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## Journal of Economics and Politics: Examining the transition to an online publication

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The *Journal of Economics and Politics* (JEP) is published by the Ohio Association of Economists and Political Scientists. Under the leadership of editor, Elizabeth Stiles, in August 2016, Volume 22 was the first published online. With the publication of Volume 27, it is appropriate to examine the JEP since transitioning to an online publication. This examination is presented through tables and figures that are supported with limited text.

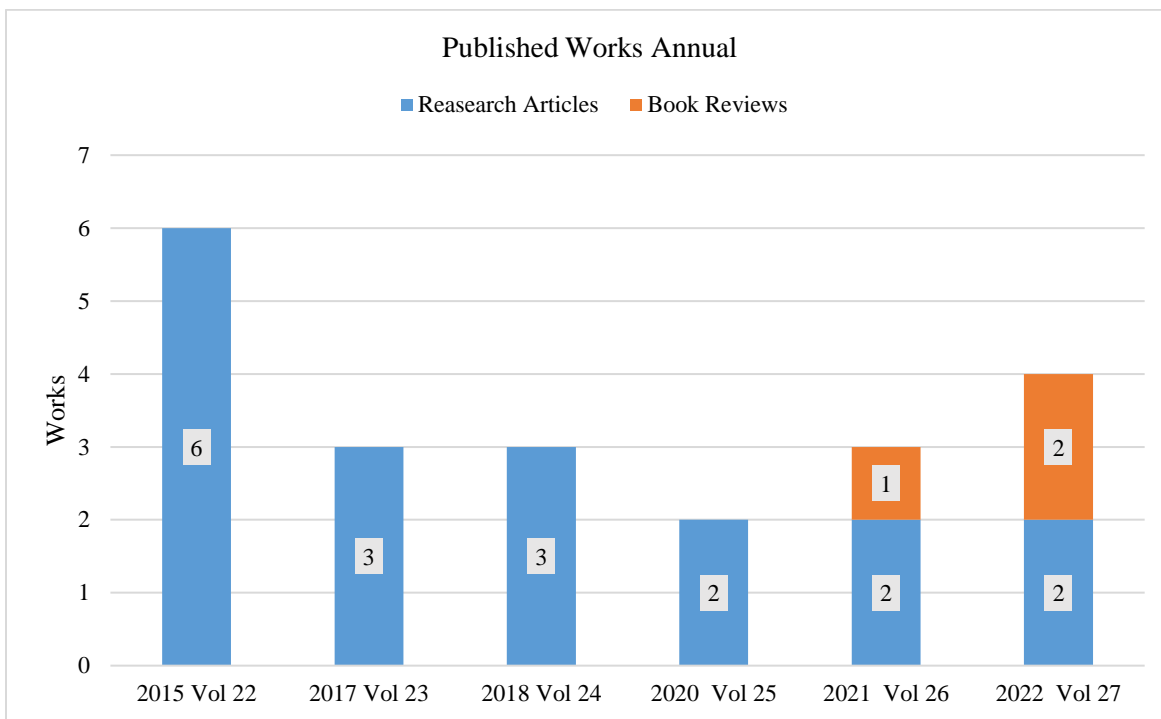
Grasselli Library at John Carroll University administers Carroll Collected, which hosts the JEP. Digital Commons is the cloud-hosted institutional repository software featuring a platform used to publish the JEP. Authors receive monthly updates reporting metrics pertaining to downloads of published works. The tables and figures in this report reflect the source data accessed through the dashboard provided by the Carroll Collected at John Carroll University.

Readers will see the term “works” throughout the report. Since transitioning to an online publication, the JEP has published three types of academic writing. In 2020, the JEP announced an intent to publish book reviews along with traditional academic research. Unexpectedly, the 2020 Annual Conference was cancelled due to public health concerns associated with the emergence of the Covid-19 virus. In the absence of the conference, the Executive Board approved a proposal to publish a special issue containing thirteen abstracts submitted by prospective conference presenters. Issue 2 of Volume 25 was published to facilitate communication that would otherwise have occurred at the annual conference. This report identifies research articles, book reviews and abstracts as needed. Digital Commons refers to “Works.” The term seems appropriate for use herein as well.

Published Works, Authors, and Institutions

Figure 1 reports the number of published works in each volume published online. Volume 25, Issue 2 is not included. The inclusion of book reviews began with Volume 26 in 2021.

Figure 1



The JEP maintains a double-blind review process for publication. A minimum of two referees are recruited to review submissions. Table 1 summarizes submissions for each online volume and the acceptance rate for all years for which data is available.

