on soft contact lenses, and one of the articles was titled, "What should we call gel lenses?"[3] The article noted that they had been called "soft lenses, flexible lenses, hydrophilic lenses, hydroscopic lenses, as well as many generic and trade names." The founding editor of *International Contact Lens Clinic* was Robert B. Mandell, who received his optometry degree from Los Angeles College of Optometry in 1956 and a Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1962. A highly regarded contact lens researcher and educator, Mandell published the first edition of his widely used textbook *Contact Lens Practice* in 1965.

In 1985, *International Contact Lens Clinic* merged with *Optometric Monthly* to form *International Eyecare*, which was discontinued at the end of 1986. *International Contact Lens Clinic* resumed publication in 1987 and continued through 2000, when it was absorbed by *Contact Lens and Anterior Eye*, journal of the British Contact Lens Association.

Perhaps the most widely read contact lens periodicals have been *Contact Lens Forum* and *Contact Lens Spectrum*. *Contact Lens Forum* was started in 1976 with Neal J. Bailey as the editor. Bailey (1917-2006) received his optometry degree and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. He served on the optometry faculty at Indiana University from 1954 to 1958, when he returned to Columbus, Ohio, to start a private practice. He also taught at Ohio State and was a leading authority and writer on contact lenses.[4] *Contact Lens Forum* offered commentaries, reviews, case report and news items of interest to contact lens practitioners.

Contact Lens Spectrum published its first issue in January 1986. Neal Bailey left *Contact Lens Forum* to become founding editor of *Contact Lens Spectrum*. Of interest to optometric historians was the publishing in the July 1987 issue of *Contact Lens Spectrum* of a 64-page special issue on the past, present and future of contact lenses commemorating the 100th anniversary of contact lenses. In 1991, *Contact Lens Forum* was incorporated into *Contact Lens Spectrum*. Joseph T. Barr, who was editor of *Contact Lens Spectrum* from 1987 to 2007, saw it as providing "the most comprehensive

information on contact lenses in a monthly journal."[5]



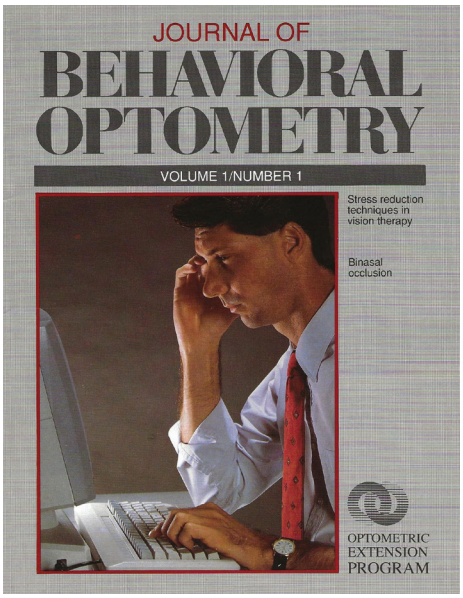
Contact Lens Spectrum Centennial Issue, July 1987

Vision Therapy

The College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) has published a journal since its formation nearly 50 years ago. COVD was formed in 1971 by the merger of three organizations: the National Society for Vision and Perception Training (NSVPT), the National Optometric Society for Developmental Vision Care and the Southwest Developmental Vision Society. The NSVPT started publishing a journal with the title *Journal of Optometric Vision Therapy* in 1970, and COVD took it over in 1971 with the merger.[6] The name of the journal was changed to *Journal of Optometric Vision Development* in 1975, and then to *Optometry and Vision Development* in 2005, before ceasing after volume 43 in 2012.

The first editor of the journal was Robert M. Wold (1942-2001), who also served COVD in leadership roles for many years. Wold held O.D. and M.S. degrees from Pacific University and practiced in California.[7] Following him as editor were Martin Kane (1972-1986), James Bosse (1987-1991), Sidney Groffman (1992-2003) and Dominick Maino (2004-2012). The journal published editorials, research articles, literature reviews, book reviews and COVD news. Leonard J. Press[8] noted that its annual reviews of the literature, which it published from 1976 to 2007, were "a highlight of the Journal."

The Optometric Extension Program (OEP), founded in 1928, for many years sent serialized writings in loose-leaf form to its members. These writings, frequently referred informally to as the "OEP papers," were often collected and published in softcover monographs. In the late 1980s, OEP decided to cease publication of the OEP papers and commence publication of a journal.[9] One of the motivations was to improve the standing of OEP in the academic community.[9]



Journal of Behavioral Optometry, Volume 1, Number 1

In 1990, OEP launched the bimonthly *Journal of Behavioral Optometry*. The founding editor of this journal was Irwin B. Suchoff (1932-2018). Suchoff received a B.S. degree from New York University, and after serving in the U.S. Army as a pharmacist technician, entered optometry school and earned his doctor of optometry degree in 1960 from the Massachusetts College of Optometry.[10,11] Suchoff had a long career practicing vision therapy in private practice and served as a staff member of the Optometric Center of New York and as a faculty member at the State University of New York (SUNY). In the 1980s at SUNY, Suchoff founded the first vision rehabilitation service for head trauma at an optometry school.[12] Suchoff also played a significant role in optometric residencies.[13] He was named Distinguished Service Professor at SUNY, recipient of the COVD Skeffington Award for contributions to the optometric literature as well as the COVD Getman Award for his work in developmental vision. Suchoff was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame in June 2018.

