HERB

Higher Education in Russia and Beyond

National Academic Journals: between Survival and Prosperity

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Dear colleagues,

We are happy to present the 11th issue of Higher Education in Russia and Beyond, a journal that is aimed at bringing current Russian, Central Asian and Eastern European educational trends to the attention of the international higher education research community.

This new issue expands our vision of trends and challenges for academic publishing in the context of internationalization. The movement towards globalization has influenced not only universities competing in academic races but also academic publishing industry. National publishers in Eastern Europe and Central Asia find themselves under new demands and challenges as they are recognized by the authors, universities and policy makers as aggregators of academic residues. HERB authors provide different visions and strategies of academic publishing and their effects on the international and local level. The first part titled "Communication and Miscommunication in Academic Publishing" describes various contemporary phenomena of academic publishing. Authors share with readers their concerns about challenges in modern academic publishing, paying special attention to national contexts in which many journals are functioning. The second part is devoted to the three country cases of academic publishing – Kazakhstan, Slovenia, and Russia. The last part of this issue presents the cases of national academic journals oriented towards becoming internationally recognized. Editors of leading Russian journals in three fields share their own experience and reflections on this topic. We hope that this issue will provide our readers with interesting ideas and new information on internationalization, challenges and future prospects of academic publishing.

Higher Education in Russia and Beyond editorial team

National Research University Higher School of Economics

National Research University Higher School of Economics is the largest center of socio-economic studies and one of the top-ranked higher education institutions in Eastern Europe. The University efficiently carries out fundamental and applied research projects in such fields as management, sociology, political science, philosophy, international relations, mathematics, Oriental studies, and journalism, which all come together on grounds of basic principles of modern economics.

HSE professors and researchers contribute to the elaboration of social and economic reforms in Russia as experts. The University transmits up-to-date economic knowledge to the government, business community and civil society through system analysis and complex interdisciplinary research.

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The Center for Institutional Studies is one of HSE's research centers. CInSt focuses on fundamental and applied interdisciplinary researches in the field of institutional analysis, economics and sociology of science and higher education. Researchers are working in the center strictly adhere to the world's top academic standards.

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Anarchy and Exploitation in Scientific Communication

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Technology, greed, a lack of clear rules and norms, hypercompetitiveness, and a certain amount of corruption have resulted in confusion and anarchy in the world of scientific communication. Not too long ago, scientific publication was largely in the hands of university publishers and nonprofit scientific societies, most of which were controlled by the academic community. Academic conferences were sponsored by universities or disciplinary organizations of academics and scientists. Most of this was done on a nonprofit basis and largely controlled by small groups of respected professors at the main research universities, largely in North America and Western Europe. It was all quite "gentlemanly" controlled by a male-dominated scientific elite.

Then multiple tsunamis hit the groves of academe. Perhaps the most important was the massification of postsecondary education – the tremendous expansion of enrollments and numbers of universities worldwide. Now, with close to 200 million students in more than 22,000 universities worldwide, the higher education enterprise is huge. And while only a small proportion of these universities produce much research or aspire to the status of research universities, their numbers are growing as more institutions are lured by the rankings, which mainly measure research productivity, and by the natural desire to join the academic elite. Governments, accreditors, and quality assurance agencies are also stressing research and publications, in part because these are among the few metrics that can be accurately measured. At the same time, the global knowledge economy pushed top universities to link to academe internationally and to compete with institutions worldwide.

As a result of this increased competition and pressure on universities and individual academics to "publish or perish," tremendous pressure was placed on the existing scientific communication system, which was eventually unable to cope with increasing demands. At the same time, the Internet created additional challenges to the system, as journals had to adapt to new ways of publishing articles, evaluating submissions, and other aspects of their work. What had been a cottage industry managed by scholars with little training in communication suddenly became a large industry. There are now more than 150,000 scientific journals, of which 64,000 claim to be peer reviewed.

Implications

First, major publishers and media companies, seeing that they could make a large profit from scientific journals, moved into the marketplace. Multinationals such as Springer and Elsevier are the giants, each now publishing more than a thousand journals in all fields. Journal subscription prices were increased to astronomical levels, with some journals costing $20,000 or more. For example, Brain Research, published by Elsevier, costs $24,000 for an annual subscription. These publishers mainly purchased existing journals from other publishers or scientific societies. They also started new journals in many interdisciplinary fields. The multinationals ended up with hundreds of journals, which they "packaged" for sale to libraries – which paid huge fees for access to the all of the journals, as they were forced to purchase the entire list. In some scientific fields, submission fees for authors were imposed or raised. Journal publication became highly profitable. This system, of course, limited access to the latest scientific information to those who could pay for it.

Eventually, a reaction again journal prices by libraries and many academics led to the "open access" movement: some new journals were established with the goal of providing less expensive access to knowledge. The established multinational publishers responded by providing a kind of open access, mainly by charging authors for permission to provide their published articles less expensively to readers. By 2017, continuing conflicts between academic libraries and the multinational publishers concerning the high cost of access to journals have not resulted in any consensus on how to solve these complex problems.

Universities are themselves publishers of many scientific journals. A number of prestigious universities presses, such as Oxford, Johns Hopkins, Chicago, and others have traditionally published high quality academic journals – and continue to do so. They have in general maintained reasonable prices and have successfully adapted to new technologies. It is also the case that many individual universities worldwide publish local journals that have little circulation or prestige. For example, most Chinese research universities publish journals in several fields that have little impact and do not attract authors outside of the institution. There seems to be little justification for such publications – and they are likely to be damaged by the proliferation of low-quality "international" journals.

At the same time, the dramatic increase in the number of journals and the dramatic expansion in the number of papers being submitted to journals have placed unsustainable strain on the traditional peer review system. The increase in submissions is due to the expansion of the academic profession, increased emphasis on "publish or perish," and the rapid advance of scientific innovation and knowledge in general. But it is increasingly difficult to find qualified peer reviewers or talented journal editors. These jobs, while very important, are generally uncompensated and even anonymous, a pure contribution to science and scholarship, and very time consuming.

Another frightening and widespread development in the scientific communication industry is the emergence of "academic fakery." The New York Times recently (December 29, 2016) devoted a long article to "Fake Academe, Looking a Lot Like the Real Thing." The article discussed the proliferation of fake conferences and fake journals. International "academic" conferences organized by shady companies in India and elsewhere charge participants high fees to attend meetings held in hotels around the world, and accept all papers submitted, regardless of quality. Academics are sufficiently desperate to be able to put on their CV that they have had a paper accepted for an international conference, that they pay for these useless events.

There is also a proliferation of fake journals. No one knows how many of these exist, but their number is in the hundreds or even thousands. Jeffrey Beall, an American university librarian, has been tracking these fakes for years, and now lists at least 923 publishers, many with multiple "journals" on his list, up from 18 in 2011. In late 2016, Beall announced that he was no longer compiling his valuable list and it was removed from the Internet. Although he gave no explanation, there is little doubt that he was threatened with lawsuits. The fake journals are often published from Pakistan or Nigeria by invisible publishers and editors. They often claim to be peer reviewed and list internationally prominent academics on their editorial boards – people who seldom actually agreed to serve and find it difficult to have their names removed when they request it. But almost all papers submitted tend to be published quickly once a fee, often substantial, is paid to the publisher.

What Is to Be Done?

There is without question anarchy in the realm of knowledge communication in the twenty first century. A combination of mass production of scientific papers, most of little scholarly value, tremendous pressure on academics to publish their work regardless of ethical considerations, the communications and publishing revolution made possible by the Internet, the greed of the established multinational publishers, and the huge new coterie of fake publishers have all combined to produce confusion. The issues involved are complex – how to manage technology, accommodate the expansion of scientific production, rationalize peer review, break the monopoly of the multinationals, and, of great importance, instill a sense of ethics and realistic expectations into the academic community itself. The implications of these changes for journals published in languages other than English and in countries outside the main publishing countries are also unclear. It is likely they will be weakened by these global trends. Questions abound, answers are few.

