

Interdisciplinary Vision: 25 Years of Work in Progress

Kimberly M. Thompson

Topics

- 25 years of SRA!

- Looking back

See Thompson KM, Deisler PD, and Schwing D. “Interdisciplinary vision: The first 25 years of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA), 1980-2005.” *Risk Analysis* 2005; 25(6):1333-1386.

- Looking ahead

Note: All cartoons that I showed in my talk appear in Thompson, K *Risk In Perspective: Insight and Humor in the Age of Risk Management* (AORM, 2004). I showed them with the permission of the copyright holders. Please see the book if you are looking for these.

SRA

“The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) provides an open forum for anyone interested in risk analysis”

“Risk analysis is broadly defined to include risk assessment, risk characterization, risk communication, risk management, and policy relating to risk. Our interests include risks to human health and the environment, both built and natural. We consider threats from physical, chemical, and biological agents and from a variety of human activities as well as natural events. We analyze risks of concern to individuals, to public and private sector organizations, and to society at various geographic scales. Our membership is multidisciplinary and international.”

From www.sra.org

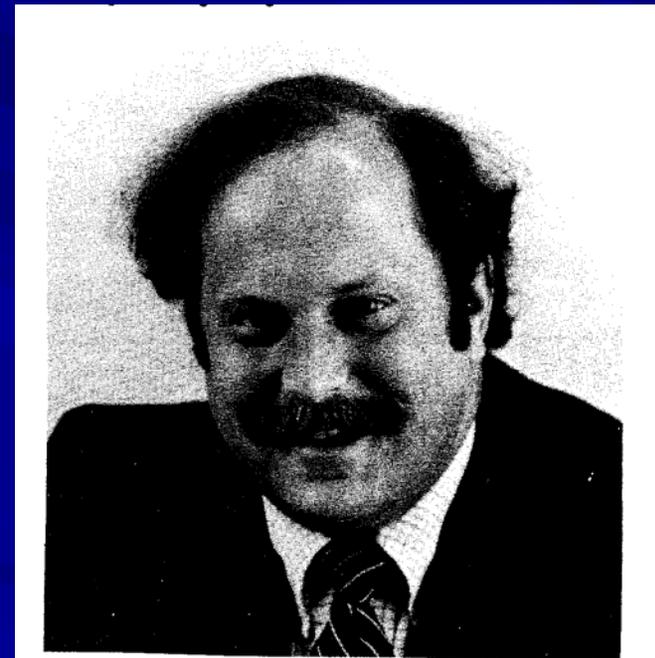
Birth and growth

- Robert B. Cumming identified the need for risk researchers and practitioners to have a place to publish their work
- Series of organizational meetings held at the National Academy of Sciences
- Certificate of Incorporation dated August 28, 1980
- First issue of *Risk Analysis*, March 1981
- First business meeting occurred at National Academy of Sciences on June 1, 1981

