

Editorial

We are happy to launch the International Journal of Clinical Implant Dentistry (IJCID) in its current print format. Technology has been responsible for major innovations in publication and it has also caused the demise of progressive innovation. I used to treasure receiving journals in print format and have the pleasure of removing it from its shrink wrap and browsing through the table of contents. In a flicker of the eye, I was able to get a quick overview of the salient features of each article and flipped through the pages cover to cover and halt at the one that got my attention and interest.



Are we on the brink of seeing this avenue of information dissemination becoming extinct? Would we be at the mercy of the internet and ejournals? Are we better off saving trees and relying on the power of web for instant access to information? Has our knowledge base become better and comprehensive with online journals? Have

we become smarter as learners in the absence of print media? The reality could be alarming. I remember when I was in dental school, we had to memorize every line from Grays anatomy and Carl O Boucher's prosthetic treatise on dentures, and we wrote essays through memory. Now, I see my children challenging me on why they should know it in their head, when at the click of button they have the information in the tip of their fingers.

I may be branded as old fashioned, but my cognitive links were established through a visual medium free from pop ups and distractive crawls and hyperlinks. I have to admit that accessing scientific information on the web is much easier than going to a library for cross-referencing. We have certainly overcome the barrier of having to go through each journal for its citations and it was virtually impossible to do a meta-analysis or systematic review on a subject. The irony is that almost every systematic review that I have read is inconclusive. 'More studies are needed to confirm the hypothesis and, at this time, we cannot make any recommendations' is not uncommon at the conclusion.

Two inferences that I could come up after analyzing all of the deductive processes of print *vs* electronic versions of journals—the print format seems to be a better medium if one has to recall information for future use, the electronic versions are best for citations, reviews, for creating presentations and to write articles. I am able to recall and define 'Osseointegration' as Branemark had quoted it from his text of 1985 even today. I am having trouble recalling the results of an article that I browsed yesterday on Medline. Perhaps our brains need a certain rate of flow and pace for encrypting valuable information. Only time will tell.

I wish to thank Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd., for taking on this initiative to keep the print format alive and of course for the jet setting reader, we do offer the electronic version.

Shankar Iyer DDS MDS
Editor-in-Chief
e-mail: drsiyer@aol.com