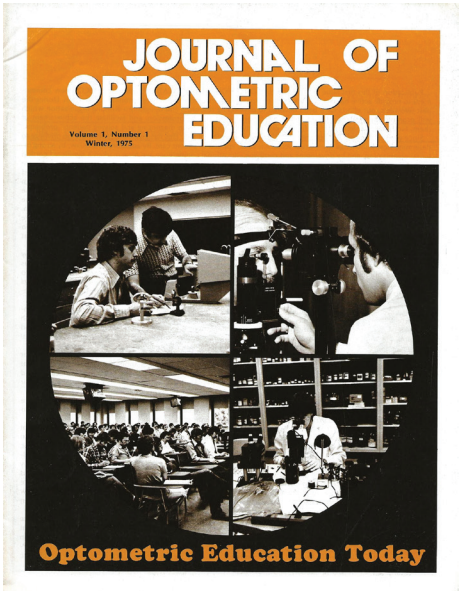
Irwin Suchoff served as editor of the *Journal of Behavioral Optometry* from 1990 to 2007. W.C. Maples was editor from 2008 to 2011 and Marc B. Taub from 2011 to 2012, when it ceased publication after volume 23.

In 2013, OEP, COVD and the Australasian College of Behavioural Optometrists embarked on a joint venture, the bimonthly, peer-reviewed journal *Optometry and Visual Performance*. It publishes research and clinical articles, case reports, literature reviews and editorials. Taub and Maino were initially co-editors, and later in its first year, Taub became sole editor in chief.

In 2014, COVD pulled out of the group effort publishing *Optometry and Visual Performance*, deciding to publish their own journal. In 2015, COVD

started the quarterly online peer-reviewed journal, *Vision Development and Rehabilitation*. It publishes research and clinical papers, case reports, book reviews and editorials. Press has served as editor since its beginning.

Optometric Education



Journal of Optometric Education, Volume 1, Number 1, Winter 1975

The first issue of the *Journal of Optometric Education* appeared in winter 1975, established by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. The inaugural issue listed a five-person editorial board with Norman E. Wallis, president of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, serving as its chairman. Wallis[14] explained that it was time for such a journal because there was a greater need than ever before for discussions of new teaching methodologies, curriculum and effective administrative structures by faculty, students and administrators, as well as for having a united picture of optometric education for those outside the profession.

Later in 1975, Chester Pheiffer, then dean of the University of Houston College of Optometry, became chairman of the editorial board, followed by John F. Amos from 1978 to 1985. Subsequent editors have been John W. Potter (1985-1987), David A. Heath (1987-1991), Felix M. Barker (1992-1999), Roger Wilson (1999-2002), Lester E. Janoff (2002-2005), Elizabeth Hoppe (2005-2010) and Aurora Denial (2010-2018).

The title of the journal changed to *Optometric Education* with volume 17, number 1 in the fall of 1991. The last print issue of *Optometric Education* appeared in the fall of 2007, and starting with volume 33, number 2 in the spring of 2008, it became available online only.

Practice Management

Optometric Management magazine started publication in 1965. In 1970, Irving Bennett headed a group which purchased the magazine and turned it into a highly successful publication, which still operates. Bennett described his work on *Optometric Management* in an earlier issue of *Hindsight*.[15]

Some Significant Foreign Periodicals

A few months after Frederick Boger started his first optometry periodical in New York in 1891, *The Optician* began in London to represent optical, scientific and photographic instrument industries.[16] In 1896, the British Optical Association started publication of *The Dioptric and Ophthalmometric Review*. That periodical was the forerunner of the *British Journal of Physiological Optics*, which in turn, was forerunner of the present-day *Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics*.[16] In 1919, *Commonwealth Optometrist* was published in Australia. It became the *Australasian Journal of Optometry* in 1930, the *Australian Journal of Optometry* in 1959 and then *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* in 1986. The *Canadian Journal of Optometry* started in 1939.