Russian Scholarly Journals in Science Communication

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Introduction

In the modern world laced with communications, science cannot develop further if it stays apart from a wider range of economic and social actors. According to Steve Fuller, scientists are now "forced to pay their own lunch" [1] in the context of growing competition for limited resources, i.e., they have to meet the expectations of various customers, including not only the state but private corporations and funds too, as well as wider population. This means that the proverbial "ivory tower" has to open its doors to the public and give access at least to the most interesting results of scientific research if not to the secrets of their production.

Traditionally, scholarly journals have been the main channel of science communication. They help lay original discoveries and hypotheses before the professional community. In the era of Internet proliferation, globalized movement for "open science" [2] and changing model of communication between researchers and the society aimed at promoting "popular science" [3; 4], academic journals are becoming part of mainstream information flows. They are becoming a source of knowledge that is used not only within academic circles but also by broader educated public. Most of the time, such communications are facilitated by the media. The latter pick the most striking news from the academia and relay certain topics into the public, thus increasing the visibility of certain research issues and even individual scientists.

We conducted a pilot study of the representation of Russian science in the media in order to understand to what extent contemporary Russian academic journals are included into or excluded from the general context of popular science communication. We were interested in whether mass media cite Russian academic journals when talking about Russian scientists' discoveries and inventions, and if so, which journals are visible for the lay public.

To gather information, we used Factiva database, covering thousands of media outlets from a number of countries. We obtained the sample of the news items about recent achievements of Russian researchers that were published in Russian-language media in the period of October-December 2016. We believe this is the shortest period possible for research purposes due to the peculiarities of the news cycle and the time gap between the date of publication and its discussion by the general public (it varies from 1 to 8 weeks, depending on the media) [5, p. 46]. Moreover, the chosen period – i.e., the last quarter of the year, when many popular media reflect on the results of the year – helps compensate any possible distortions. In total, from 1768 news about Russian science we selected 202 full-text articles including information about scientific discoveries or other achievements. Sources of this information represented dozens of national newspapers and news websites, regional media, and transcripts of TV programs on several national TV channels. The selection included both long reports and short messages. Then in all of these articles we checked for references to published scientific articles. We were not expecting to find such references in each news item from our selection; nevertheless, we were hoping to get an idea about the role of Russian journals in science communication.

Main Subject Areas of Science Communication

Thematic analysis of the news on the achievements of Russian science showed that Russian media mainly reported on the results of medical research. The natural interest to this topic by lay public and, therefore, the journalists has probably grown recently due the country's commitment to import substitution, specifically in the sphere of pharmaceutical drugs and medical equipment. Success of Russian scientists in anticancer research was particularly visible in the media in the late 2016.

Figure 1. *World cloud visualizing the main results of Russian science represented in the media. [5]*

Other areas that Russia is traditionally strong in, such as physics, chemistry, materials science, and Earth and space exploration, were well-represented in national media as well. Most of the publications in our sample were dedicated to search for potentially promising practical applications of scientific knowledge. Sometimes publications were not only informative but entertaining too (sounding titles included "Russian scientists have managed to produce gold out of coal," "Russian scientists have discovered how to use marine worms in prospecting for oil," "Scientists from Tomsk have developed an oil-production method based on the use of beetroot," etc.). Still, most of the news titles were not so "sensational."

As for social sciences and humanities, the results of Russian researchers were barely visible in the media. The interests of media outlets were basically limited to public opinion polls. The media mostly referred to the country's largest pollsters (Levada-Centre, Public Opinion Foundation (FOM), Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VTsIOM)) and covered a limited number of topics (Putin's approval rates, economic well-being, attitudes towards the US). Such news were not included into the final sample as it was not clear whether such polls can be considered as scientific research.

Visibility of Scholarly Journals in the Media

Our analysis showed that most (80%) of the media publications reporting on the achievements of Russian scientists did not cite academic publications. It seems that Russian media differ from the Western ones in this respect, because the latter tend to cite scholarly publications in the scientific news. However, such a statement requires further comparative analysis. Russian media reporting on the achievements of Russian scientists rarely mentioned any sources of information at all, and when they did, they usually cited press announcements issued by organizations where scientists worked, interviews with them or public statements by highly-ranked officials. For example in the late 2016, the media widely disseminated a statement by Veronika Skvortsova, Russian minister of health, on the successful tests of the first Russian skin cancer drug.

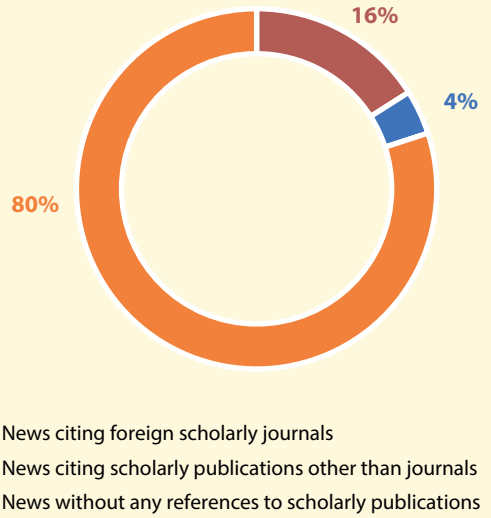

Figure 2. *Publications in Russian media reporting on science by types of references.*

It is important to mention that Russian academic journals were not even once cited were not cited even once in the selected publications, while foreign journals were cited rather frequently (Figure 2). The vast majority of the publications that did have an academic reference were citing foreign scholarly journals. Such "Westernism" of the Russia media is probably purely utilitarian: science news publications are often merely translations of foreign news, so Russian journalists simply copy the references used in foreign media, i.e., references to English-language scholarly papers. Anyway, we see that even when journalists do cite academic journals, these often (and in our selection – in 100% of the cases) are foreign journals.

Conclusions

Low visibility of Russian scholarly journals in popular media calls into question the importance of their role in science communication. Science journalists do not consider them as a valuable source of information about the latest achievements and discoveries of Russian researchers. The probable reason for that in the Russian academia, "the weight" of a statement depends more on the social status of a scientist or other public figure than on the system of scholarly journals. In a way, when researchers introduce a new finding or invention, their social and professional status is likely to be enough to establish credibility.

The fact that national academic journals are basically excluded from science communication makes one question their value for communications within the academia. Despite the limitations of our analysis, the results bring to the table the issue of an extent to which contemporary Russian academic journals serve to disseminate cutting edge scientific knowledge both to professional groups and to wider audience.

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[5] Common terminology (such as science, scientist, Russian, open, discover, etc.) was removed.

Russian Academic Publishing Landscape

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This article presents an overview of key trends in Russian scholarly publishing as seen by Clarivate Analytics team in Moscow. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of Clarivate Analytics.

Our Russian office is celebrating 8 years this year. Although we have always been in close touch primarily with researchers, librarians, research managers and administrators, we have also continuously maintained contact with various scholarly publishers based in Russia and the CIS. Moreover, we have gathered a lot of valuable experience from conducting our own bibliometric analyses on the Russian research landscape and the role of Russian publishers in it, and in this article we would like to share our most interesting views and observations.

Good Journals. High Potential Journals

If you are reading this, you are probably familiar with the concept of Journal Impact Factor, which is a measure of a journal's importance in its field. 25% of top journals by their impact factors in each subject area constitute a level that generally marks the most prestigious titles globally, and the good news is that we find at least three Russian journals there: Russian Chemical Reviews, Physics-Uspekhi, and Russian Mathematical Surveys. Two more Russian titles can also be found in the top 50% in their respective research areas: Polymer Science Series C and Moscow Mathematical Journal.

Our team in Moscow annually monitors the changes in impact factors of Russian publications and we are proud to see certain new titles steadily gaining their importance internationally, with Acta Naturae being an excellent example.

Currently there are more and more Russian titles indexed in Web of Science Core Collection. During those 8 years we have closely observed the number of Russian publications covered by Web of Science Core Collection grow from around 150 in 2009 to over 230 in early 2017. This growth, which we believe will continue in the future, is a result of both Russian publishers more actively submitting their journals for selection and inclusion into the database and also by our initiative of creating Emerging Sources Citation Index, a relatively new database of journals from emerging economies and emerging research areas,. It was launched in late 2015 and is a legitimate part of Web of Science Core Collection.