Table 1

	Annual Submissions and Acceptances – Research Articles						
	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Volume	22	23	24	25	26	27	Total
Submissions	Unknown	7	6	5	6	2	32
Published	6	3	3	2	3	2	19
Acceptance Rate (2017-2022)							59.375%

In 2020, the JEP invited submission of book reviews. Table 2 summarizes submissions for each online volume and the acceptance rate.

Table 2

Annual Submissions and Acceptances – Book Reviews				
	2020	2021	2022	
Volume	25	26	27	Total
Submission	1	1	2	4
Published	0	1	2	3
Acceptance Rate (2020-2022)				75%

The Ohio Association of Economists and Political Scientists serves two traditional academic disciplines. Table 3 shows that since 2016, two-thirds of the works published in the JEP originated from the Political Science discipline.

Table 3

Distribution of Works by Discipline	
Discipline	Works
Economics	7
Political Science	14

Thirty-four unique authors have published works in the JEP. Table 4 summarizes the number of unique authors. Each author is counted only once.

Table 4

Unique Authors				
	1 <sup>st</sup> Author	2 <sup>nd</sup> Author	3 <sup>rd</sup> Author	Total
In-State	12	7	1	20
Out-of-State	7	3	4	14

Table 5 lists the institutions with the most published authors in online volumes of the JEP.

Table 5

Top Institution by Unique Authors	
Institution	Authors
Northern Kentucky University	8
Bowling Green State University	5
John Carroll University	3
Xavier University	3
University of Toledo	3
University of N. Georgia	3

## Downloads

Through October 31, 2022, there have been 14,400 downloads from Volumes 22-26.

Table 6 summarizes downloads by type of work.

Table 6

Type of Work	Downloads (since Oct. 31, 2022)
Research Articles	13313
Abstracts	721
Book Reviews	366
Total	14,400

Table 7 presents summary statistics of downloads from Volume 22 (2016) through Volume 26 (2021).

Table 7

Summary Statistics: Downloads		
	Research Articles	Abstracts
Mean	759.44	55.46
Median	163	47
Std. Dev.	2028.92	23.5

Table 8 presents the ten most frequently downloaded works. The ten most frequently downloaded works represent 90% of total downloads.

Table 8

Top 10 Downloads	Downloads
Does Public Transit Affect Crime? The Addition of a Bus Line in Cleveland	8688
The Politics of Passing and Implementing Medical Marijuana in Ohio	1968
The Quest for an Independent Scotland: The Impact of Culture, Economics, and International Relations Theory on Votes of Self-Determination	756
The Value of Everything: Making and Taking in the Global Economy (Book Review)	366
Identity and Efficacy: Latinos in the United States	234
Firm Behavior in the Mid-Twentieth Century American Steel Industry	229
The Evolution of Distributive Benefits: The Rise of Letter-Marking in the United States Congress	224
A Tale of Two Administrations: A Comparison between the George W. Bush and the Barack H. Obama Administrations on Border Security	177
The Evolution of Partisan Voting at the County Level in Georgia, Ohio, and Texas, 1990-2016	171
Is Capital Expenditure Contagious? An Analysis of UCC Data from Ohio and Its Neighbors	155

Tables 7 & 8 reveal that one work is very likely an outlier. Z-scores were calculated for all works to reveal that the most frequent download is an outlier. After removing the outlier to calculate the resulting summary statistics, z-scores were again calculated to reveal that the second most frequent download is an outlier. In all, the four most frequent downloads were removed to calculate the summary statistics presented in Table 9. The four most frequent downloads represent nearly 82% of total downloads.

Table 9

Summary Statistics: Downloads (Outliers Removed)					
	Outliers				
	Included	1 removed	2 removed	3 removed	4 removed
Mean	759.9444	293.5882353	188.9375	151.1333	135.7857
Std Dev	1971.76	449.1628892	167.858	84.78354	67.00078
Median	163	155	148.5	142	133.5
Count	18	17	16	15	14
High Z-score	-4.0208	-3.72784975	-3.37823	-2.5343	-1.46587
Max Z-score	4.006938	3.880570001	3.75	3.614784	3.474396

Figure 2 shows the annual downloads of the 5 most frequently downloaded works. It is noteworthy that the first and third most frequently downloaded works show an upward trend, whereas the second most frequently downloaded work is trending downward.