Multiple firsts

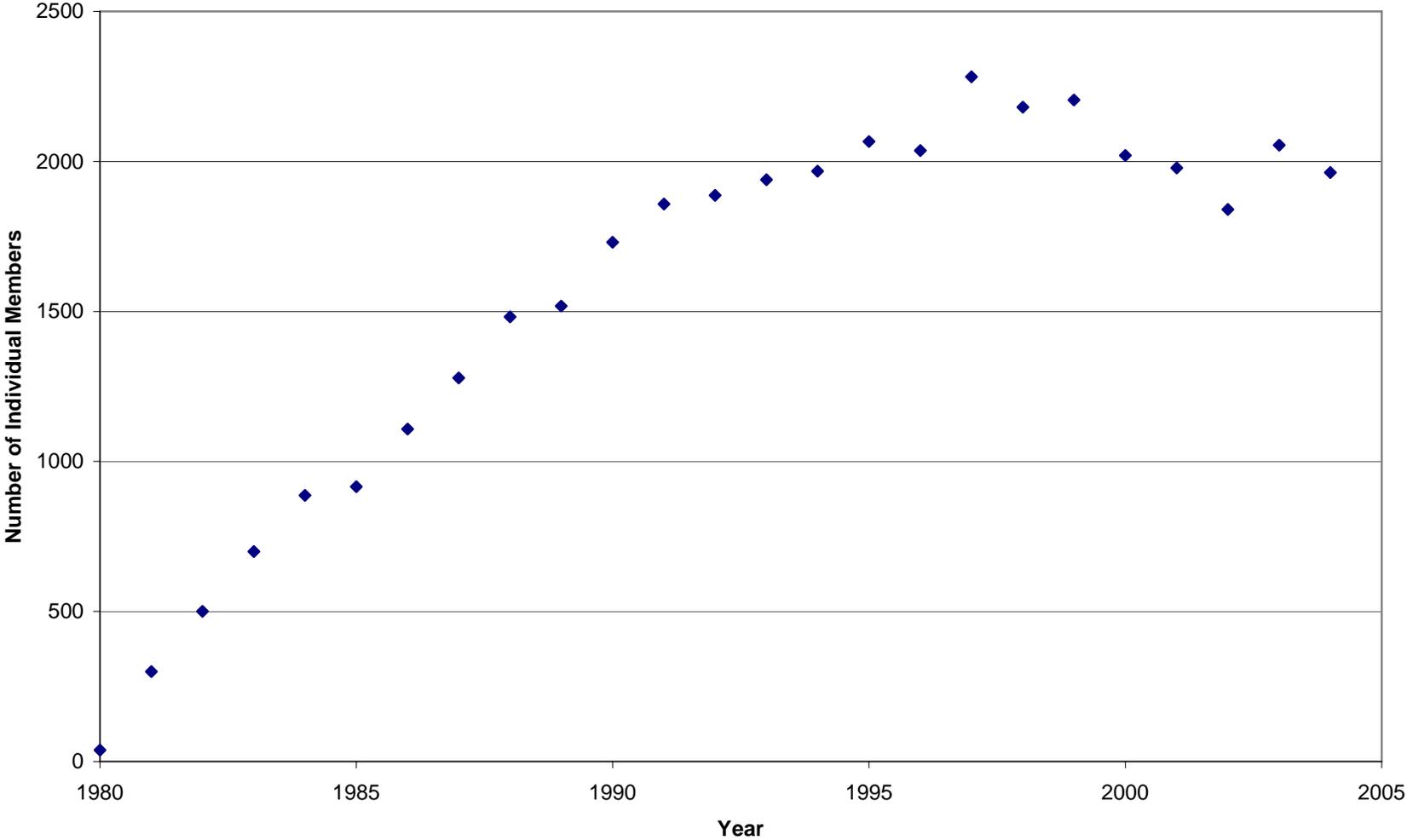
- First issue of *RISK Newsletter*, March 1981
- First picture printed in newsletter 2(2) (1982)
- First and only logo

SRA's new logo features a fulcrum and balance supported by the "R" in SRA.



Chris Whipple

Growth in SRA Membership



Countries represented by individual member, 1980-2005

Argentina	El Salvador	Luxembourg	Senegal
Australia	Finland	Macedonia	Singapore
Austria	France	Malaysia	Slovenia
Belgium	Germany	Mexico	South Africa
Bahamas	Greece	Netherlands	South Korea
Belarus	Hong Kong	New Zealand	Spain
Bolivia	Hungary	Nigeria	Sweden
Bulgaria	India	Norway	Switzerland
Brazil	Ireland	Pakistan	Taiwan
Canada	Israel	Peru	Thailand
Chile	Italy	Philippines	Tunisia
Columbia	Jamaica	Poland	Turkey
Costa Rica	Japan	Portugal	Ukraine
Croatia	Korea	Republic of China	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Kuwait	Romania	United States
Denmark	Latvia	Russia	Yugoslavia
Dominican Republic	Lithuania	Saudi Arabia	Zimbabwe

Organizations that ever joined as a Sustaining Member, 1980-2005

American Chemistry Council

American Petroleum Institute

Amoco Corporation

Arco Corp

Arthur D. Little

BP Oil

Canadian Aviation Safety Board

Chemical Manufacturing Association

Chevron

Clement Associates

Concurrent Technologies Corp

Corning Hazleton Inc

Covington & Burling

Decision Focus

Dow Chemical Co

Dupont

EA Engineering Services

EG&G Idaho

Electric Power Research Institute

EPA

Exxon BioMedical

Ford Motor Company

General Motors Research Labs

Gillette Company

Hercules, Inc

Hershey Foods

Hoffman LaRoche

Klemm Analysis

Mobil Oil

Monsanto

MRC Inst.

PLG, Inc.