So, there are significant content expansion efforts we are making in Web of Science Core Collection but there are even more exciting developments on the Web of Science platform in general. One of them is Russian Science Citation Index, which is our joint initiative with Scientific Electronic Library eLibrary.ru. Under this project, there are 650 best titles from Russia indexed in a separate database available on the Web of Science platform. This project gives Russian research results more publicity globally and also enables us to evaluate them using a more representative dataset. All our initiatives described above bring the total number of Russian titles indexed in various databases the on Web of Science platform above 850.

Negative Trends and Risks

Can the results described above be considered a great accomplishment? By all means, yes. However, let's take a closer look at certain factors that, in our opinion, create risks for effective development of Russian research and the way it is perceived internationally.

In many cases we see people confuse the activities of promoting scholarly journals and promoting research results. We still hear a common demand to add more Russian journals into Web of Science Core Collection as a way of increasing the share of Russian research output globally. Interestingly, the world's most successful developing countries chose a different path. Let's take China as an example: it currently has around 260 journals in Web of Science Core Collection – not much more than Russia, while Chinese research output is 8 times greater than Russian. India has 254 titles in the database, while producing almost twice more papers than Russia. The reasons are simple: Chinese and Indian researchers publish a lot in journals based outside their native countries.

This does not mean that we are advocating for Russian research to be necessarily published outside of Russia. On the contrary, we are trying to create a culture (which we actively promote at our workshops) of submitting good research papers to high-impact journals; in other words – to the journals that have the biggest audience that would potentially read and cite one's article.

At the same time, a higher number of papers published in low-impact journals (or journals that do not even have an impact factor) would indeed increase the country's research output as seen globally but will hardly lead to any significant increase in its research impact due to such titles' relatively limited audience. Why is this important? Russia ranks #15 by its research output measured in articles published in Web of Science Core Collection for the past 10 years. At the same time, Russia ranks 24th in terms of total citations to those articles and only 147th globally in terms of average citations per article. In a few of our own studies we were able to show that a modest number of citations per paper is by no means indicative of the poor quality of any given research; it is mostly an effect of small journal audiences where the research has been published.

So, now it is much more important to think about how well Russian research results are cited rather than how big the number of published papers is. The good news is that in the recent years, the volume of Russian research results published in the top 25% of the world's scholarly journals (assessed by their impact factor) has been growing rapidly, so we hope that Russian researchers are starting to choose publishing outlets more effectively. This will positively affect the average amount of citations to Russian papers – in other words, the Russian research impact.

But let's get back to Russian journals. Indeed, the impact factors of many Russian titles are still below the global average. Why does this happen? If a journal's impact factor is low, we suggest taking a closer look at several bottlenecks. First, it is the journal's audience. How big is it and what can be done to better reach international readers? Second, it is the number of manuscripts submissions. By increasing this number, the editorial board would allow a more thorough selection of papers, which, in its turn, should lead to a better quality of the content published. Again, our opinion is that for Russian journals there is still a lot to be done in terms of promoting them globally. Our own analytical tools, such as InCites, allow us to see that 83% of papers published in Russian journals in 2006–2015 were authored by Russians – clearly, our journals can become more international. There is, however, one important exception to be made for titles that target mainly local audiences: this applies to certain fields in social sciences and humanities, such as Russian linguistics. Still, we have to highlight that journals should only target local audiences if the nature of the subject area is local and, therefore, would not resonate internationally. The majority of natural, technical and medical sciences are global by default, so there is no such thing as, for example, Russian chemistry or East-Siberian mathematics.

Predatory Open-Access Publishing

Another important yet disappointing trend is the number of predatory publishers appearing in Russia and the CIS countries in the recent years. Predatory open access is a trend growing especially rapidly in developing economies and is a clear attempt to gain revenues by gaming the system of bibliometrics-based research evaluation. Sadly, there is not much we can do as a company to prevent this trend in general. Nevertheless, we take actions regarding any journal currently included into Web of Science Core

Collection which we have identified to be using unethical publishing practices. This might end in such a journal being removed from the database.

Meanwhile, during our workshops and seminars for the Russian users of Web of Science, we are doing our best to create a better publishing culture and a less formal bibliometrics-based research evaluation practice that would rely less on bureaucratic mechanisms and more on expert reviews. We believe that an evolutionary process of building a stronger publication culture will decrease the role of predatory open access, which will also support the further flourishing of legitimate open-access movement.

Conclusions

Our view of further development of Russian scholarly publishing is positive but we would like to pinpoint the following: individual scientists and research organizations in Russia can do a better job in promoting their research results, and this activity should not be confused with promoting scholarly journals. The latter is a separate process and has to be initiated solely by the publishers of those journals.

The Monster Ten You Have Never Heard of: Top Russian Scholarly Megajournals

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eLIBRARY.ru, a dominant regional bibliometric database, currently indexes 5279 scholarly journals, 4755 of them Russian. It is a vast universe of supposedly academic literature, largely unknown to those who do not understand Russian. In this paper I will provide a brief overview of the leading players in this field: 10 megajournals, which, taken together, annually publish much more articles than all Russian yearly output in the Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection. I will utilize a set of various metrics to capture this remarkable phenomenon. All data is sourced from eLIBRARY.ru and journal websites, and none of these journals are indexed in the WoS or Scopus databases. At the same time, one should realize that these ten are just the tip of the iceberg.

The most basic metric is size, which is best measured by number of published documents per year. This is the metric used in Table 1; it shows top 10 Russian journals in the eLIBRARY.ru by the number of articles published in 2015, along with supplementary indicators highlighting their peculiarities. I have translated journal names into English to provide more context. Unsurprisingly, half of these journals are also in Google Scholar ranking of Russian journals. This is because GS citation metrics are size-dependent, thus bigger journals have bigger h-indices.

Note the yearly increase rates: they are improbably high, rivalling those of PLOS ONE and Scientific Reports, top international megajournals. The biggest established Russian journal, Reports of the Russian Academy of Sciences, had less than a thousand papers in 2015, just like in 2014.

One should also pay attention to the omnipresent "fast track," which, according to the Young Researcher's website, could mean immediate (sic!) publication after the bank transfer is completed. The website carefully omits any specific info on peer review procedure. Such publication speeds combined with the volume and disciplinary scope mean that proper peer review is impossible to achieve. There are also some other innovations to the declared peer review process which are highly unusual. Let's list a few.

Economics and Business: Papers by members of the editorial board (alone or with coauthors) are not peer-reviewed. All incoming papers are first reviewed by editor-in-chief, who judges them on grounds of originality, scientific thoroughness and potential interest for wide audience. This suggests that the editor in question, who by coincidence is the owner of the journal, had to read at least 5500 papers in 2015 – that is, of course, provided a 100-per cent acceptance rate.

Concept: Papers by PhD holders are not peer-reviewed, papers by others should be sent together with a peer review evaluation attached, otherwise one has to pay 400 rubles extra (nearly 7 USD; 1 USD approximately equals 60 rubles) for external reviewing.

Economics and Society: "We publish papers in the author's original version". Still, a prospective author has first to pay APC (article processing charge) and only after that send the paper along with the receipt.

This is also explicitly stated on Modern Topics of Science and Education, Basic Research and International Journal of Experimental Education websites. These three journals have the same editor-in-chief – who, by coincidence, is the president of the corresponding publishing house and head of the firm to which all APCs are directed. Another innovation: manuscripts can be submitted not by authors but by organizations, in bulk, for an increased price of 8300 rubles (Modern Topics of Science and Education).

The contents of such journals are worrying too. It is for purely legal reason that I do not call them predatory, or fake, or pseudoscientific, while all of them publish numerous papers consisting of 2-3 pages and 1-3 references at best. On the whole, they are very similar to one another. 9 of the 10 journals selected are open-access and charge authors, the only exception being Economics and Business, which charges both authors and readers by selling access to individual papers via eLIBRARY.ru.