Figure 2

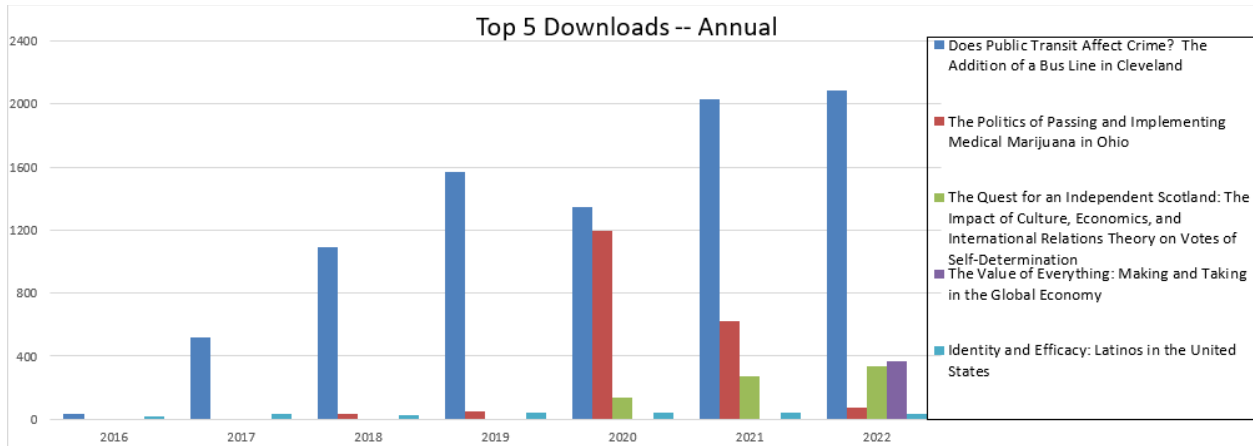
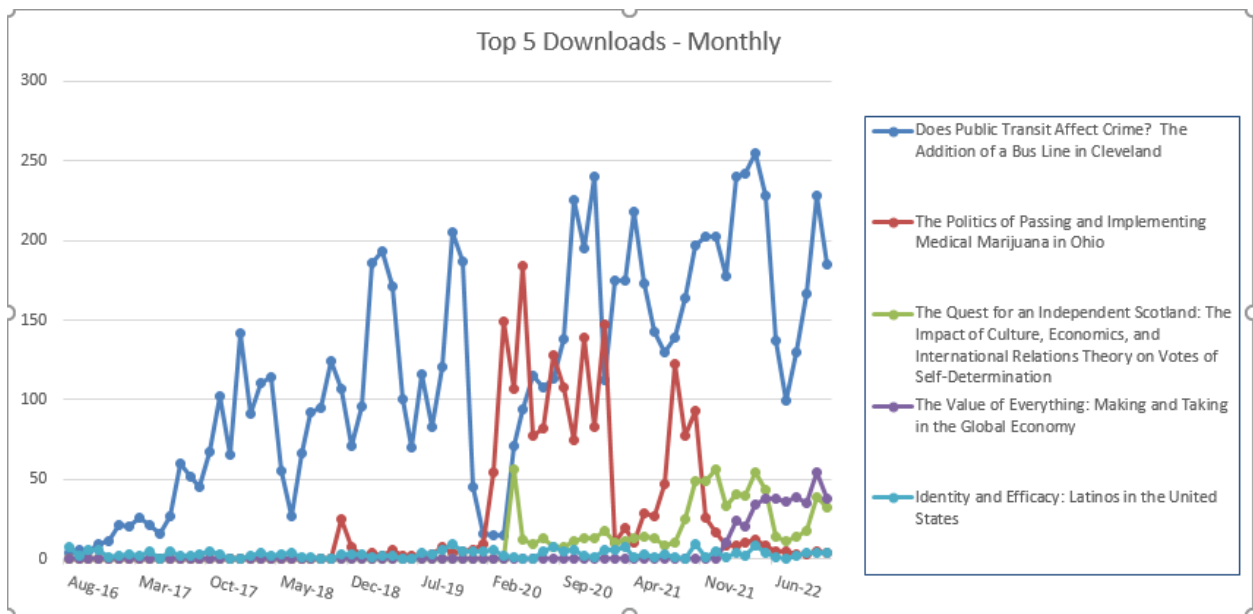


Figure 3 shows the monthly variation of the five most frequently downloaded works.

Figure 3



The number of days that a work has been published may vary even within a volume.

