FREE TO ALL! How to survive after three years of running a completely Open Access peer-reviewed journal, the Francophone Journal of Occupational Therapy Research (Revue Francophone de Recherche en Ergothérapie - RFRE). Tips ... and traps!

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Introduction: The number of research papers in occupational therapy (OT) is growing very rapidly. Most of them are written in English, which can be an obstacle to its dissemination in many non-English speaking countries. Additionally, most of the research papers in OT are published in traditional journals. This adds a price barrier and a permission barrier to the language obstacle.

Objectives: The aim of the Francophone Journal of Occupational Therapy Research (Revue Francophone de Recherche en Ergothérapie - RFRE) was to offer a completely free and open-access peer reviewed journal to the French-speaking researchers and clinicians all around the world.

Method: The RFRE was developed by a team of academic occupational therapists, from five countries. Several academic institutions and national OT associations support the project. Open Journal Systems (OJS), an open-source software, was chosen for the publication process.

Results: Six issues of the RFRE were published since 2015, twice a year. The RFRE reaches many hundreds of French-speaking readers. It is completely free for authors and readers. All articles are published under a CC-BY-SA-NC licence.

However, various challenges were encountered. Technical challenges were relatively easy to tackle. Others are more problematic, especially those related to the development of up-to-date "publication skills" by French-speaking occupational therapists. Research in OT is still in its early development in French-speaking countries.

Conclusion: Modern technology offers good opportunities to contribute to the development of OT research and OT research dissemination. Some challenges must nevertheless be addressed to ensure success.