

First year reflections: Basic guidelines and future directions

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Abstract: This issue opens the second volume of the Journal of Industrial Engineering and Management, and with this issue begins our second year of publication. The aim of this editorial is to evaluate the 2008 activities, by presenting the members of the Editorial Board and the reviewers of the journal, as well as by reflecting results of quality, prestige and visibility of the journal, which are derived from the perception of the authors, who have sent us their work. Finally, the main conclusions are drawn and future lines of research for the second volume are presented.

Keywords: JIEM, editorial, future directions, authors' satisfaction

1 Introduction

One year after publishing the first editorial (Fernandez et al., 2008), we started the second volume presenting to all the stakeholders of the journal our particular vision regarding the journal's evolution during the first year. In addition, guidelines and goals for this new volume are provided, with the aim of emphasizing the social responsibility of this open-access scientific publication, like other journals (e.g., Simo & Sallan, 2008) of maximum transparency to the professional and academic community.

The new open-access journals include four basic axes (Simo et al., 2006) that are essential in the early years and should be stimulated and constantly improved by their editorial policy: quality, prestige, social responsibility and economic viability. In fact, these aspects are the basic guidelines that we followed during the first volume and they will be further detailed in the following sections.

In order to assess some of the above mentioned aspects, we have relied on the journal's own data (*i.e.*, review times, number of manuscripts received, number of accepted manuscripts), the composition of the editorial board, the board of reviewers, and a satisfaction survey conducted with the authors who have submitted an article for review during 2008.

2 Initial balance

The first volume of the journal included two issues with total of twelve articles and an editorial. Given that the first issue simply opened the journal with a call for papers, we consider that balance of the first year is satisfactory, compared with other similar open access journals. After the call for papers, during 2008 we received 38 manuscripts, out of which 23 were accepted (60.5%), 10 (26.3%) rejected and five remain still under review (13.2%). Out of these 23 papers accepted, 13 (56.5%) were published in 2008 and the rest will be published during 2009. Thus, the average review time is 50 days and the average publishing time 86 days, respectively. However, these figures may slightly vary depending on the last remaining papers received in 2008. The data are available in real time by accessing the following link: <http://jiem.org/index.php/jiem/about/statistics?statisticsYear=2008>. A total of 29 authors from six different countries have published in JIEM during 2008 and 189 users (among which readers, authors and reviewers) registered with the journal.

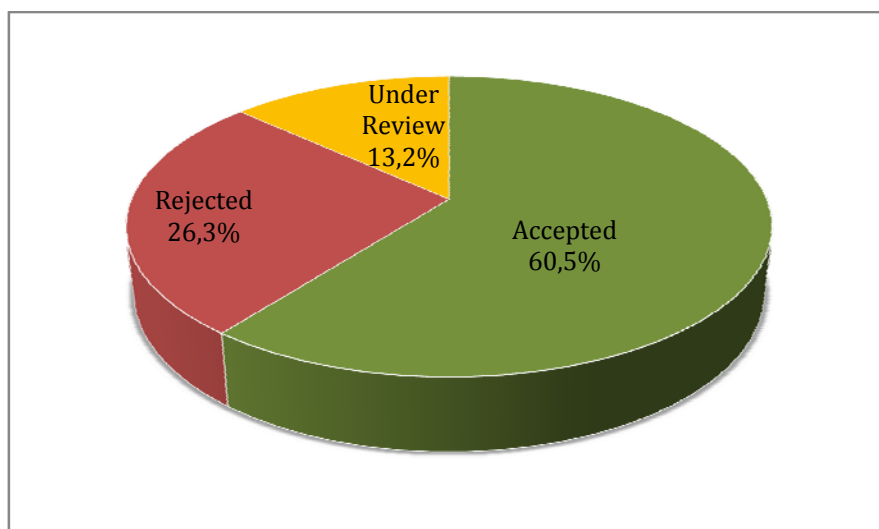


Figure 1. "Papers received during 2008"