Procter and Gamble

Resources for the Future

RiskFocus

RJ Reynolds

Rohm & Haas

SAIC

Sciences International

Shell Oil

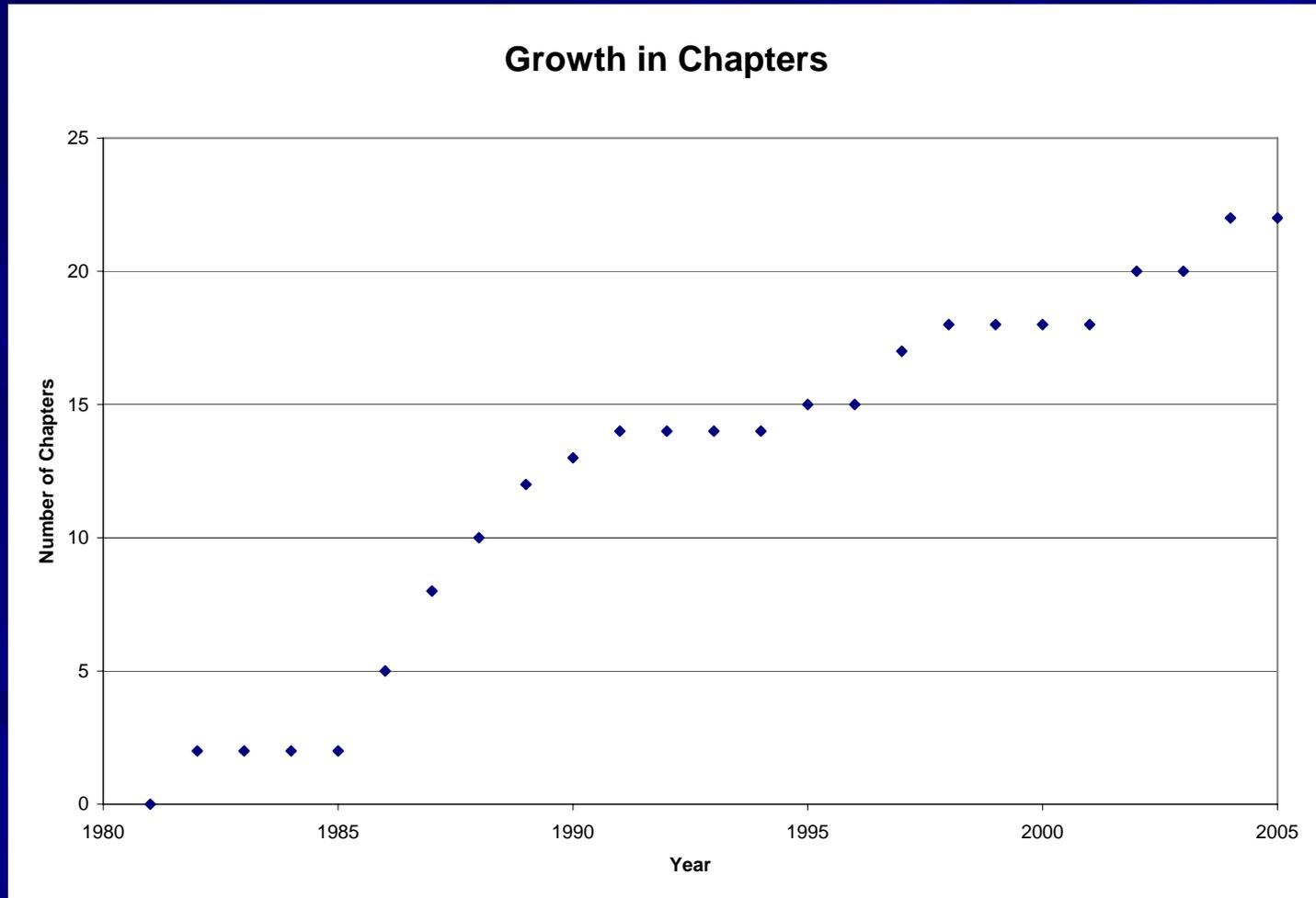
Stauffer Chemical Company

The Coca-Cola Company

The Sapphire Group

Structural growth

- Sections: SRA-Europe (1987), SRA-Japan (1988)