Source Title	Total Publications, 2015	Increase Since 2014, %	Average References Per Paper	Impact Factor	% Self-References (2 years)	Declared Focus	Main Field	Article Processing Charge, Russian Rubles	Declared Time from Submission to Publication
Young Researcher	9 150	40.4	8	1	32	All	Economics	210 per page	1 to 10 days
Modern Topics of Science and Education	6 879	22.1	10	1	16	Medicine, biology, pedagogics	Medicine	6300-8300 per paper	No data
Economics and Business	5 477	36.1	9	1	45	Economics, management	Economics	Varies	14 days (+ 5950 rub)
Economics and Society	5 372	15.05	5	0	31	Social sciences	Economics	350 per 5 pages; 450 per 10 pages; 550 per >10 pages	3 days
Concept	3 152	25.4	7	0	27	Social sciences and humanities	Pedagogics	500 per paper + 400 for peer-review + 300 for foreign authors	Less than 90 days
Basic Research	2 846	-11.2	10	1	11	All	Medicine	6300-8300 per paper	Less than 21 days
Modern Trends in Science and Technology	2 812	100.0	6	N/A	N/A	All	Philosophy	170 per page	No data
Scholarly Almanac	2 754	96.4	6	2	1	All	Pedagogics	400+ per paper depending on page count	No data on the journal but the same publisher publishes monographs in 7-14 days
Current Issues of Humanities and Science	2 658	22.5	8	0	22	All	Economics	200 per page	Unknown but the publisher stresses that the journal is published twice a month
International Journal of Experimental Education	2 513	33.1	4	0	22	All	Pedagogics	2250-3250 per paper	Up to 1 month

Despite some efforts of citation gaming, all the journals have rather low impact factors. They cannot boost them so easily with self-references only due to changes in eLIBRARY policy, so they resort to indirect measures: Concept, for example, offers a 150-ruble APC discount for every paper published elsewhere but citing Concept in eLIBRARY.ru. Worth noting is also a very short average reference list. According to Scimago/Scopus, in the same year PLOS ONE had on average 42 references per paper, while Scientific Reports had 43.

What fuels such an impressive prolifereation is the combination of modern author-pays electronic open access model (generally lacking proper peer review in Russia), and a set of administrative and societal drivers. The federal government and local managers at thousands of Russian public universities and research institutes utilise eLIBRARY.ru data instead or together with WoS/Scopus for a number of reasons:

- the majority of those to be evaluated lack any noteworthy publications or citations in the WoS;
- unlike WoS or Scopus, eLIBRARY.ru is free (although offers paid options including bulk uploading of publications affiliated with the customer's organization);
- ease of abuse and gaming is often required by the administrators themselves; most of them believe they are academicians too, so they deliberately set the KPIs not very high;
- Russia is the world's leader in terms of higher education enrollment rate, and this means that we need hordes of faculty, who are supposed to do at least some visible research.

Apart from direct KPI-driven demand there is a much less formalized demand for reputation, with scholarly articles in eLIBRARY.ru acting as a readily available proxy for symbolic capital, something to be put in one's CV or on university homepage. Actually, this could be one of the reasons for the emergence of a very unusual practice: many megajournals successfully sell "certificates" confirming authorship of an academic paper – obviously, for an extra fee.

The last driver is actually eLIBRARY.ru itself with its official policy of indexing everything that pretends to be scholarly literature. This policy, which predates the rise of questionable publishing, sets eLIBRARY.ru drastically apart from WoS and Scopus, who invest heavily in content selection, and makes all raw publication and citation counts in eLIBRARY.ru highly questionable for professional scientometricians. In the case of Economics and Business, eLIBRARY.ru directly shares a small fraction of profits but on the whole, it does not explicitly benefit from this ongoing explosion.

Fully aware of the factors mentioned above but reluctant to start a global purge due to severity of national academic simulation, in 2015, eLIBRARY.ru team began stratifying the database. It joined forces with Thomson Reuters, Russian Academy of Sciences and Higher School of Economics to produce the Russian Science Citation Index (RSCI; where the author of this paper had a minor consulting role). It is accessible both via WoS and eLIBRARY.ru web interfaces and serves as a kind of national whitelist. It currently includes 652 journals, none of them representing the top-10 selected above. Capitalizing on this effort, eLIBRARY.ru has recently introduced a notion of "core sources", e.g. titles indexed in WoS, Scopus or RSCI, and started producing metrics that count only core publications and citations. These are published alongside "normal" metrics for everyone to see the difference.

Could such whitelists and purified metrics help bring down this local megajournal phenomenon? I certainly doubt it. One of the symptoms is that such a vital improvement on behalf of eLIBRARY.ru has so far sparked no interest from government officials who define local KPI trends. At the same time, all the aforementioned reasons for using raw eLIBRARY.ru counts as performance indicators are still in place. It is, therefore, reasonable to believe that these ten megajournals along with hundreds of their clones and saplings will continue to grow and flourish in the coming years.

The Role of Funders and Research Organizations in the Patterns of Academic Publishing: Slovenian Approach

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History

Scientific research is an activity based on a systematic way of asking questions and answering them. The way science was done in the previous centuries was significantly different from other areas of human activity due to the principles of transparency on which it operates. Scientific results are published in special journals that are accessible to all and, moreover, only publish the contributions that have been subjected to strict standards of transparency. These standards enable reproducibility in case of an experiment or a mental concept. Articles are accompanied by citations –

links to previous works. Even before the existence of the first scientific journals, research universities were established, providing researchers with autonomy for creative work. The period after the Second World War is characterized by the development of science funders – special agencies that award grants to researchers on the principles of scientific excellence. The development of bibliometrics was of great help to systematically analyze all scientific publications and their impact and at the same time to measure the performance of research policies at university, municipal, regional and national level. We have recently noticed new approaches that tend to maximize openness and, hence, the effectiveness of research activities leading to rapid development in the field of open access to publications and data.

Scientific Journals

It is important to mention the creation of the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge (Royal Society) when talking about the development of science. Weekly meetings of scientists where they discussed new ideas and demonstrated scientific experiments transformed in 1665 with the launch of the first scientific journal: Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society (still active). Journals remain by far the most popular way of promulgating scientific findings. Today, there are around 30,000 scientific journals that publish more than two million articles per year; numbers double every 20 years and the total number of articles so far is 50 million. In the 350 years of the development of academic journals a prescribed impersonal way of presenting the results has developed. A pattern for writing articles has evolved, which we call the IMRAD standard. It is nothing but an acronym for the structure of the article: Introduction, Materials, Results and Discussion. In humanities, academic results are presented not only in articles but in books as well. They follow the same standards of transparency of results and procedures. Doctoral theses or habilitation works fall under the same category.

Research Universities

In 1088, the first European university was founded – University of Bologna. In the next century, Sorbonne, Oxford and Cambridge followed. The very foundation of universities gave professors the right to freely travel and exchange information. Another important feature was university autonomy, i.e., independence from current politics. The number of universities grew rapidly: at the end of the Middle Ages there were thirty of them in Europe, at the end of the eighteenth century – a hundred and fifty, and today there are about 16,000 universities in 180 countries all over the world.

Assessment of doctoral theses and assessment of candidates for habilitation purposes is comparable to the evaluation of articles that are suitable for publication. The difference is that in the assessment of researchers we are also interested in the impact of published scientific work. Has anyone else found it useful to incorporate it into their research? Are the effects noticed in the field of technology and knowledge transfer into medical practice? Is there a broader social and cultural impact?

Excellence: Databases (WoS, Scopus, Cobiss)

Growing numbers of articles, diverse research fields and diverse research capacities of individuals were the reason the next question was posed: can habilitation procedures depend solely on the judgment of peers for reading the candidates' work, or would their decisions need any additional tools. Such a tool emerged with the development of bibliometrics. The main tools today are Web of Science (WoS), which includes all of the world's most prominent scientific journals and publications (a total of more than 14,000), and Scopus, which covers more than 20,000 scientific journals and doesn't go quite as far in history as WoS. Scopus' important advantage is that it contains data on social sciences research due to the fact that it lists a significantly higher number of journals from Europe, and on humanities. Scopus includes journals in national languages (not only English) and allows measuring citations.