Table 10 reports the ten most frequent downloaded works on a per day basis. Note that the most frequently downloaded work is downloaded nearly four times each day since publication.

Table 10

Title	Downloads	Days	Per Day
Does Public Transit Affect Crime? The Addition of a Bus Line in Cleveland	8688	2273	3.822261
The Politics of Passing and Implementing Medical Marijuana in Ohio	1968	1440	1.366667
The Value of Everything (Book Review)	366	299	1.22408
The Quest for an Independent Scotland	756	941	0.803401
A Battleground No More	84	291	0.28866
The Evolution of Partisan Voting at the County Level in Georgia, Ohio, and Texas, 1990-2016	171	956	0.17887
Ballot Measures in the Tristate: An Examination of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky	50	299	0.167224
Information cascades in the classroom	43	298	0.144295
Firm Behavior in the Mid-Twentieth Century American Steel Industry	229	1755	0.130484
A Tale of Two Administrations	177	1463	0.120984

#### Downloads -- ISP

Prior to publishing the JEP online, print copies of the journal were distributed to members attending the annual meeting. To date, there is no evidence that all the print volumes are available in any library in Ohio. Since 2016 and publication of Volume 22 online, published works have been accessible to anyone anywhere at any time. Through October 31, 2022, there have been 11,384 downloads. Table 11 reports the 10 most frequent unique Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and downloads corresponding to each Referrer.



Table 11

Top 10 Referring ISPs	
Referrer	Downloads
www.google.com/	6701
collected.jcu.edu/	1549
scholar.google.com/	371
m.facebook.com	183
www.google.ca/	132
duckduckgo.com/	122
collected.jcu.edu/jep/	118
www.google.co.uk/	118
collected.jcu.edu/jep/vol25/iss1/2/	108
www.bing.com/	106

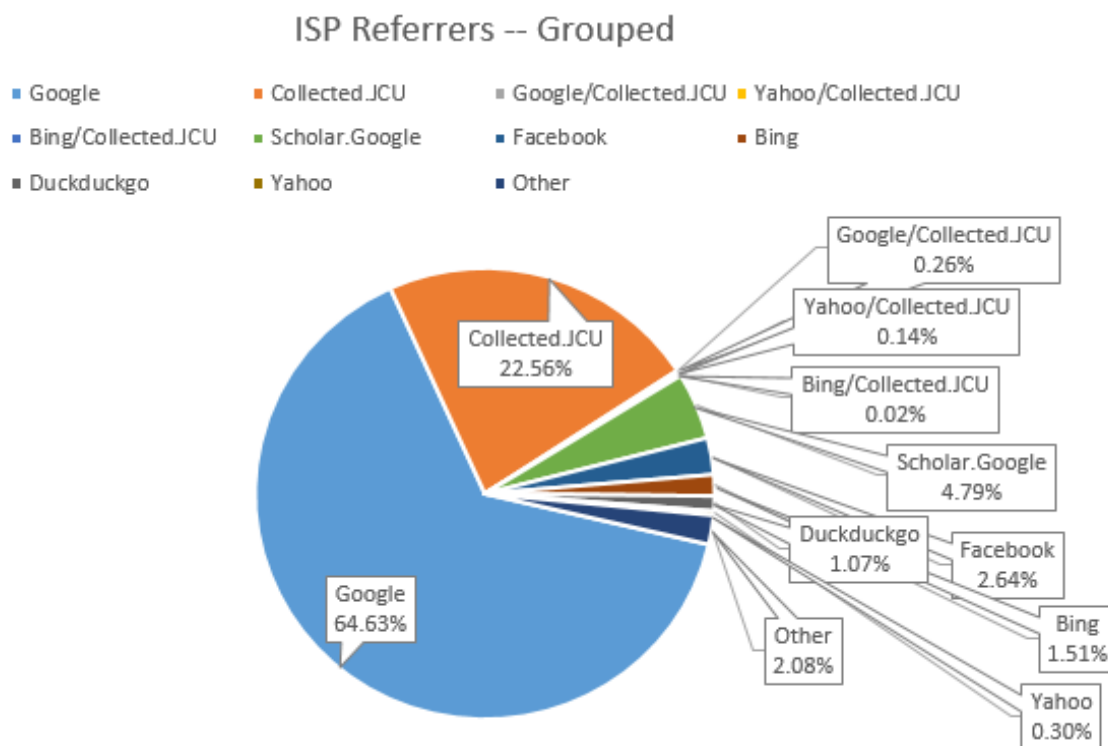
Table 12 groups the nearly 250 Referring ISPs. *Other* includes all Referrers with two or less referrals to a published work. With two referrals, Baidu is the only referrer with more than one referral included in the *Other* group. Google and Scholar.Google account for nearly 70% of total referrals.

