

THE JOURNAL ROLE IN SCIENTIFIC ACADEMIC RESEARCH

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The primary purpose of the research is the gathering of scientific knowledge with immeasurable benefits for the human culture and civilization. It is important that this knowledge to be stored inside an institutionalized scientific literature, in order to retrieve and effectively use varied knowledge gained over time.

There are studies showing that, literally, this institutionalized form of capitalization of knowledge, called generically scientific literature, is an objective and relevant reflection of the research activity carried out worldwide. Through the statistic processing of information, based on scientometric methods you can obtain consistent approaches on the science policy, including in the field of decision making in the research management field[1].

I will not try to approach this issue in a general sense, but based on my own experience, as chief editor of two research journals, COGITO[2] and EUROMENTOR[3], which I have started and which imposed themselves in the advanced scientific research landscape in "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University, as successful project with national and international opening.

Our argumentation starts from the next questions: What do COGITO and EUROMENTOR mean for my university? And for me?

For our institution, the two journals are a „business card”, a barometer for the advanced scientific research, and visibility both nationally and internationally.

Of course, academic scientific research is not reducible to journals, it means books (especially treaties and monographs), research reports, patents, participation at international conferences, PhD theses,

research grants (related scientific reports)[2], research contracts with the business environment, technological projects, etc. Yet, the existence of the two journals has generated in our institution an atmosphere of creative emulation, competition, and professionalism

COGITO is a journal of multidisciplinary scientific research, which appeared in July 2009; it publishes articles regarding philosophy, anthropology, logic, history, political science, law, economy, sociology, history of ideas, foreign languages and literature, having an inter, multi, and transdisciplinary approach. It is the only academic journal in the country with this brand.

EUROMENTOR is a journal which includes studies on education from the fields of psychology, pedagogy, didactics, education sociology, and new educational content, with a research component and also an innovative component. It represents a new vision on education, on what the professor should be today, a genuine shaper with a European mentality, capable of a didactic display at international standards. It appeared first in 2010. Both journals are trimestrial, edited in both Romanian and English, and available on-line.

The philosophy that stands as a basis for this journals is in consonance with the cognitive areas in our institution, starting from the premise of valorisation, chiefly, of the creative potential of the members of our academic community. However, what characterises these two journals is the openness, which offers the possibility to participate with articles, selected through peer-review, to every professor in any institution of higher education in the country and abroad.

A key element in the strategy of both journals was the enrolment in the scientific board of the most valuable specialists, scholars, university professors, expert researchers in the field of interest of the two journals, from Romania and abroad, which conferred credibility and value for the first issues. Thus, COGITO and EUROMENTOR were evaluated from the first issue and placed, by the National Research Council, in the academic journals category D, then C. Therefore, international exchanges were made with similar journals from 24 countries, among which: USA, Canada, China, Japan, Spain, France, Italy, Mexico, Brazil, Portugal, Germany, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, R. Moldavia, and others.

COGITO was included in the BDI Index Copernicus in 2009 and EUROMENTOR in 2010. Both being accepted in 2011 in EBSCOhost, and in 2012 in ProQuest, and in this moment are undergoing the evaluation process at ERIK, ProjectMUSE, and SCOPUS, databases acknowledged by the National Research Council.

Even if any valuable publication aims for Thomson Reuters, it is known to be a long process, and that currently there is a marketing of ideas at an international level, the number of journals is very large, and the criteria to be accepted in Thomson ISI are very high, but not impossible to reach. From our point of view, a journal cannot be *ab initio* ISI. It must have a certain route, prove that it is a serious publication, where it is hard to enter, not because of the high costs, but because the proposed article must be the prerogative of research activity, it has original ideas, hermeneutic style, and it represents a substantial contribution to the field.

Another component of our strategy is the distribution of the journals in academic libraries in the country and abroad. Thus, COGITO and EUROMENTOR are spread in over 60 international libraries, based on subscriptions, including the Library of Congress.

The role of the two journals that I coordinate in promoting the scientific

research in the university, and in stimulating the scientific research in general transpires from the following

- continuing the Romanian tradition of scientific research through journals, having as model prestigious journals for the Romanian culture like The Journal of Philosophy (*Revista de filosofie*) of the Romanian Academy founded by the great philosopher C. R. dulescu-Motru, Saeculum Journals (*Rev. Saeculum*) coordinated by the greatest philosopher from the interwar period, Lucian Blaga, and others.

- creating a creative effervescence in "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University, the apparition of these journals triggering a true competition, resulted in the establishment of new journals: Knowledge Horizon (*Orizonturi ale cunoașterii*), Strategic Universe (*Univers strategic*), etc.

- stimulating the inter, multi, and transdisciplinary scientific research by excellence, in consensus with the imperatives of a knowledge society;

- allocating special areas of publishing for papers presented at international conferences held in our university, selected by peer-review.

- dedicating special numbers to certain events in the life of the university, and also of the Romanian culture: the 20th anniversary from the founding of UCDC, the celebration of the Emil Cioran centennial;

- creating bridges with foreign countries, participating with exceptional papers from remarkable specialist from: USA, Japan, Canada, Italy, France, Poland, R. of Moldavia, and others.

- participating at symposiums, national and international conferences in the field of philosophy, education, and publications;

- developing a communication system and a veritable change of ideas with other universities in the country and the world, cooperating with professors from similar institutions in the field of scientific research.

The axiology of scientific research trough

journals must be founded in scientometrics[4], in an objective and relevant manner. It is important, to know, especially by young researchers and PhD students, that is easier from a scientific point of view to publish in a conference rather than an elite journal. In our opinion, “scientific fertility”[4] of our intellectual capital from an academic community, respectively from a country, can be evaluated, mainly, through scientific works and respectively through quotations and comments upon them, published in conferences and journals with true international prestige.

After all, what it means for a scientific contribution to be truly fertile? A pragmatic answer would require that this contribution has been published in scientific journals that give a institutionalized guarantee of a very high quality (through international prestige, review exigency, an unique report of the accepted-sent papers, impact factor, and high JRK, etc.) and then, to be assimilated, quoted, favourably commented, and developed by world-wide researchers recognizing the originating priority.

It is very important to give clearer answers as: which institutions or author produce the most cited papers in a field? What research influences the most a certain field? Where does my institution rank in the hierarchy of the most valuable institutions? And I, as an individual researcher?

For me, the two research journals are projects for the sake of knowledge, arisen from the passion for research, and from the desire that the institution in which I perform my activities to reach the top of the greatest universities in the world, in terms of advanced scientific research through publications.

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