Slovenia is a country with 2mln inhabitants and few research institutions, which is one of the reasons why it is possible to carry out national projects that in bigger countries could only be feasible at university level. One such system is Cobiss (Co-operative Online Bibliographic System and Services). [1] Unlike other global bibliographic systems, Cobiss has built a lot of safeguards so that each publication in Slovenia can be reliably attributed to a particular researcher. The system is associated with WoS and Scopus.

Management of Slovenian science

Major players in the management of Slovenian science are the national research agency and research institutions. Cobiss, the bibliometric system, and excellence criteria enforced by the research agency have brought very good results. According to internationally comparable indicators of scientific excellence, Slovenia rank in the top one-third of EU countries. In the last 25 years, the number of publications in WoS has increased from less than half EU average to twice EU average. The quality of scientific articles, measured as the number of citations of Slovenian articles, had an even worse starting point: one-third EU average; still, it has climbed to 170% of the European average. The same happened with the number of highly cited articles (above 10%). Universities and research institutes follow the research agency in internal procedures related to doctoral thesis, habilitation and appointment procedures, but with a lag and unfortunately with less emphasis on scientific excellence. This is reflected in the index of the average impact factor of Slovenian scientific publications, which is below EU average. If we look at the article in the most prestigious scientific journals Nature and Science, two decades before Slovenia's independence the country produced one article per year, while within the first 15 years after the independence (1991) the number grew to two publications per year. This indicator has tripled over the last decade: on average, there is now one article produced every two months.

Slovenian scientists publish mainly in international journals but there are also approximately 150 Slovenian scientific journals. They either publish Slovenian-language articles with English abstracts or are bilingual. The problem with Slovenian academic production is that there are not enough professional journals which would help develop scientific terminology in the local language. In 1991, there were three Slovenian scientific journals indexed by WoS. Today, there are 65 journals indexed by Scopus, a few of them with high impact factors.

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How to Improve Selection Decisions in Russian Journals?

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Open Peer Review vs Networks

Journals have many options when selecting manuscripts. One way to find decent papers and to improve selection decisions is to make use of the editors' personal ties. If "editorial nepotism" is prohibited, editors have to rely on obligatory double-blind peer review of all manuscripts submitted. However, it seems that many Russian journals in social sciences have no incentive to invest efforts in open peer review. This is because a lion's share of universities create those journals to provide their staff with a guaranteed outlet for publications. Or it can be the case when a journal represents not only an institution but "an academic gang" with its own view on what genuine scientific contribution should look like. In both cases journals are not interested in searching for external reviewers for the manuscripts they receive. The university-based model implies the obligation to publish almost any article submitted by the authors who are related to the university, which, in its turn, finances the journal. The gang-based does not provide enough incentives to waste time asking other people to appraise the articles whose quality the editors themselves consider as fairly low. This raises an important question: under what conditions do journals start following the open peer review process, if at all?

State-Controlled Procedures

One of the possible answers refers to state control. For instance, defending a dissertation in Russia requires at least three VAK-listed published articles (VAK stands for Higher Attestation Commission, a national government agency that oversees awarding of advanced academic degrees). In order to get into the VAK list, journals have to meet the requirements set up by the Ministry of Education and Science. According to a ministerial decree, all journals are to review every single manuscript submitted. Journals also have to provide authors with reviews. This requirement is the attempt by the state to provide an open peer review for all the manuscripts ever submitted to a Russian VAK-listed journal.

However, the state has no mechanisms to watchdog the quality of peer-review process. Obviously, the ministry can technically control journals by requiring the reviews. But journals have all opportunities to fabricate reviews by, for example, asking authors to submit papers with written reviews attached. To put it simple, there is no need in state control. The best way to control the academic world is to rely on the academic community itself. The key mechanism of self-regulation is academic and professional reputation. If journals become interested in maintaining their reputation as an outlet where an author can get a professional review, they will do it. The main question is, under what conditions will journals become interested in publishing articles by authors who are not afraid of double-blind peer review and under what conditions will authors become motivated to publish in such journals?

New Incentives for Authors and Journals

Let's start with the authors. Russian academics face the requirements of publication activity when they wish to defend a dissertation, to apply for an academic position, to pass an evaluation for further promotion, to apply for grants, etc. Until recently, publications in VAK-listed journals were the main measure of research productivity . The first version of the list appeared in 2001 and originally aimed at candidates for the highest academic degree. Later on the list was adopted for evaluating academic work in different contexts (e.g., for university promotions and research funded by the state). According to the list, all journals are treated as equal even if some are more prestigious in specific disciplines. Therefore, most Russian researchers had no strong incentives to publish articles in the journals which were more selective than others. However, the "research turn" in public policy in the realm of higher education has changed the authors' incentives by bringing these new performance criteria to the fore.

The epitome of the new policy is the 5-100 project which makes substantial extra financial resources available to selected universities if they can ensure the growth of the indicators used in international rankings. The most important

indicator is the number of articles indexed by international databases as well as the number of citations. New rules of the game have influenced not only the two dozen universities that participate in the major government programs. Other universities have also started copying the behaviour of larger ones, thereby focusing on the new rules in the assessment of their employees' scientific performance. One of the instruments used is the new system of effective job contracts. According to the effective contract system, different types of academic performance are assigned different weights. Articles published in international journals indexed by Scopus or Web of Science are valued much higher than the rest. Now researchers do have incentives to submit their papers to journals even if they do not have any previous formal or informal contacts with their editorial boards. One's academic career becomes more dependent on the editors' decisions, so researchers want to be sure that the verdicts on their manuscripts' fate are objective.

On the other hand, there are new incentives for the journals. In order to get into Scopus or Web of Science databases, a journal has to demonstrate that its articles are cited by other journals. One possible way is to increase the number of authors outside of the journal's existing network. New authors attract new readers who previously did not know much about the journal. Alternatively, if the "old" authors start publishing in other journals, they would get opportunities to cite the articles already published in the "old" journal. The expansion of authors' pool could serve as a good strategy for increasing journal visibility and citation records. However, this means that journals have to ensure a fair review process with double-blind peer review for all manuscripts submitted.

When the state wants to impose proper behaviour on organizations, it starts to control internal organizational processes but any control system has its costs. Perhaps it would be more efficient for the state to define an overall framework rather than exercising control over procedures, which it eventually cannot watchdog. The overall framework means rules of assessment of research activity. A number of studies has demonstrated that academics tend to change their publication behaviour while there are corresponding changes in performance measures. New incentives are able to create a situation when publications in some journals draw an important distinction which that researchers strive to achieve. If journals are interested in such authors, they will enforce a fair review process even in the absence of formal procedural control. There are also changes in the behaviour of some journals which aim at being selected for indexing in prestigious international databases. They pave the way as pioneers and then other journal copy their behaviour. In the years to come we will see whether we are correct in our predictions. It is also important to stress that the stability of "the rules of the game" is of utmost significance for success because it defines the incentives for both journals and authors. Thus, further turn toward the internationalization of Russian science will be continued.

"Publish or Perish" and the Changing Reality of Academic Journals in Kazakhstan

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In 2011, aspiring to promote university research, the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan adopted new requirements for faculty promotion to the rank of Associate and Full Professors. Since 2011, promotion to advanced faculty ranks has been directly linked to a specific number of publications in non-zero impact factor journals. In addition to that, a Ph.D. candidate is now expected to have at least one publication in an international journal with a non-zero impact factor to be conferred a doctoral degree.

In this paper we report some results of a larger study [1] that we conducted to explore the effects of the policy on Kazakhstan's academic journals and scholarly community. Here we summarize our findings pertaining to the following question: Has the policy produced any unexpected effects on local scholarly journals? The question was prompted by our curiosity to understand what would post-Soviet academic journals, which have never used impact factor as a criterion of their quality, do in the new reality where impact-factor has suddenly become a matter of survival due to being a key criterion of researchers' choice between journals. This question becomes even more intriguing if one takes into account the fact that the majority of Kazakhstani researchers cannot speak English at the level necessary to publish in international journals.