Table 12

Referring ISPs (Grouped)		
	Referrals	Percent of Total
Google	7358	64.63
Collected.JCU	2568	22.56
Google/Collected.JCU	30	0.26
Yahoo/Collected.JCU	16	0.14
Bing/Collected.JCU	2	0.02
Scholar.Google	545	4.79
Facebook	300	2.64
Bing	172	1.51
Duckduckgo	122	1.07
Yahoo	34	0.30
Other	237	2.08

Figure 4 presents that ISP Referrers (Grouped) visually.

Figure 4



Downloads – Institutions

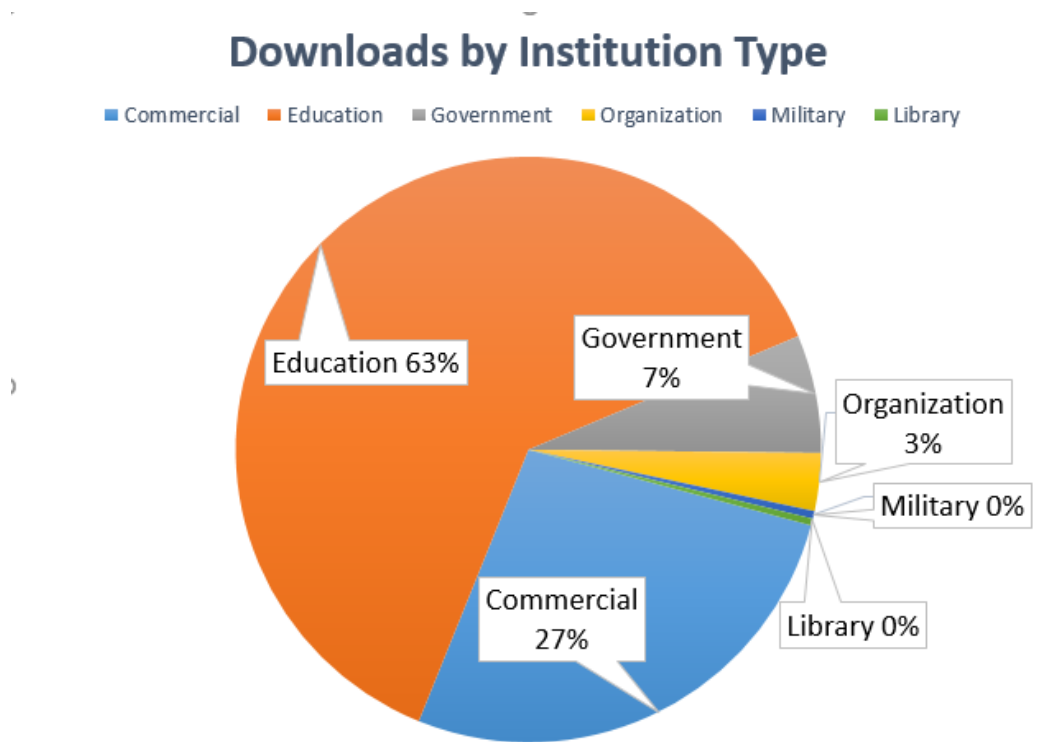
Table 13 lists the 20 institutions with the most downloads and the number of unique works from the online volumes of the JEP. The institution with the most downloads has downloaded one research article 23 times. In contrast, MIT has downloaded 17 unique works for a total of 20 downloads.

Table 13

Top 20 Institutions: Downloads and Unique Works			
Name	Type	Downloads	Unique Works
Vera T Garfield	Commercial	23	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Education	20	17
Bowling Green State University	Education	20	6
John Carroll university	Education	19	11
New York University	Education	19	5
University of Maryland	Education	17	2
Kent State University	Education	17	9
University of Pennsylvania	Education	16	1
Claremont University Consortium	Education	16	1
Northern Kentucky University	Education	15	7
London School of Economics and Political Science	Education	14	3
Loyola University Maryland	Education	14	10
Wright State University	Education	13	8
University of Illinois	Education	13	4
University of Southern California	Education	11	3
Georgia Department of Education	Education	11	3
AMC Theatres	Commercial	11	10
University of California Los Angeles	Education	10	3
Critical Path Inc.	Commercial	10	9
Ohio State University	Education	10	5

Figure 5 illustrates the distribution of downloads across type of institution. Library and Military Institutions have downloaded 8 and 9 works, respectively.

