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The 1980's were very active years for the world's forest harvesting industry. Many new machines and logging systems were being introduced, particularly in North America and Scandinavia. However, the forest engineering community had no dedicated scientific journal in which to report the results of their research, and to disseminate these findings back to the industry. Thanks to the initiative of faculty and staff in the department of Forest Engineering, University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, and a dedicated international group of editorial board members, the first issue of the Journal of Forest Engineering was published in July 1989, under the editorship of Jeremy Rickards. Thus, this year is the 25-th anniversary of the first peer-reviewed scientific journal dedicated entirely and solely to forest engineering. The number of contributors and subscribers to the journal expanded rapidly and in 2000 International was added to the title, recognizing subscribers and contributors on all continents. Much has happened during the journal's first quarter of a decade, both in terms of how forest operations are conducted as well as of research focus and the conditions for the researcher's publishing in the journal. These developments unfolds quite clearly when following the happenings of and the publications in IJFE. Here we, all five of the editor-in-chiefs during the 25 years, summarize these developments, as well as provides behind-the-scene facts. Naturally we also provide our view on the future on forest engineering research in general, and of IJFE's role in particular.