To answer the research question we conducted a qualitative study based on a series of 10 face-to-face interviews with editors of different kinds of scholarly journals, including comprehensive university publications ("vestniks"), specialized subject-specific venues, and organizational publications, which attract a variety of contributors from across the country. The total pool of journals that the editors were selected from included 147 venues which are currently listed as journals recommended by the Committee of Control in Education and Science for publication of the results of dissertations. To conceptualize the study we used the theory of institutional isomorphism, which de-

scribes homogenization of organizations in the process of adopting novel practices or ideas [2].

As a background, it is important to note the original state of academic publishing in Kazakhstan prior to the reform. The system of academic publishing was inherited from the Soviet Union, which had its own unique system of journal ranking to signal journal quality. As explained in an earlier study by Akopov [3], assignment of journal ranks in the Soviet Union which determined their significance for the Soviet economy and the funding they received was significantly biased towards journals issued by the centrally-located and top Soviet institutions, such as the Academy of Sciences and key universities, most of which were based in Moscow. Such system of funding created the situation where local journals were underfunded and were destined to publish lower quality articles. As a consequence, in contemporary Kazakhstan Russian journals continue to be perceived as being of better quality than the majority of local journals.

The study of the effects of the new policy on the academic publishing industry in Kazakhstan has identified three types of journals based on the nature of their reaction to the reform: "early adopters," "conformists," and "non-conformists."

Early adopters are journals that were ahead of the reform or immediately followed the reform. These journals tend to specialize in one of the natural sciences that were strong in the Soviet times. Each of the journals has a very active and progressive editor, who is a reputable and well-connected researcher in their respective field. These editors tend to be visionaries who link the survival of their local disciplinary community to having a local journal with an impact factor as a marker of quality. They also have a very good understanding of impact factor and international journal publication practices. Based on the theory of institutional isomorphism these journals are displaying normative isomorphism, whereby they are changing following professional norms and trying to achieve legitimacy in the global scholarly community. Their normative compliance is manifested in the adoption of international practices, such as introduction of a blind peer review process and the creation of international editorial boards.

Conformists are journals that are aware of the changes and slowly trying to change their own practices to comply with the new requirements. The editors of these specialized journals are relatively strategic but being represented mostly by university vice-rectors for academic affairs or deans, they emphasize the importance of good journals for faculty development and teaching quality rather than for maintaining a vibrant research community in their discipline. These editors are not "trend-setters," rather they try to conform to norms being created by early adopters displaying a version of mimetic isomorphism as predicted by the theory of institutional isomorphism. The editors of such journals may have good understanding of impact factor but remain skeptical about its relevance for Kazakhstan. They also tend to show a rather hands-off approach in adopting international practices. For example, they usually use only non-blind peer review process in their journals.

Non-conformists prefer to ignore new practices and continue to use the approaches in the editorial and publication processes. Many of these are "vestniks" or journals issued by private universities or in low-status social sciences. Their editors frequently lack an understanding of what impact factor is. The decision on paper acceptability is a prerogative of the editor, who relies only partially on non-blind author-identified peer review with the emphasis on relevance, clear structure and basic quality. These journals do not pursue impact factor. Their contributors are mostly PhD students or junior faculty members who do not use English but need to publish to meet graduation or promotion requirements. Overall, these journals are not changing at this point but the theory of institutional isomorphism predicts that they will most likely exemplify coercive isomorphism in the future being pushed to seek impact factor under the pressure from the government or new norms of the scholarly community in Kazakhstan.

To sum up, this study revealed that all of the participating Kazakhstani journals are gradually moving towards Western editorial and peer review practices. However, the extent of their conformity to Western approaches is creating a new hierarchy of journals which occupy different niches in the local publication market where some position themselves as superior "Western ideal" journals, while others marginalize themselves into "article mills." The latter serve faculty who can only publish in second-rate journals. The results of the changes in journal strategies remain to be seen given the early stages of policy implementation. At the present moment only one journal in Kazakhstan has gained an impact factor. Finally, given the importance of maintaining local academic publishing for equity in knowledge creation and dissemination, this paper draws attention to the potential of conformist and non-conformist journals to create quality niches for researchers whose work focuses on region-specific topics, which is currently neither publishable in Western journals nor in demand in Kazakhstan due to increasing requirements of leading local journals for English-language academic references.

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National Academic Journal at the International Crossroads

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Establishing a New Type of Academic Journal in Russia

The Journal of Economic Sociology (Ekonomicheskaya Sotsiologiya) (http://ecsoc.hse.ru/en) was established in 2000. It was one of the first academic e-journals in Russia at the time when only 3.6% of Russians had Internet access, uploading a 1Mb file took up to 10 minutes on average, and 56% of urban residents in Russia did not have an idea what the Internet meant.

The journal was aimed at promoting international standards of research, presenting new ideas developed by Russian and international scholars, consolidating economic sociology as a research perspective, and attracting young scholars into the field. It invited papers focusing upon major theoretical paradigms in economic sociology, sociology of markets and organizations, social and economic strategies of households, and informal economy as well as papers from related fields of interest to economic sociologists. Along with the results of theoretical and empirical research in economic sociology (both original and translated), the journal welcomed the review essays, book reviews and reviews of important conferences in the field.

Despite its novel electronic format, from the very first issue the journal complied with the principles of regular academic journals. It implied application of strong academic standards, integrity of all issues, and publication on time. It was released on a bimonthly basis. Permanent free access to all issues in PDF was provided. All papers were subject to editing, proofreading, and professional design layout. The journal introduced double-blind peer review procedures since 2008.

Initially, the journal was established as an independent academic project and was funded by grants from the Ford Foundation, Russia. Then it was officially registered as an electronic mass media by the Ministry of Press of the Russian Federation in 2003. National Research University Higher School of Economics became a co-founder of the journal in 2007.

First Achievements and New Challenge

The journal managed to enlarge its Russian-speaking audience over time. Each issue was downloaded by seven to twelve thousand users within several years. About 20% of the readers came from other countries. An annual open competition for the best papers in economic sociology has been arranged since 2006 to extend the number of authors. The winners' papers were published in the journal.

It has become competitive and well-recognized in the Russian professional community. According to the Russian Scientific Citation Index, the journal is in the top-10 of the Science Index and in the top-15 by the number of citations among all 425 Russian journals ranked in "Sociology." Its five-year impact factor achieved 0.773 in 2014. The journal received one of the highest scores according to all previous expert rankings in sociology despite differences in methodology. The Journal of Economic Sociology obtained one more piece of formal recognition being accepted by the Higher Attestation Commission of Russia in 2010 (before that e-journals were not accepted).

Meanwhile, in the 2010s a need for serious changes became evident. The journal's enlightening function was largely fulfilled. It reached a crossroads and further steps were not very clear. The main concern originated not so much from growing competition among Russian journals but rather from a necessity to increase the number of authors working in accordance with international academic standards. The problem is that the portfolio of decent papers in Russian is still limited given the fact that most of skilled authors in the field work at Higher School of Economics and few other institutions in Moscow and St.-Petersburg. Thus, a new policy with internationalization strategy as the core was considered.

Towards a New Policy

Responding to the new challenge, an International Editorial Board was established along with the Russian Editorial Council existing from the initial stage of the journal. Active international scholars having experience in Russian studies were invited. The Board includes Sarah Ashwin (London School of Economics and Political Sciences, UK), Ted Gerber (University of Wisconsin–Madison, USA), Alya Guseva (Boston University, USA), Peter Lindner (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany), Chris Swader (Lund University, Sweden), Valery Yakubovich (Ecole Supérieure de Sciences Economiques et Commerciales, France), and Jane Zavisca (University of Arizona, USA).