Comments

As noted in Part 1 of this article,[17] the first periodicals devoted exclusively to optometry appear to have been *Johnston's Eye Echo*, published from 1886 to 1891, and *The Optician*, published by Boger from 1891 to 1894. In 1895, Boger started *The Optical Journal*, which became *Optical Journal and Review of Optometry* and then later *Review of Optometry*. Hofstetter[18] wondered why an optometry magazine didn't start until 600 years after the invention of eyeglasses and centuries after formation of spectacle-makers guilds in Europe. He speculated that: "Until the latter part of the 19th century, the security of the optometrist's comfortable livelihood had been virtually unchallenged. At that point, though, came the invasion of the ophthalmic field by the medical professional, which for 600 years had remained quite aloof except for an occasional spoofing of eyeglasses. Perhaps not until then were optometrists anxious for the collegial communication a journal can afford."

The first two parts of this article included brief histories of the American general optometry periodicals which this author conjectured to be among the most important and most read by optometrists. We can look at a few statements and some data to corroborate that evaluation.

In the materials from the correspondence course used by the South Bend School of Optics in the late 1890s and early 1900s, we can find the following statements: "In reply to a number of inquiries from the class as to the best periodical devoted to

opticians I would say that *The Optical Journal* published by Mr. F. Boger…is the only journal in the United States published in the interest of optics and opticians exclusively. It is a wide-awake, up-to-date monthly and none of the class can afford to be without it. It contains news of the optical societies and optical legislation, as well as a great many technical and practical articles from a large staff of paid contributors."[19]

Speaking of the *Optical Journal and Review of Optometry* and *Optometric Weekly* in the first quarter of the 20th century, James R. Gregg[20] had this to say: "The early vigor of the optometric publications was an important factor in the development of optometry. …The independent journals, such as *The Weekly*, spoke effectively and well for the profession. They deserve much credit. [*Optometric Weekly* editor Lionel] Topaz in his editorials spoke strongly for professionalism, education and research."

Through the 20th century, optometry became more heavily involved in research, and optometry research journals gained in prominence. A common metric for judging quality and use of research journals is impact factor, based on frequency of citations. The optometry journals with the highest impact factors have been *Optometry and Vision Science* and *Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics*.[16,21]

Another way to assess the value of journals may be to determine how frequently they are cited in a leading textbook. An analysis of citations in the second edition of *Borish's Clinical Refraction*, published in 2006, found the following to be the most often cited: (1) *Optometry and Vision Science*, (2) *Archives of Ophthalmology*, (3) *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, (4) *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, (5) *Optometry – Journal of the American Optometric Association*, and (6) *Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics*.[21]

An idea of the periodical preference of optometry and optometric technician students comes from a 1979 paper.[22] Students in an optometric orientation class at Indiana University were required weekly to submit a brief review of a published article relating to optometry. The most commonly read periodicals in 1978 as judged by the percentage of students who used each of them were: *Review of Optometry* (77%), *Journal of the American Optometric Association* (75%), *Optometric Management* (72%), *American Journal of Optometry and Physiological Optics* (55%) and *Optometric Monthly* (48%). The most commonly read periodicals in 1977 were: *Review of Optometry* (read by 100% of students), *Journal of the American Optometric Association* (74%), *Optometric Management* (74%) and *Optometric Monthly* (69%).

In a 1996 paper, Janice Jurkus and Gerald Dujsik[23] observed that there were 105 English language periodicals relating to the eye care field. In 1993, they conducted a survey of faculty at 16 optometry schools in the United States. They listed 77 periodicals available in an optometry school library. Respondents were asked to indicate one of the following four answers as their reading habit for each of the periodicals: don't read, skim/glance, read part regularly (read specific articles but not entire journal), or always read (read most of the journal, every issue). A total of 263 completed surveys were returned out of 586 distributed. More than half of the respondents marked 10 journals as being at least skimmed on a regular basis. Fifty-eight different publications were marked as read or always read, indicating quite varied reading habits. Refereed journals which had the highest percentages of respondents marking read or always read were: *Journal of the American Optometric Association* (72%), *Journal of Optometric Education* (42%), *Optometry and Vision Science* (40%), *Archives of Ophthalmology* (40%) and *American Journal of Ophthalmology* (34%). Non-refereed periodicals which were read or always read by the most respondents were: *AOA News* (65%), *Review of Optometry* (52%), *Optometric Management* (40%) and *Contact Lens Spectrum* (35%). One of the conclusions of the authors was that accessibility was an important factor in readership. Periodicals received as a membership benefit were read more often than those obtained by subscription.

Optometry – Journal of the American Optometric Association discontinued publication in 2012. David B. Elliott and Neil Handley[16] suggested that, despite that loss to the profession, "the future of optometry journals looks bright." They noted that the leading optometry research journals are becoming more multidisciplinary and that *Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics* and *Optometry and Vision Science* are seeing increases in their impact factors. They also viewed the beginning of two new journals in 2008, the Spanish *Journal of Optometry* and the *Scandinavian Journal of Optometry and Visual Science*, as a positive sign.

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