- Chapters



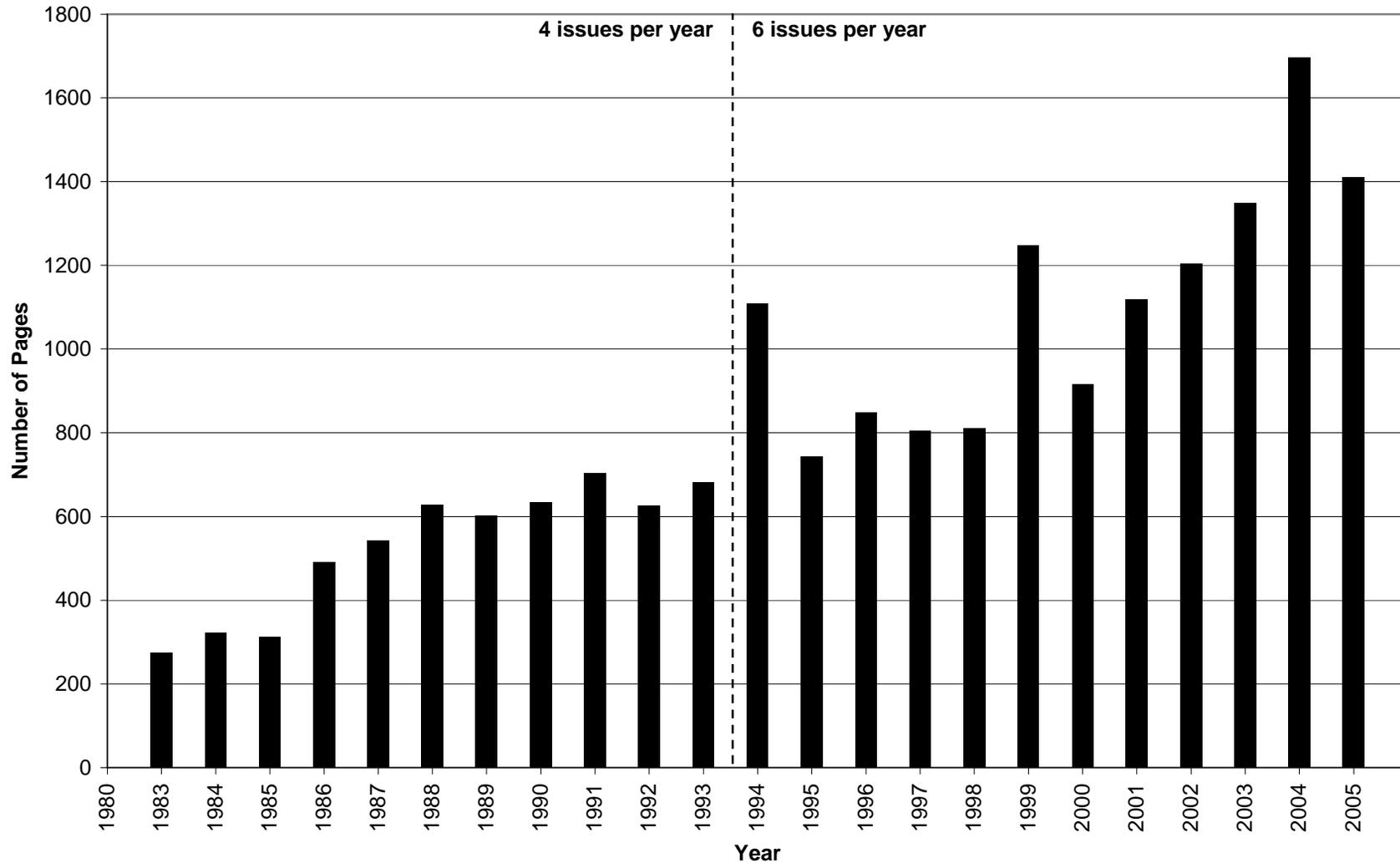
Specialty Groups

- First “Topical Section” on Global Risk Analysis started in 1989 (now gone), Space Group also now gone
- Called “Interest Groups” in 1990, renamed “Specialty Groups” in 1991 by Council
- Initial leader (Chair, President, or Spokesperson)