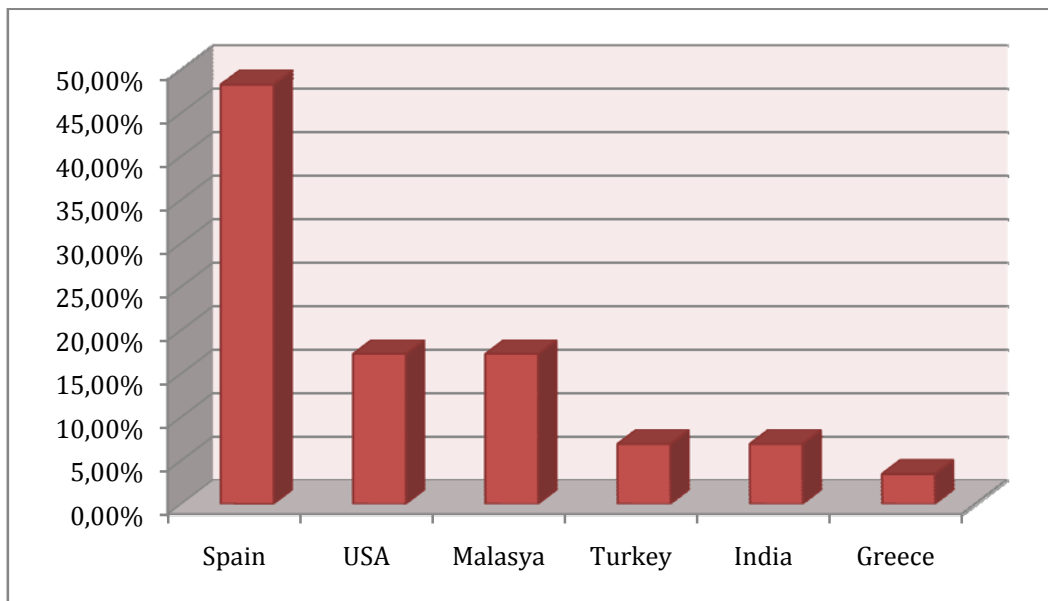


Figure 2. "Nationalities of the authors who published in JIEM during 2008"

In order to assess the satisfaction of the authors who have submitted a paper to JIEM during 2008, a questionnaire, which examines different dimensions that will be explained in the next sections, was designed. The survey, which was totally voluntary and anonymous, was sent to the 101 authors of the 38 articles received in 2008. The response rate was of 26.7%. 88.4% of the authors who completed the survey had the paper accepted for publication. The average age of respondents was 39.02 years ($SD = 9.96$) and the 23.07% of them were women. With regard to their educational background, 61.53% held a PhD and the rest of them were PhD students. The respondents represented a diverse set of countries: Spain (46.15%), Malaysia (15.38%), USA (11.54%), India (11.54%), Iran (3.85%), Turkey (3.85%), Taiwan (3.85%) and Canada (3.85%). 92.30% of them worked in a Public University, and the rest of them, in other institutions. The questionnaire was conducted using a Likert scale of five points.

3 Quality

Without forgetting the responsibility of the editors, we would like to thank the Editorial Board and the team of reviewers, who have voluntarily contributed to the quality of the journal. Despite of being made public (<http://www.jiem.org/index.php/jiem/about/editorialTeam>), the Editorial Board might have

modified throughout the year, and hence, we believe it is important to reflect all its members

Name	Affiliation	Country
Production, Logistics, Quality, and Operational Research		
Ramon Companyes	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Albert Corominas Subias	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Eulalia Grifol Ponsati	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Ki-Young Jeong	University of Houston-Clear Lake	USA
Luis López	INCAE	Costa Rica
Amaia Lusa	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Cecilio Mar Molinero	University of Kent - Kent Business School	United Kingdom
Monserrat Pepió Viñals	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Information Systems, Technology and Communication		
Josep Coll Bertran	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Janni Nielsen	Copenhagen Business School	Denmark
Joan Rodón Mòdol	ESADE	Spain
Jose L. Salmerón	University Pablo de Olavide	Spain
Industrial Economics and Regional Development		
Manuel Antonio Espitia Escuer	Universidad de Zaragoza	Spain
Henry Etzkowitz	Newcastle University	United Kingdom
Carlos Rodríguez Monroy	Madrid Technological University (UPM)	Spain
Francesc Solé Parellada	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Management, Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources		
Marc Bonnet	ISEOR - University Jean Moulin Lyon 3	France
Constantin Bratianu	Academy of Economic Studies	Romania
Francisco Javier Carrillo	Tecnológico de Monterrey	Mexico
Ramon Cladellas	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Spain
Ercilia Garcia-Alvarez	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	Spain
Pablo Martín de Holan	Instituto de Empresa (IE)	Spain
Joan Mundet Hiern	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)	Spain
Nelson Phillips	Imperial College London	United Kingdom
Lidia Puigvert	Universitat de Barcelona	Spain
Henri Savall	ISEOR - Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3	France
Ramon Valle Cabrera	Universidad Pablo de Olavide	Spain
Véronique Zardet	SEOR - Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3	France
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Jose Antonio Almaça	Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa	Portugal
Valentín Azofra Palenzuela	Universidad de Valladolid	Spain
David Castillo	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)	Spain
Francisco Martín Peña	Universitat de Barcelona	Spain
Carme Martínez	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)	Spain
Lourdes Pérez	EADA International Management	Spain
Josep María Rosanas	IESE Business School	Spain
Joan R. Tarradellas	EADA Business School / UPC	Spain

