

MALAYSIAN JOURNAL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (MJCS) How to Manage a Journal

Hint: it's like
managing a
company

Questions that should be answered before starting a Journal

What is the product?

Who are the customers?

How many positions are necessary to run the journal?

What is the overhead of running a journal?

The product

An Academic / Scientific Journal is a collection of novel knowledge and findings of significance to a particular area of study that is made available to the public.

*Do not think like an author when managing a journal, think like the readers.

1.0 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS (OCTOBER 2017 – MARCH 2018)

Quality Control

Academic plagiarism and methodologically flawed research are like a disease which if left unchecked will destroy the host journal.

Sometimes these get past even the most rigorous screening, but if discovered, must be rectified (retracted).

2.0 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS FAILED TURNITIN SCREENING (OCTOBER 2017 – MARCH 2018) – MORE THAN 20% SIMILARITY RATIOS

The Dearth of available Reviewers

So far we have had 286 submissions, 60 rejected in turnitin screening = 226

Multiplied by a minimum of 2 reviewers per manuscript = 452 reviewers ideally.

Overworked reviewers become more lackadaisical with each repetition, eventually hardly reading a manuscript before rejecting or accepting.

3.0 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS REJECTED IN PRE-SCREENING (OCTOBER 2017 – MARCH 2018)

4.0 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS REJECTED BY REVIEWERS (OCTOBER 2017 – MARCH 2018)

NO.	MONTH	TOTAL ARTICLES
1.	October 2017 – March 2018	4
	TOTAL	4

The Customers

The public at large. However this is very idealistic, as academic / scientific journals are mostly consumed by academics in related fields.

Most journals fail to realize that the most beautiful but unread / uncited journal is one that has failed in its primary goal.

How to maximize the odds of the work being read and more importantly be cited?

5.0 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATIONS (WAITING FOR PUBLICATION)

NO.	ITEM	TOTAL ARTICLES
1.	Number of articles accepted and waiting for publications (until March 2018)	37

Journal Positions

The number of positions available on the editorial board should reflect the tasks that are to be completed – “Thanks for stating the obvious”



Many journals struggling to enter the Web of Science publish too many manuscripts per year. “Do not make a hundred products that nobody wants to buy, instead make a few that everyone wants to buy!”



Cut the “fat” and make that editorial board lean as can be. Truth be told, copyrighters, proofreaders and web managers are sometimes more critical to a journal than its editorial board members.

6.0 STATISTIC OF CITATIONS IN WEB OF SCIENCE (WOS) (ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN YEAR 2015 – 2018)

7.0 JOURNAL PERFORMANCE IN WEB OF SCIENCE (WOS)

8.0 JOURNAL PERFORMANCE IN SCOPUS

Measure your share value

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Citations</u>	<u>Journal Impact Factor</u>	<u>Impact Factor Without Self Cites</u>
<u>2016</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>0.600</u>	<u>0.450</u>
<u>2015</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>0.476</u>	<u>0.428</u>
<u>2014</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>0.405</u>	<u>0.324</u>
<u>2013</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>0.500</u>	<u>0.125</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>0.161</u>	<u>0.064</u>
<u>2011</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0.167</u>	<u>0.041</u>
<u>2010</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>0.364</u>	<u>0.364</u>

Overhead

Journals like any other enterprise cost money \$\$\$\$\$\$ to run.

Making a profit might not be critical but they still need to have money to grease their wheels...

It is fine to use university resources so long as the university gains in return.

9.0 EXPENDITURES AND COSTS (OCTOBER 2017 – MARCH 2018)

Take Away

Academic / Scientific Journals are critical to Academia. Every faculty of the university should have a Web of Science indexed Journal.

“Being WoS indexed for a Journal is akin to being a Fortune 500 listed Company!”

Getting in is the easy part, staying in is the end game.