Figure 5



### Downloads – Geographic Region

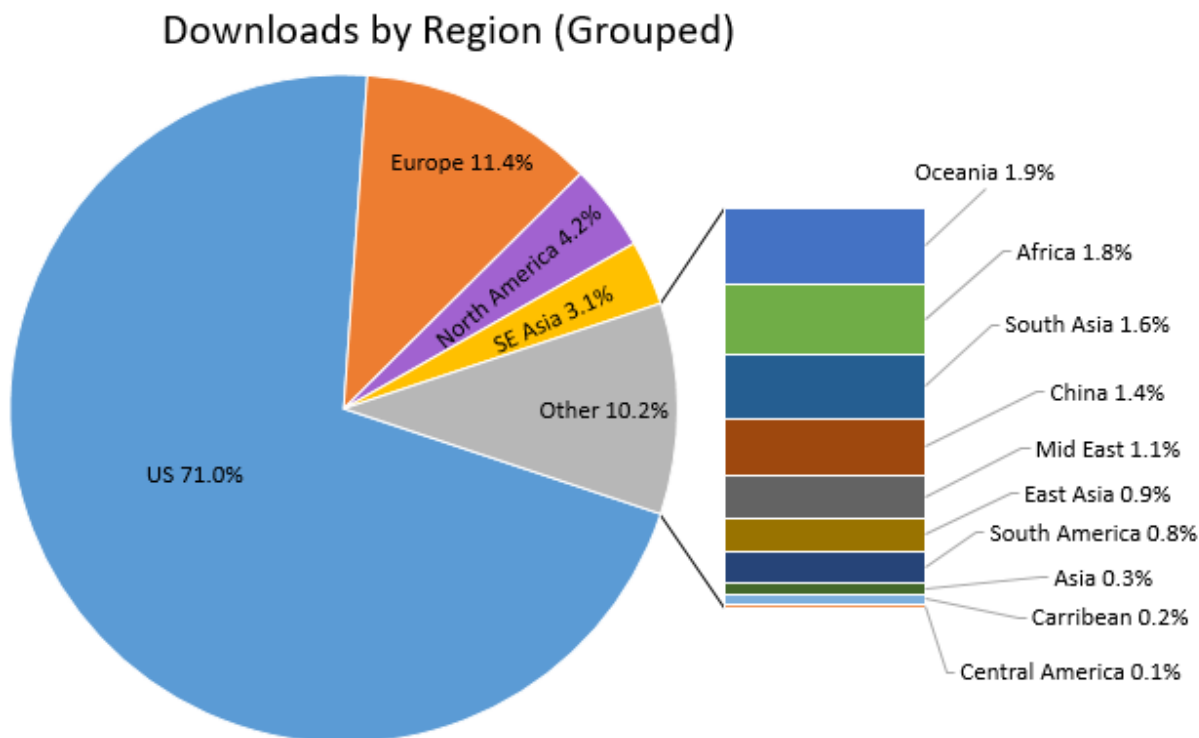
Through October 31, 2022, works from online volumes of the JEP have been downloaded in 125 countries. Table 14 lists the 20 countries with the most downloads and percentage of total downloads from the online volumes of the JEP.

Table 14

Top 20 Countries -- Downloads		
Country	Downloads	% Total
United States	9842	71.03%
Canada	552	3.98
United Kingdom	542	3.91
Australia	235	1.70
Germany	200	1.44
China	197	1.42
India	185	1.34
Philippines	140	1.01
Malaysia	101	0.73
Finland	101	0.73
France	93	0.67
South Africa	90	0.65
Russian Federation	85	0.61
Netherlands	72	0.52
Singapore	71	0.51
Sweden	67	0.48
Indonesia	59	0.43
Israel	52	0.38
Kenya	52	0.38
Iran, Islamic Republic Of	51	0.37

Figure 6 portrays 14 groupings of the 125 countries where works published in the JEP have been downloaded.

Figure 6



### Observations

Distribution of the print volumes of the JEP was limited to members attending the annual meeting. The transition to an online publication extends the reach of the journal as evidenced by the proportion of unique authors from outside of Ohio. Similarly, the transition to an online journal offers greater exposure of published works as evidenced by the 14,400 downloads across 125 countries. It appears that the transition to an on-line journal offers more opportunity for exposure for scholarship published in the online JEP than the printed volumes.