Education, Training and Professional Skills		
Francisco Aliaga Abad	Universidad de Valencia	Spain
Juan A. Marin-Garcia	Universidad Politécnica de Valencia	Spain
Rafael Pindado Rico	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)	Spain
Cristina Poyatos Matas	Griffith University	Australia

Table 1. "Members of the editorial board during 2008"

Name	Afiliation	Country
Valentín Azofra Palenzuela	Universidad de Valladolid	Spain
Marc Bonnet	ISEOR - University Jean Moulin (Lyon 3)	France
Ramon Cladellas	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Spain
Ramon Companys	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Albert Corominas Subias	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Gholam Reza Esmaeilian	Universiti Putra	Malaysia
Marta Fernández-Olmos	University of Zaragoza	Spain
SorabhGupta	Haryana College of Technology and Management	India
Frederic GarrigaGarzón	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Azman Ismail	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak	Malaysia
Ki-Young Jeong	University of Houston-Clear Lake	USA
Anastasia A. Katou	University of Macedonia	Greece
Rajiv khanduja	S.k.i.e.t. Kurukshetra University	India
Carl Joachim Kock	Instituto de Empresa	Spain
L. Siva Rama Krishna	Osmania University	India
Carmen Llinares	Universidad Politécnica de Valencia	Spain
Luis López	INCAE	Costa Rica
Juan A. Marin-Garcia	Universidad Politécnica de Valencia	Spain
Pablo Martin de Holan	Instituto de Empresa (IE)	Spain
Francisco Martin Peña	Universitat de Barcelona	Spain
Carme Martinez	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Lukasz Maciej Mazur	North Carolina State University	USA
Herwig Mittermayer	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	Spain
Josefina Lucia Murillo-Luna	University of Zaragoza	Spain
Lourdes Perez	EADA International Management	Spain
Rafael Pindado Rico	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Cristina Poyatos Matas	Griffith University	Australia
Juan Carlos Ramón-Solans	University of Zaragoza	Spain
Joan Rodón Mòdol	ESADE	Spain
Carlos Rodriguez Monroy	Madrid Technological University (UPM)	Spain
Imma Ribas Vila	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Albert Suñé Torrents	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain
Joan TarradellasiEspuny	EADA Business School / UPC	Spain
Ramon Valle Cabrera	Universidad Pablo de Olavide	Spain
José Ramón Vilana	Bystronic	Spain

Table 2. "Reviewers who have participated in at least one review during the 2008"

With respect to the authors' perception of the different quality dimensions of the journal, the next table shows very satisfactory results, taking into account that the object of the survey was a journal in its first year of publication:

ITEM	M	SD
The reviewers' feedback was adequate	4.16	0.89
The editor's feedback was adequate	4.39	0.82
Overall, the comments and the responses received from the journal were adequate	4.19	0.86
The information offered to the authors (e.g., editorial policy, standards of publication, indexing) is clear and concise	4.20	0.79
The journal has a fair and transparent editorial policy	4.16	0.78

Table 3. "Perception of the authors who have submitted an article in 2008 in relation to quality"

4 Prestige

The prestige of the scientific publications is closely linked to the quality of the papers it publishes and it is the scientific community itself that judges it (Simo & Sallan, 2008). On the other hand, as far as we are concerned, as editors, we must work so that the journals' prestige will be recognized and valued internationally. The main tool for achieving this aim is the journal indexation in different databases of scientific prestige. During this first year, the journal has been indexed/abstracted in seven databases, including *Dialnet* and *DOAJ*. Obviously, this is a continuous process, as most indexes require a minimum level of impact of the papers and a minimum of two years of existence of the journal.