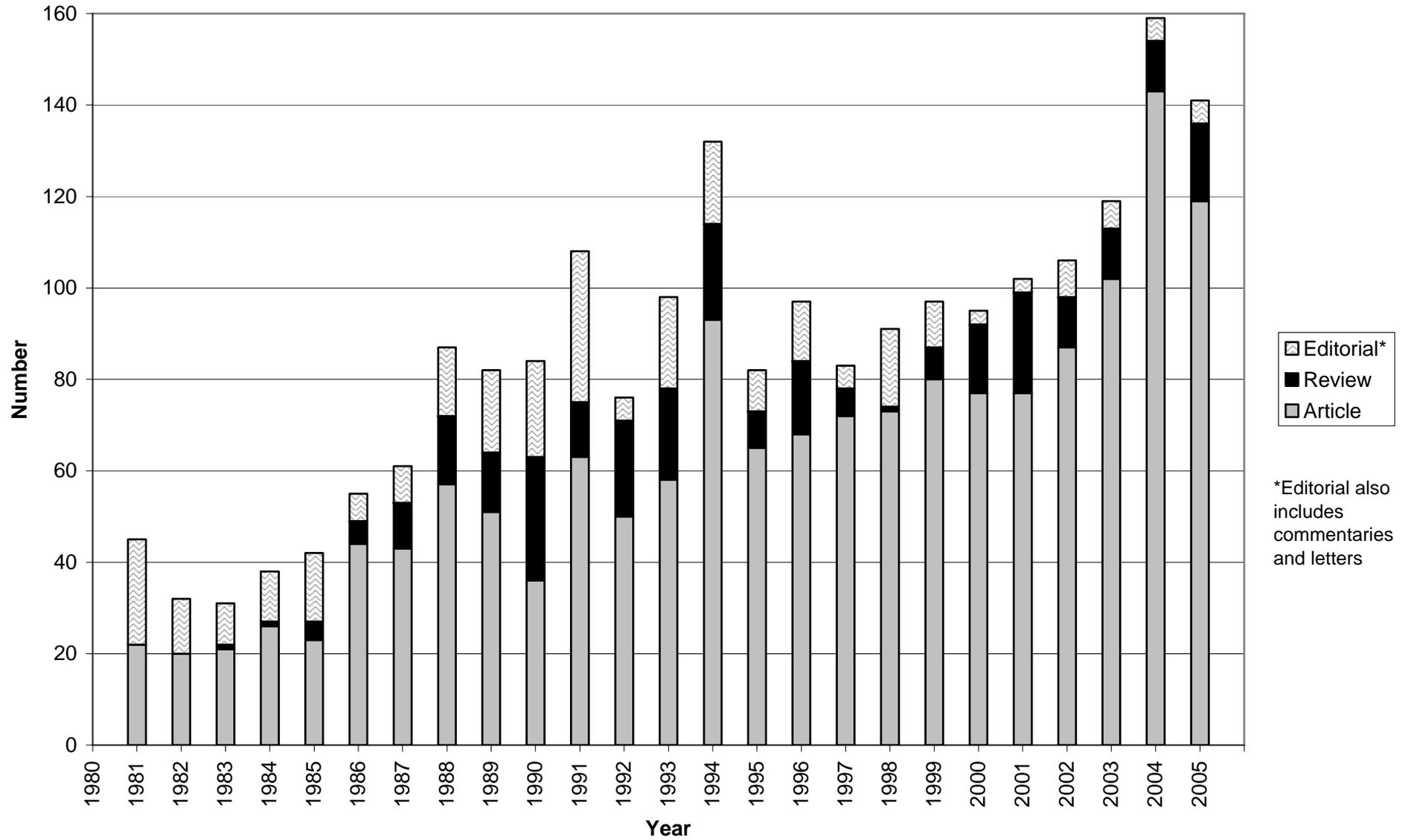
Group Title	Year Founded	Initial Leader
<i>Global Risk Analysis</i> (now defunct)	1989	Rob Coppock
Exposure Assessment	1990	Paul Price
Risk Communication	1990	Ann Fisher
Engineering	1990	Bill Gekler
<i>Space</i> (now defunct)	1990	Hatice Cullingford
Ecological Risk Assessment	1991	Larry Barnthouse
Dose-Response	1994	Michael Dourson
Food/Water Safety Risk	1996	Michael D. McElvaine
Risk, Science and Law	1996	Wayne Roth-Nelson
Economics & Benefits Analysis	2002	Robert Scharff
Decision Analysis	2005	Igor Linkov