The new policy was discussed with the Board members. Then, publication standards were improved to comply with Scopus criteria. The structure of publications was changed (for example, the journal stopped publishing teaching materials and syllabi). Pursuing the new policy, the journal became bilingual. We did not want to drop out our large Russian-speaking audience. Thus, the journal currently invites papers in either Russian or English. Editing and proofreading are provided by native speakers. Materials are published in the language in which they are received. All Russian texts are published with English abstracts. It implies that the main emphasis is made on original papers in English instead of translations to Russian as it was before.

Internationalization strategy of the journal was supported by Higher School of Economics providing additional funding. Technical support is also important. The journal is currently moving to a new platform of the Open Journal System to provide standardized and more convenient bilingual interfaces for the authors and reviewers.

The first positive formal outcomes have been achieved. The journal is indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) (Web of Science Core Collection) and in the WoS Russian Science Citation Index since December 2015 (together with 12 other sociological journals). It was also accepted for indexation by Scopus in June 2016.

However, it is only a starting point. It should be admitted that transformation is not easy at all. International competition among academic journals is much higher than domestic one, and the journal's prior successful experience does not help much with an English-speaking audience. Most capable authors normally prefer to submit their papers to well-recognized journals rather than to new ones with low formal rankings. Much more efforts should be taken to attain international visibility and recognition, and it is too early to speak about the results of such efforts yet.

Strategy of an Academic Journal: Success Factors for Foresight and STI Governance

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The Foresight and STI Governance academic journal (http://foresight-journal.hse.ru/en/) has been published by the Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge (ISSEK) at the Higher School of Economics since 2007.

The journal's success was gradually expressed in a series of domestic and international evaluation exercises which resulted in getting included into the Scopus database (2013), receiving a grant from the program intended to support leading national academic journals administered by the Ministry for Education and Science of the Russian Federation (2014), and obtaining a stronger ranking position within the Scopus Q2 segment (2015). A growing inflow of articles from a more and more diversified spectrum of countries, increasing downloads and citations are also critical signs of the journal's progress.

What factors have contributed to this success?

Strategic Thematic Focus

ISSEK was developed as a HSE research unit specialized in the studies of science, technology and innovation (STI). Therefore, starting a journal was initially considered a natural stage to promote this research area. The journal was originally conceived as a platform for the publication, dissemination, and discussion of cutting-edge ideas, methodologies, and analytics covering a wide range of theoretical and empirical studies of STI, human capital, knowledge and high-tech product markets, methodologies and practices of long-term foresight studies, and the elaboration and implementation of STI policies. Despite the availability of several other high-ranking international academic journals in similar areas, the thematic focus of papers published in the journal remains unique, giving it a very distinctive character.

Intensive development of the institute's academic activities has assisted the journal in monitoring both an evolving research frontier and important actors in the field. Discussions with the leading ISSEK scholars and international collaborators have been a valuable input to the journal's agenda. The choice of a relevant subject area with dynamic and diverse global progress allowed for bringing in a significant and steadily growing audience of creative scholars and practitioners, the journal's readers and authors.

Stringent Quality Requirements

The focus on global academic development patterns, a continuous effort to improve the journal's content, stepping up professional communication, integrating ourselves into international research networks – all this allows us to stay at the core of the most recent academic discourse, quickly reacting to emerging prospective research areas, and frequently anticipating their professional discussion. The journal has become the first Russian platform to launch a debate over methodologies and results of international, national, regional, sectoral and corporate foresight studies, companies' innovation behaviour models, open and inclusive innovations, knowledge-intensive services, centres of excellence, regional clusters, evidence-based STI policies, etc.

Readers' and authors' interest is supported by the advanced presentation formats and the high quality of papers we publish. Stringent quality requirements were seriously addressed even when compiling the very first issue of the journal. Initially, it demanded a lot of effort by the editorial board – communicating with the authors, ensuring the papers met all requirements for academic articles, finding and inviting domestic and international authors capable of producing appropriate papers. Largely as a result of this effort the journal secured a leading position among Russian academic journals, in effect, immediately after its launch, which is confirmed by its Russian Science Citation Index rankings in such areas as "Science Studies" and "Organisation and Management" (an undisputed impact-factor leader in both these groups), and "Economics" (never leaving the top ten stratum).

In 2016, the journal received over 200 papers (compared to 113 in 2014). However only 8% were included into our portfolio, another 10% were returned to the authors for revision. Major rejection causes refer to low quality and non-originality of articles, inadequacy to the journal's profile, and sometimes even plagiarism.

About 40% of the papers published in the journal in 2016 were produced by our international colleagues. These are not reprints of previous publications but original texts written specifically for the journal. The editorial board never ceases its efforts in bringing in leading researchers, who publish in the most authoritative journals indexed by respective international databases. At the same time, this helps to accomplish other key objectives such as disseminating information about cutting-edge Russian research and promoting its international recognition.

Inclusion in International Databases

From the very beginning one of the journal's strategic priorities was to build a strong reputation in the international academic and expert communities. An important success factor was excellence of the editorial board, which comprises of leading Russian and international academics and experts in relevant subject areas with a long-term record of collaboration with ISSEK in the framework of cooperative research projects, working groups of prominent international organisations, joint publications, etc. Board members contributed to setting clearly defined priorities for the journal, achieving an optimal balance between theoretical, applied, and analytical publications, streamlining the headings structure (Strategy – Innovation – Science and Technology – Master Class – Statistical Analysis and Indicators), and helped to attract influential authors and speed up the process of journal's recognition and integration into international research networks.

Following the 2013 Macmillan Science Communication (UK) expert evaluation of Russian academic journals , the journal was selected among the top three leading Russian academic periodicals with the best prospects for inclusion in international citation databases. Subsequent consultations with Nature Publishing Group experts helped the journal to significantly improve the quality of management and communications with authors and reviewers. In 2013, Foresight and STI Governance was included in the Scopus database (where only two other Russian academic journals specialising in economics were registered at the time). It made the journal significantly more visible allowing also to further raise quality requirements. A circle of renowned authors has gradually emerged.

A full-fledged English-language electronic edition has been published since 2015 (4 issues a year). It was also decided to change the title of the English version from Foresight-Russia to Foresight and STI Governance, in order to more precisely position the journal as a genuinely international (as opposed to regional) one. The English-language version is considered an independent edition, which allows to consolidate the journal's archive in various databases.

As a result, in two years' time Foresight and STI Governance has moved on from the fourth to the third, and then to the prestigious second Scopus quartile (Q2) in the Business, Management and Accounting category. The journal impressively holds second place in the overall regional Eastern European ranking.

Among our immediate objectives are inclusion on the DOAJ, ProQuest, Open J-Gate, and Emerging Sources Citation Index – Web of Science databases, significantly increasing citations, and then moving on into the Core Collection segment of the Web of Science. This will make the journal even more prominent on the "scientific" map of the world.

Advanced Publication Formats and Dissemination

The journal's major priorities include implementing open access and digitalisation principles. Open access promotes free exchange of S&T results and international research cooperation. The journal is trying to pursue a careful editorial policy in this area.

Given the ever-changing and increasingly complex international journal industry landscape, we actively adopt advanced information formats, including online technologies. Bilingual mobile applications (Foresight and STI Governance, available in AppStore and Google Play) were launched to improve the accessibility of electronic editions and attract new audiences, particularly young people. We are currently mastering SEO-optimisation technologies, and extending the website's functionality (electronic editing, etc.).

It was also decided to better use the opportunities provided by the international reference linking system CrossRef to assign DOI markers to journal issues and specific papers. Inclusion in this system would provide wider international access to the journal's content and ensure correct citation of papers on all electronic platforms.

Such efforts bring their fruits. The journal's website was attended by 17 thousand visitors in 2016, including 52% of unique users (against 23% in 2014), from over 100 countries. Nearly 61% of the audience of the electronic version are below 35 years.