Although, currently and given the youth of the journal, this is not indexed in the most prestigious databases, the prestige of the Editorial Board or of the institution, which supports it, balances the perception of the authors with regard to the prestige of the journal. Nevertheless, this is, undoubtedly, one of the aspects to which more effort should be devoted in the future, in order to consolidate this publication, taking into account that the time variable is very significant in this process.

ITEM	M	SD
The editors of this journal are widely renowned in their academic field	3.75	0.65
The Editorial Board members are recognized experts	3.79	0.62
The entity that publishes the journal is widely renowned	3.61	0.69
The papers published in this journal have high visibility in the scientific community of the area(s) it specializes in	3.15	1.15
Publications in this journal are recognized by the scientific community related to the subject area	3.35	0.83
Publications in this journal are recognized by the organization for which I work	3.37	1.08
This journal is included in relevant scientific databases and/or recognized by those professionals, who are important to me	2.97	1.28
The papers published in this journal have is a high visibility beyond the scientific community	3.12	0.94

Table 4. "Perception of the authors who have submitted an article in 2008 in relation to the prestige of the journal"

5 International outreach

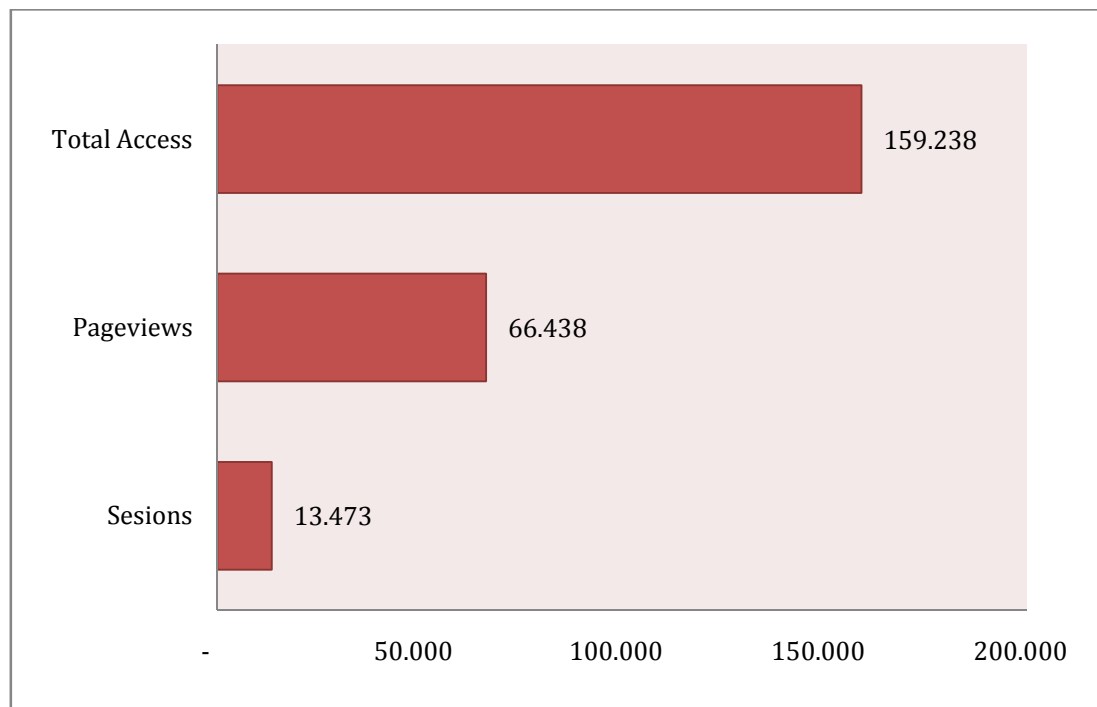


Figure 3. "Visibility of the journal in 2008"

The social responsibility of a journal concerns, among other aspects, the entirely free and open dissemination of its contents, trying to cover the greatest diversity of academic and professional potential. In this regard, since its inception, we have worked to improve the web positioning of the journal and of its papers, reaching a *Google PageRank* of 6/10 and very acceptable levels of visibility, with a total of 1.37 GB transferred in 2008. This represents a daily average of 36.81 sessions, 181.52 pages seen and 435.08 pages accessed, in more than 90 countries.