Risk Analysis

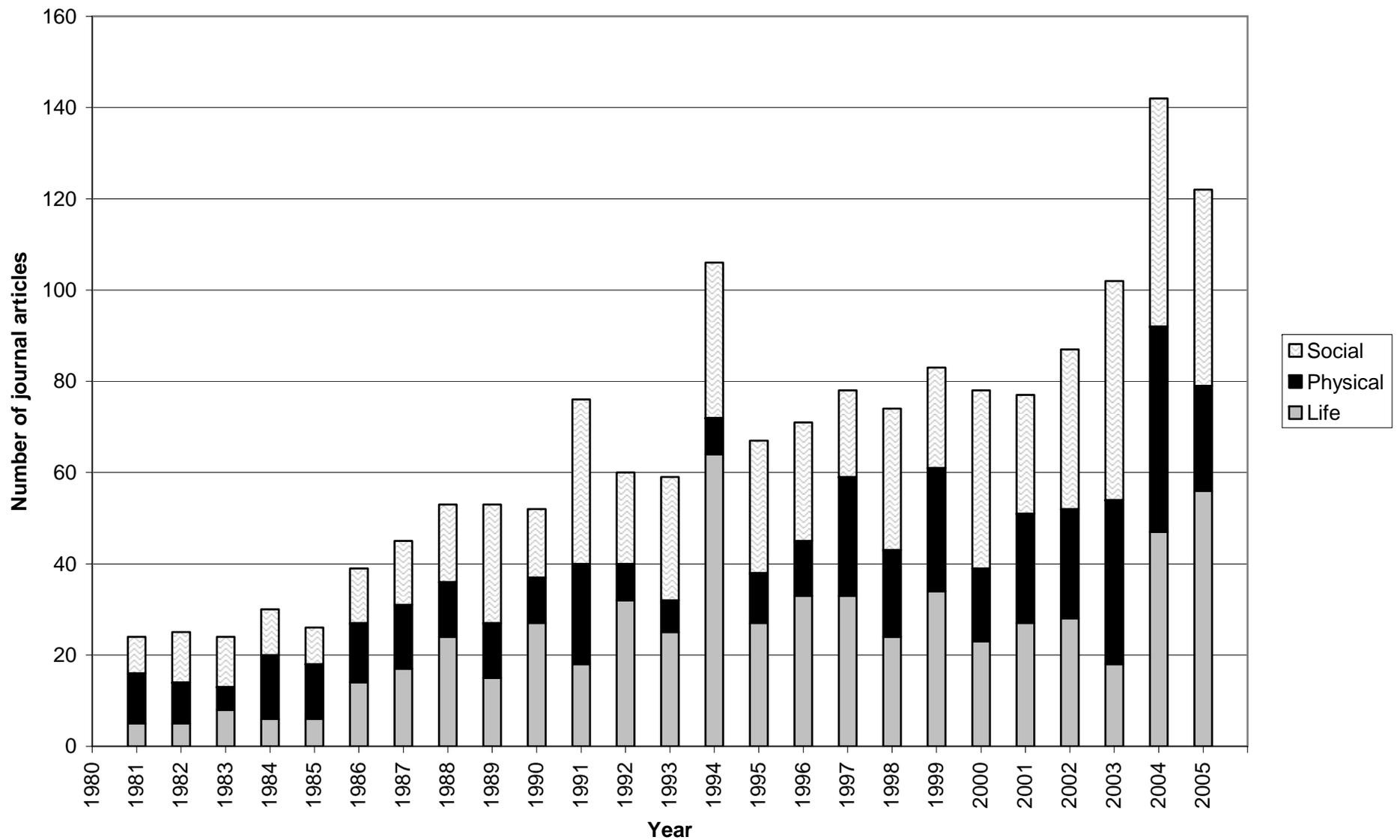
Total Number of Pages in Risk Analysis by Year