Making the Journal more Prominent

The journal is engaged in implementing a diverse public events program, including various forms of scientific debates, lectures, workshops, round table discussions, and conferences. It helps to extend a network of partners. Such activities are the best channels for identifying and engaging new authors, extending the journal's portfolio, promoting its international standing, and receiving feedback from the audience – which in turn can become a source of new ideas. All this allows to overcome limitations born by the inclination (conscious and unconscious) to adhere to a customary set of topics and maintain the circle of familiar authors with the established reputations and stable research interests. The journal increasingly frequently publishes papers by new researchers who have never been among our authors before, some of them emerging from conference audiences. Thus, our readers become co-producers of knowledge. All this increases the journal's competitiveness as a means of scientific communication.

Communicating with Authors and Developing Partnerships

An important mission of the journal is upgrading authors' professional culture and raising a new generation of researchers focused on international academic standards, putting together a pool of promising young scientists – our potential authors.

Foresight and STI Governance actively cooperates with numerous Russian and international organisations as well as with other academic journals. Partnerships, exchange of papers, and launches of specialised joint issues also have been practiced with several leading journals, such as Foresight, Futures, Journal of the Knowledge Economy, Technological Forecasting and Social Change, Technovation, Science and Public Policy, etc.

Foresight and STI Governance has secured and confidently holds its own niche in the academic information environment. Though we still recognise the challenges ahead, such as keeping the portfolio to the rolling research frontier, engaging top-level authors, and attracting necessary funding.

Moscow Mathematical Journal

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Moscow Mathematical Journal (MMJ) is one of the youngest among the leading mathematical journals in Russia. By leading we mean that MMJ is consistently among top six Russian mathematical journals by any formal or informal criterion. The journal was created by Yu. S. Ilyashenko and M. A. Tsfasman to mark the new millennium, the first volume being published in 2001. MMJ's founding organization was the Independent University of Moscow (IUM). IUM is a small non-state university established in 1991 by a group of well-know mathematicians including V. I. Arnold, S. P. Novikov, Ya. G. Sinai, L. D. Faddeev. It is aimed primarily at preparing professional mathematicians. IUM was to a large extent a basis for creating the mathematical department at Higher School of Economics. (For more info on IUM see: http://ium.mccme.ru/.) The success of the journal is mostly due to the reputation of IUM, well known on the international scale and, more generally, to the reputation of the Moscow mathematical school.

At that moment one idea was that IUM was mature enough to have a very good general journal in mathematics. Another was that nowadays no journal that claims to be excellent can publish articles written predominantly by professors of a given university, or even a given city or country – such a journal is bound to be international.

We fully understood that time and effort were worth spending only if we aimed at getting into the top hundred of the best mathematical journals in the world. Even to dream about that would mean that no leniency as to the level of accepted papers was possible. Starting from the very beginning the editors kept high standards of accepted papers. Thus the journal had to decline good and correct papers of not high enough level. In order to get a sufficient amount of good submissions, it was decided to organize thematic and/or anniversary issues of MMJ prepared by guest editors (as a rule, Russian or former Russian mathematicians) who would invite good authors to participate. This way appeared to be rather effective on the initial stage of MMJ's development.

We also noticed that most respected Russian mathematical journals with long traditions published papers in Russian. Usually they were translated into English later on but the initial submission, as a rule, had to be in Russian. One could assume that it would be rather difficult to compete with them for Russian authors in this field. On the other hand, there was quite a number of people – foreigners, Russian mathematicians working abroad, and many of the leading mathematicians in Russia as well – who preferred to prepare their papers in English. Therefore, it was decided to create the first Russian journal which published papers in English, which is – be it just or not – the lingua franca of modern science. Another specific feature of MMJ was the intention to encourage research-expository papers containing new important results and including detailed introductions, placing the achievements in the context of other studies and explaining the motivation behind the research. The aim was to make the articles – at least the formulation of the main results and their significance – understandable to a wider mathematical audience rather than to narrow specialists.

Later two more founding organizations joined IUM: Higher School of Economy and Moscow Center for Continuous Mathematical Education. The journal invited the third Editor-in-Chief: S. M. Gusein-Zade.

Starting from the very beginning and up to now MMJ publishes 4 issues per year, approximately 200 pages each. On the average, the journal publishes about 30-35 articles a year. MMJ does not aim to achieve any target ratio between Russian and foreign authors. In 2015 and 2016, the journal published 71 papers authored by 120 researchers. 27 of the authors were Russian mathematicians (i.e., those who work permanently in Russia) and 93 – international, including 24 of Russian/Soviet origin.

The journal has always been distributed by the American Mathematical Society. The editorial board list was impressive enough for many western universities to subscribe to MMJ.

We were never too keen to get good bibliometric parameters; up to now the reputation in mathematics means much more that formal indices. However, at some point in the overregulated Russian science there appeared the notion of VAK (Highest Attestation Committee) journals; publications in such journals became indispensable for PhD candidates. In order not to lose an important part of brilliant young authors preparing for their dissertation defense, it was necessary for MMJ to be listed as a "VAK journal". However, the direct way appeared to be rather complicated and implied quite a number of bureaucratic obstacles. It was decided that the journal should be indexed by the ISI Web of Science (all journals listed in this and some other bibliographic bases are regarded as "VAK journals"). The Web of Science application was successful, so MMJ has beed on the list of Web of Science "Journal Citation Reports" since 2009. This way MMJ got the classical impact-factor. Later this appeared to be very useful since some foundations (including Russian Science Foundation) take into account publications Web of Science and/or Scopus-indexed journals. (MMJ was also included into the Scopus database without special efforts from our side.) Of course, one cannot say that the (ISI) impact-factor really reflects the quality of a journal. It has a lot of well-known shortages (as well as other indices used for rankings). There are known cases of journal editors taking artificial (and rather immoral) actions to increase their impact-factor. However, in the contemporary situation (when bibliometric data is used for evaluation by quite a number of institutions, often in a rather formal way) a sufficiently high impact-factor becomes important for attracting authors. So, we need to pay some attention to this indicator.

According to the most recent (2015) available data, MMJ has an impact-factor (the classical ISI one determined by Web of Science) of 0.648. This means that MMJ is in the second quartile in the list of mathematical journals indexed by Web of Science. At the moment, there is only one Russian mathematical journal ahead of MMJ: Uspekhi Matematicheskikh Nauk (Russian Mathematical Surveys). MMJ has the highest Scopus impact-factor (SJR) among Russian mathematical journals (0.758).

There is also a so-called Article Influence Score that takes into account the fact that different sciences have highly different citation indices and makes it possible to compare journals in mathematics with journals in other sciences. According to this score, in 2014, MMJ was the first among all Russian journals regardless the discipline.

The experience of the Moscow Mathematical Journal gives us some recipes for a new journal's success: well-developed domain, excellent university or research institute as a publisher, star composition of the editorial board, extremely strict approach to the level of publications, English as the main language, and lots of work on behalf of the editors to attract first-rate papers.

Post-doctoral Fellowships in HSE Moscow, Russia

Center for Institutional Studies of National Research University Higher School of Economics has recently started collecting applications for post-doctoral positions in Moscow, Russia.

Applications for postdoctoral positions for a 2017/2018 academic year are open for the spheres of:

– Higher Education Studies

faculty salaries, contracts and career concerns;
academic inbreeding and mobility;
faculty productivity, teaching and research in Russian universities;
university rankings; university governance

– Social Networks

coevolution of student social networks;
social networks and peer effects in education;
student social networks, academic achievements, and dropouts

– Scientometrics and Research Policy

scientometrics, including bibliometrics and altmetrics;
research evaluation;
performance-based research funding systems and their impact on scholarly communication;
peer effects in different academic systems;
mobility of researchers; network modeling and network analysis methods

Application deadline is March 15, 2017.

Details are available on the CInSt website:
https://cinst.hse.ru/en/fellowships

About HERB

Higher Education in Russia and Beyond (HERB) is a quarterly informational journal published by National Research University Higher School of Economics since 2014. HERB is intended to illuminate the transformation process of higher education institutions in Russia and counties of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The journal seeks to adduce the multiple-aspect opinions about current challenges and trends of regional higher education and give examples of the best local practices. Our audience represents wider international community of scholars and professionals in the field of higher education worldwide. The project is implemented as part of cooperation agreement between Higher School of Economics and Boston College Center of International Higher Education.

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