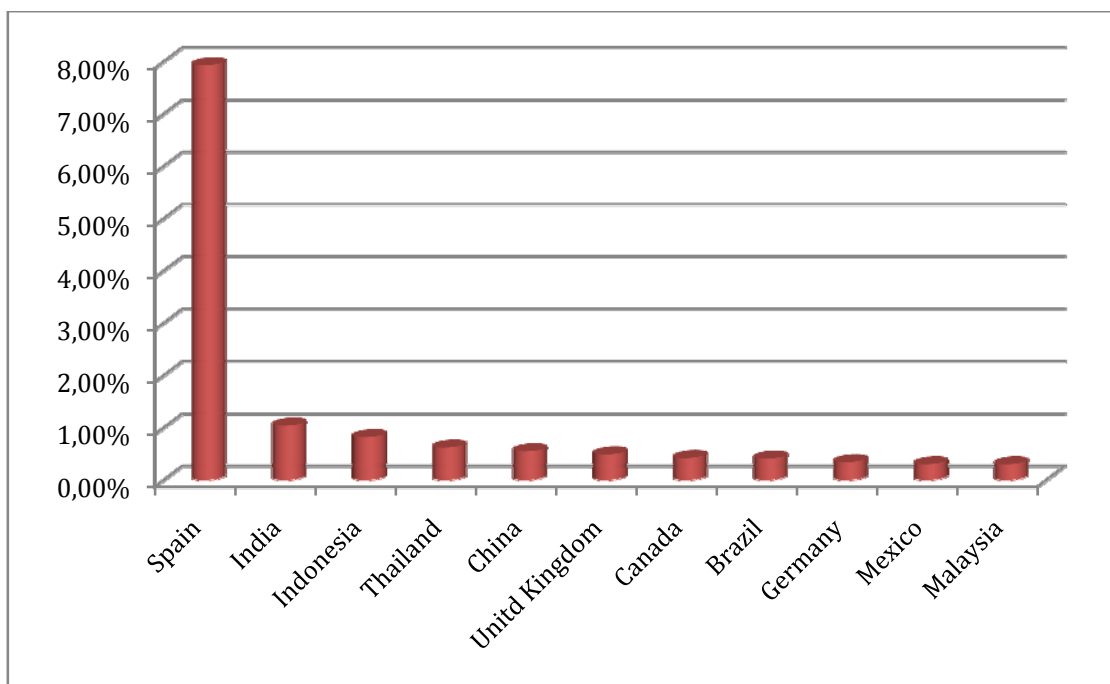


Figure 4. "Main countries of access to the journal in 2008"

6 Conclusions and future directions

The readers and the authors are the ones who should evaluate the first year of the journal, based on the papers published and the results presented in this editorial. We believe that we must continue working primarily for enhancing the prestige of the JIEM. As shown by the results of the survey above mentioned, further work is essential to include the journal into databases of scientific credibility and relevance for the various institutions where the authors work. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that this is a relatively slow and steady process in which targets must be set in the medium term. Apart from that, we expect for the next volume to significantly increase the number of databases in which the JIEM is indexed.

ITEM	M	SD
If I had to start again the process of sending this paper, I would send it to this journal	4.60	0.57
The next time I have a similar paper, I will send it to this journal	4.30	0.70
In the future, it is very likely that I will re-submit a paper to this journal	4.41	0.87

Table 5. "Intention to re-submit a paper to JIEM"

In a similar direction, during the early months of 2009, we have begun to gradually increase the Editorial Board of the journal, trying to make it as international as possible. We are also determined to increase the number of women who form Editorial Board, so that it would be comparable with the number of men, in each area. As a final note, it should be emphasized that the authors' satisfaction survey reveals that their intention to re-submit is very high, thus we can consider that we are walking in a good direction. That is, despite of being a young journal, we should not forget to genuinely thank the authors the trust they placed in the JIEM.

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