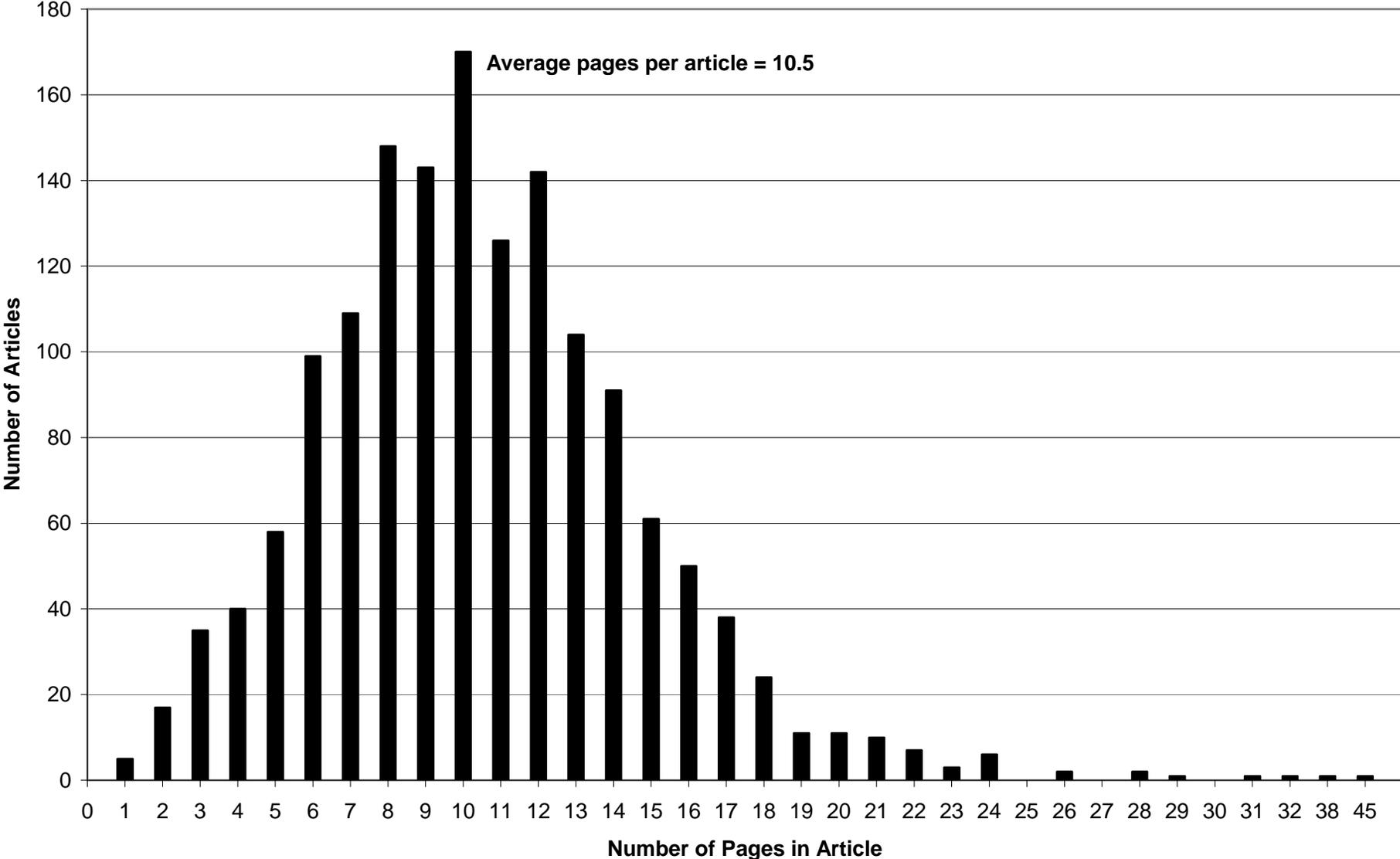
Types of Contributions Published in *Risk Analysis* by Year



