

Over a Century of Occupational Medicine Research in Italy: *La Medicina del Lavoro's* Entire Digital Archive is Available Online

The Italian Society of Occupational Medicine and the Editorial Staff of *La Medicina del Lavoro* proudly announce that the entire collection since 1901 is available in digital format. One of the most exciting features of this digital archive is its powerful search capability. Users can now search articles by author's name, keywords, or words occurring in the text. Finding articles relevant to any searching and retrieving strategy is easy. Researchers can quickly find information from decades of research and studies without sifting through countless pages. The availability of this digital archive is a major step forward for research on the history of Occupational Medicine in Italy. It will allow researchers and practitioners to easily access past studies and build upon them to improve workplace safety and health outcomes. Additionally, it will be an invaluable resource for students just beginning their studies in occupational medicine. This online archive will provide an extensive collection of papers students can draw upon when writing their research papers.

Another significant benefit of having a fully searchable digital archive is that it enables researchers to track trends in Occupational Medicine over time. They can easily browse through decades worth of articles and see how research themes have evolved, identify areas where progress has been made, and evaluate areas where more work needs to be done. Furthermore, this new digital archive offers great convenience for readers who wish to access specific articles from past issues. Previously, scholars needing a copy of an article from a particular volume would have had to visit a library or request it through interlibrary loan, a very time-consuming process. The ability to retrieve individual articles as pdf files online offers users an efficient solution and saves them valuable time. We are excited about this new digital archive's possibilities for Occupational Medicine. The ability to access previous research papers and studies digitally will further support advancements in the field and contribute to a safer, healthier workplace for all.

In addition to the availability of *La Medicina del Lavoro's* entire collection in digital format, we would like to add a comment regarding the shift towards using English as the primary language in scientific research articles. Over the past few years, there has been a gradual transition towards using English exclusively in academic and scientific publications, with only a few documents and obituaries remaining in the traditional Italian language. Such a shift has been associated with excellent bibliometrics performance, as evidenced by the sharp increase in the JIF (Journal Impact Factor) and Cite Score (Scopus) from 0.6 to around 3.0. We are eagerly awaiting the 2022 official scores, expected to be announced by Clarivate's JCR and Scopus by mid-June, which should confirm what seems to be a steady trend.

While it is important to acknowledge and preserve our national languages and cultural heritage, we cannot ignore that English has become the *lingua franca* of science and research worldwide. By adopting English as the primary language for academic research publications, Italian researchers can reach a wider audience, collaborate more effectively with international colleagues, and showcase their work globally. The effort to reach a wider audience is demonstrated by the availability of a mirror publication of each article on PMC (PubMed Central, a free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature at the U.S. National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine (NIH/NLM)).

With reputable journals like *La Medicina del Lavoro* transitioning to English-only publications, Italian scientists have greater access to prominent platforms for sharing their research findings with a global audience. Therefore, we urge all researchers, practitioners, and students interested in occupational medicine to

take advantage of this exciting new resource and explore the digital archive of *La Medicina del Lavoro*. We hope that it will provide valuable insights as we continue to work towards improving workplace health and safety outcomes in Italy and beyond. At the same time, while we recognize that this shift towards using English may be accompanied by some challenges related to preserving our cultural heritage, it ultimately benefits our scientific community.

By embracing this trend and publishing high-quality research articles in English-language, we can further enhance our researchers' international standing and contribute meaningfully to ongoing efforts to improve worldwide occupational health and safety outcomes. With good citation scores and a reputation for publishing high-quality research, we hope that *La Medicina del Lavoro* will continue attracting submissions from foreign authors, further cementing its position as a leading journal in occupational health and safety, moving towards an increasingly interconnected global community of researchers promoting collaboration and sharing knowledge across borders.

Whereas we left the Italian language, i.e., a tradition consolidated by over 110 annual volumes of our journal, we are reluctant to accept some innovations, such as using the internet to implement scientific research projects. We seldom accept web surveys for publication in our journal because of concerns about validity and data quality. Our journal strives to provide impartial scientific information on Occupational Medicine and leverages modern information technologies to achieve this goal. However, to ensure the credibility of papers that use web surveys, authors should avoid taking shortcuts that could affect the validity of findings. Construct validity of unvalidated questionnaires is a major handicap in web-based surveys. Getting consistent responses can be challenging due to varying vocabulary, internet literacy levels, and engagement among respondents. Inconsistency can lead to invalid responses and reduce the usefulness of collected data.

Selection bias is the main concern when using social media for recruitment, as it may exclude individuals who do not use these platforms. The snowball sampling technique often used in web surveys can be useful to recruit participants from a specific group that is otherwise difficult to reach. However, this technique can limit the sample variability if participants only recruit other people they have an affinity with. This issue can hinder the study's external validity, as the examined sample may not show the actual target population's characteristics. Control over response rates is challenging in online surveys, making it difficult to assess the representativeness of samples and evaluate nonresponse bias. Technical issues and other factors may also result in incomplete or skewed data or uncontrolled multiple responses from the same individuals. Another issue with social media-based surveys is poor data quality because of respondents' poor motivation and involvement. Some participants may skip questions or provide inaccurate answers because of a lack of interest, misunderstanding, or social desirability bias. Fake identities and declarations may lead to the contamination of specific study groups. Data privacy is also a concern when collecting personal information through social networks, as these platforms often share user data without consent. Altogether, such drawbacks might hamper our commitment to ensuring the highest scientific standard and integrity of research published in our journal.

The magazine became our official journal in 2015 after publishing important research in occupational medicine for over a century. We introduced progressive changes while respecting and adding value to its glorious history. Its entire archive is now fully digitalized, making it easier than ever for researchers to access invaluable information related to their work through a link available at the journal's site *La Medicina del Lavoro*. It could also be accessed from the homepages of the Italian Society of Occupational Medicine and Milan's State University (link: <https://collezioni.unimi.it/dcb/rivlavoro/index.php>) to benefit new generations of scholars who could continue to build up over the shoulders of the discipline's outstanding pioneers.

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