



George T. Blume,  
Extension Specialist,  
Virginia Polytechnic  
Institute and State  
University—Blacksburg

*At the back of the Journal.* There are a lot of interesting facts and figures found in the back of the *Journal* in the yearly indexes . . . which are often times overlooked by the majority of readers. This graveyard of information when collected and made presentable reveals much about the soul of the *Journal*. If for no other purpose, it tells us who's writing what from where, and in accord with Extension's current thrust, insights into the question why the article anyway.

We may begin our in-the-back analysis by commenting on article numbers and authors. Since Issue Number One in the Spring of 1963 and up to and including the 1976 special Bicentennial edition, 331 major articles written by 451 authors have appeared between its collective and changeable covers.

Most articles were by a single author, 233. However, 76 were authored by 2 people, 14 by 3, 2 by 4, and at the extreme upper end, 1 article by 11 people. Five articles mentioned no author. Each year, on the average, the *Journal* gives us new ideas and knowledge about our profession from 22 articles written by 30 authors, most related in some manner with Extension.

By sex, only one of every five articles was written by a woman professional. Yearly women percentages ranged from a low of 9% of all authors for the *Journal* years 1966 and 1973 to a high of 27% for 1974 and the special Bicentennial issue.

When looking at *Journal* article content, any singular classification of article content is always difficult and argumentative. Starting from a "logical type" listing and aided by a first impression scanning procedure, the resultant mix generally resembled the subject-matter content index reported in the 1972-1975 yearly *Journal* summaries.

Using this classification, articles were identified under 23 separate subject categories. Rather than to list all 23 subject areas, it appears of greater summary interest to mention that 22 articles emphasized a combination of

administration, program management, and supervision; 30 related to Extension's mission; 31 to professionalism; 26 to program planning, problems, and decision making; and 24 each to professional management and role and teaching-learning strategies. Collectively, these 6 broad subject areas accounted for 47% of the total 331 *Journal* articles.

*Journal* authors were identified by de facto or listed state of residence. Using this procedure, the findings in Figure 1 showed 6 states with 20 or more authors and 5 states with no authors. Fifteen authors listed countries other than the United States.

Digging out these *Journal* findings has been interesting and enjoyable. I've avoided drawing any conclusions and value judgments, for this wasn't my purpose. My investigative curiosity has been satisfied.

Paraphrasing those well-known words made so famous by the Shadow, "Who knows what interests lurk at the back of the *Journal*?" Well, we all know now!

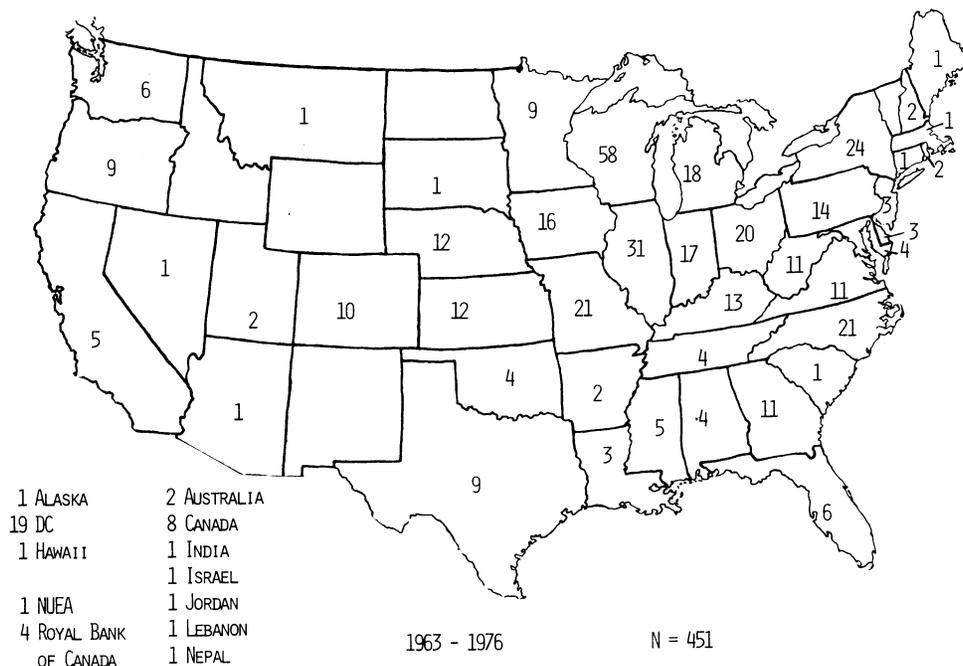


Figure 1. Journal authors by states and foreign countries

The Forum is a place for *Journal* readers to express their feelings on any topic they think is important to Extension. Don't make it longer than one double-spaced page. Send to: **George T. Blume**, editor, Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.