Journal Articles in *Risk Analysis* by Scientific Discipline and Year



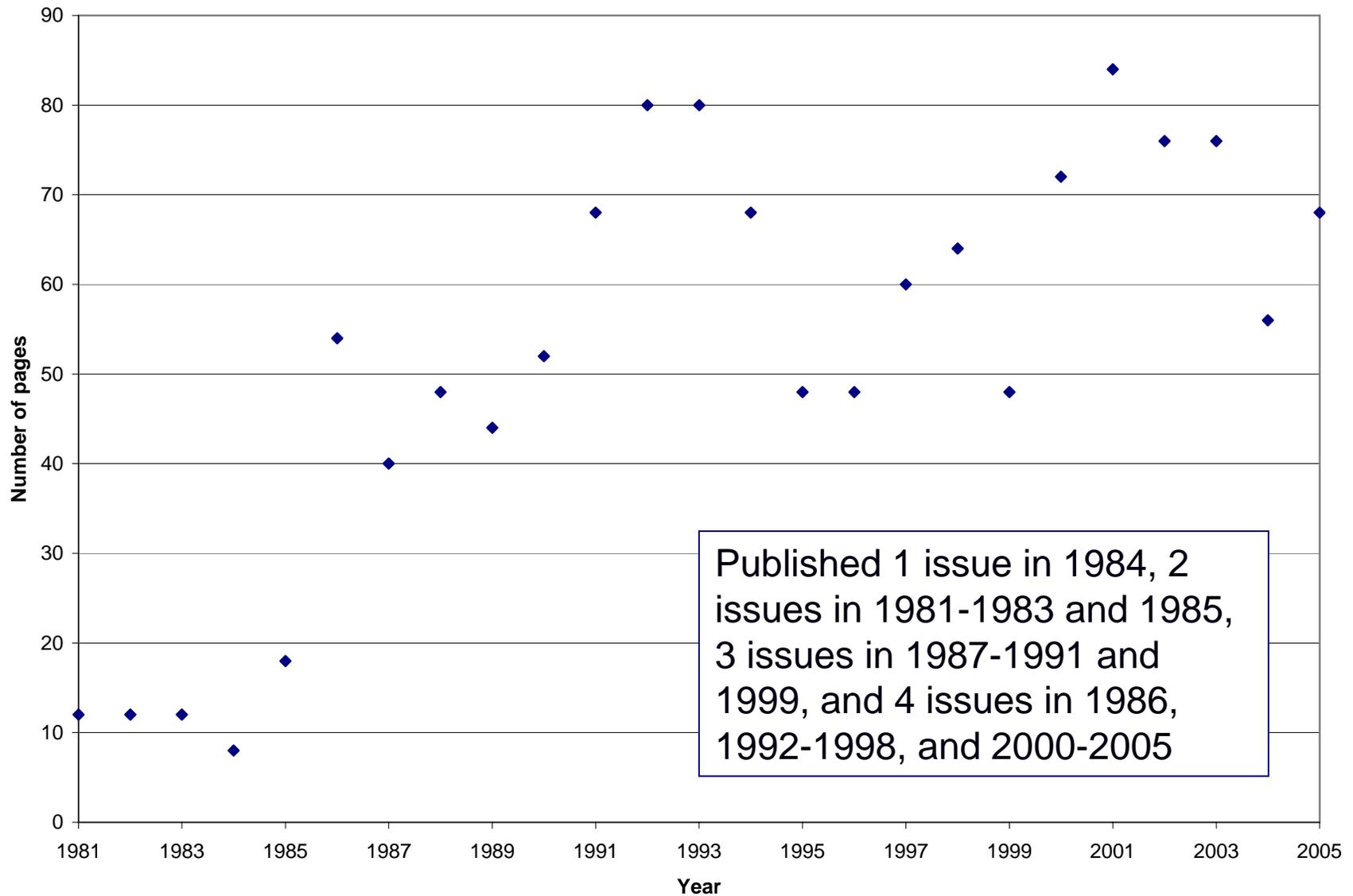
Distribution of Journal Article Lengths



Most prolific: 25 SRA members with 13 or more contributions to *Risk Analysis*

- Paul Slovic (38)
- Curtis Travis (31)
- RK White (29)
- Yacov Haimes (28)
- Paul Moskowitz (28)
- David Gaylor (27)
- David Burmaster (25)
- Baruch Fischhoff (24)
- M. Granger Morgan (24)
- Branden Johnson (23)
- Kenny Crump (21)
- John D. Graham (19)
- James Hammitt (19)
- Howard Kunreuther (19)
- Louis Anthony “Tony” Cox, Jr. (18)
- Stan Kaplan (18)
- Daniel Krewski (17)
- Lester Lave (17)
- M. Elisabeth Paté-Cornell (17)
- Dale Hattis (16)
- Tom McKone (16)
- Betty Anderson (15)
- Ralph Kodell (15)
- JJ Chen (14)
- Kim Thompson (13)

RISK Newsletter



Leadership

- 25 Presidents
- 81 SRA members served on SRA Council
- 76 Fellows
- Awards
 - 25 Distinguished Achievement Awardees
 - 28 Outstanding Service Awardees
 - 10 Outstanding Practitioner Awardees
 - 10 Chauncey Starr Awardees (Young Risk Analyst Award)
 - 3 Presidential Recognition Awardees

Challenges

- Defining terms
- Distinguishing risk analysis as an academic discipline and certification
- Establishing SRA policy statements
- Performing work supported by grants
- Spinning off of clusters
- Measuring impact
- Thinking strategically
- Globalizing

Acknowledgments

- Paul F. Deisler, Jr. and Richard C. Schwing
- Jeanne Kasperson
- Mary Walchuk
- Dick Burk and Burk & Associates
- The many, many members who contributed

Looking ahead

- Here I talked about why I believe that we live in what I call the “Age of Risk Management” using words and cartoons directly from the *Risk in Perspective* book
- I provided some recent examples of where risk analysts are needed and where we need to remember history
- For those interested in the historical details of the flooding of New Orleans, please read the excerpt called "Atchafalaya" from John McPhee's book called *The Control of Nature*, which appears in *The New Yorker* archive (http://www.newyorker.com/archive/content/?050912fr_archive01)
- Those interested in the FEMA chart I showed should see: <http://www.fema.gov/about/what.shtm>
- Finally, I presented Fischhoff's “Developmental Stages of Risk Management” (Fischhoff, B. “Risk perceptions and communication unplugged: Twenty years of progress.” *Risk Analysis* 1995; 15(2):137-144.)

SRA's role?

- Large and growing demand for risk analysts
 - Training, Education, Research, and Practice

- Need to think about the BIG picture

“...[practitioners of quantitative uncertainty analysis] have risked making ourselves akin to mousetrap salesmen who beleaguer the consumer with engineering details before he even understands that if the gadget works, the *result* will be a house free of mice.” (Finkel, AM. From “Stepping out of your own shadow: a didactic example of how facing uncertainty can improve decision-making.” *Risk Analysis*, 1994; 14(5):751-61.

- Encourage better choices

Thank you!