

ICHRPI/CIHAE: Summary Annual Report of the Director of Publications, 2019

A. The Journal

2018 was another successful year for the journal. Sales and subscriptions of *Parliaments, Estates and Representation* continued strongly with Volume 38 (March/July/ December) distributed, in complete subscription, to 182 members and 80 libraries and institutions. Membership subscriptions have dropped slightly while online sales overall continue well. The main area of growth is again online sales/package agreements (which university libraries find more economical), increasing by 18% in 2017 and 19% in 2018 (to 2892). Total 2018 sales in print, including members, dropped slightly to 227 (240 in 2017) with 'online only' 2972, an impressive 20% rise from last year (2471), with overall sales (excluding members) up 18%, an increase from 5% in 2017.

Full-text downloads have increased markedly with our move to three issues, although there was some delay in the impact. Growth was only 18% 2016 to 2017 but over 40% 2017 to 2018 (7620 to 10891). However, by the end of June 2019 we reached 6544 and a remarkable figure of 12/13,000 seems likely for 2019, and we have seen increased demand by more than c.30% in line with 3 issues introduced in 2017. As with 2017, in 2018 the UK was the top country for downloads, and increasingly so (2601), with another strong showing from USA/Canada and European countries across a wide geography. The top institution by downloads was Stirling University in Scotland, followed by Glasgow and Strathclyde universities, also in Scotland. While in 2017 eight articles were downloaded 100 or more times, in 2018 seven were downloaded 200 or more times. The most popular by a distance (1862) was Kari Palonen's 'A comparison between three ideal types of parliamentary politics: representation, legislation and deliberation' (vol. 38:1, 2018), helped no doubt with open access status. The top cited article was again I.A.A. Thompsons's 'Crown and Cortes in Castile, 1590-1665' (vol.2:1, 1982) with 28.

Marketing initiatives by Taylor and Francis/Routledge continue to focus on social media. These include publicising our journal through Twitter feed (14,500) and Facebook (32,278). The publisher's journal homepage provides the download service and links to our own website and Facebook pages – see <http://www.ichrpi.com/index.html> Other sales strategies will continue as before such as Table of Contents 'alerts' (now 114) and a new 'History Hub' web page being established to replace their E-Bulletin. Other targeted campaigns introduced in 2018 include article level e-marketing to their wide academic network using computer matching data, and post-publication author alerts encouraging authors to circulate news. The publisher continues to be very optimistic about future prospects.

Online access for members

Taylor and Francis have been providing 'free' online access for members since March 2018. This includes access to the backlist as well as hard copies. This service is available to members who provide an email address with their subscriptions so access vouchers can be emailed out. A reminder to take advantage of this opportunity.

Publisher's Contract

Negotiations have started between T&F and the Director of Publications over a new contract and, subject to their offer, recommendations will be made to the Direction

B. Studies presented to ICHRPI/CIHAE

After a bumper period 2017/18 several excellent volumes have been/or will be published in 2018/19:

2018

Vol. XCV: *Political representation: communities, ideas and institutions in Europe (c. 1200 - c. 1690)*, edited by Mario Damen, Jelle Haemers and Alastair J. Mann, Brill, Leiden, 2018

2019

Vol. XCVII: *Multilevel parliaments. El Parlamentarisme en perspectiva històrica. Parlaments multinivell*, Vol. I – Vol. II, edited by Sebastia Serra Busquets and Elisabeth Ripoll Gil, Palma, Parlament de les Illes Balears i Institut d'Estudis Autònoms, 2019.

Vol. XCVIII: Coleman A. Dennehy, *Parliament in Ireland, 1613-89: the evolution of a colonial institution*, Manchester University Press, 2019.

Volumes XCV and XCVII are available to members at discount. Email at a.j.mann@stir.ac.uk for details. Note also that small number of our backlist volumes have been digitised and are available on our website. There are plans to do more digitisations over the coming year.

C. Website

Our own website, with the domain name www.ichrpi.info has been up and running for 2 years now and is being maintained by Coleman Dennehy. Information on future conferences, membership information and a full catalogue of our studies series are now displayed. It was set up on a versatile, user-friendly platform and is easy, quick, and cheap to update. The publisher's website is no longer maintained but some general Commission information has been retained on their journal page.

D. Commission social media

Facebook address: <https://www.facebook.com/ICHRPI>; Administrator: Coleman Dennehy

Blog address: <https://ichrpi.wordpress.com/>; Administrator: Coleman Dennehy

Twitter handle: @ichrpi; Administrator: Bertrand Augé

Thanks again must go to Coleman Dennehy, for continuing to administer our Facebook page. As it stands we have 256 likes, up from 238 last year, and from 175 in 2016. The most numerous cohorts are from Italy (40), Spain (39), UK (32), Ireland (18), Sweden and Romania (11 each), USA 9 and Germany (8). Our 'fans' come from 39 countries (up from 38 last year) via 27 languages (up from 23). By city, Dublin, Messina, London, Rome, Cagliari, Craiova, Athens, and Stockholm are where most fans are based. We recently got our first followers from Tunisia. The page offers information on commission activity but is also a platform for conference and publication information not directly organised by the commission but of interest. Members are encouraged to increase 'likes', to add images and photographs of conferences and gatherings, and provide details of research and publications of interest. The blog is dormant but can easily be revived. If anyone is willing to be interviewed/ or write a piece, or have one of their students/colleagues do so, please contact Coleman.

Bertrand Augé administers our Twitter account with content reflecting our activities, conferences and interests. Full yearly figures are not yet available but from March to June c.5000 people (last year it was c.21000), saw some 58 tweets. Interest was generated particularly by publication announcements and the appearance of issues of the journal. Overall, the traffic is very encouraging but we must to continue to post information to keep our followers.

To quote Coleman: 'It is in everyone's interest that we put ourselves in the shop-window effectively. At any point, so just send any announcements to our Twitter or Facebook accounts, or contact our officers directly. Also, encourage students, colleagues, and academic departments to interact with our social media platforms. If you have just launched a book or published an article, please take a few pictures and let us make a fuss over you!'. Amen to that.

Alastair Mann, Director of Publications (8/7/19)