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AJET's Editorial Board (see http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/about/editorial-board.html) reflects the journal's commitment to academic excellence in educational technology and related areas of research and professional practice, our vision of an international journal with an Australasian regional emphasis, and our origins as a professional and learned society publication.

Editorial 28(2)

Bibliometrics revisited

A number of previous Editorials have reported upon bibliometric data for AJET and its peer journals. In earlier times, the emphasis was upon getting AJET into important bibliometrics, especially the Thomson Reuters *Impact Factor* [1], and into important databases, especially ERIC [2]. More recently, it became important to inform readers and authors about bibliometric data that challenged the ARC's *'Four Tiers'* ranking of AJET as merely a *'Tier B'* journal [3]. Going forward (to borrow a hackneyed phrase from the business world) after *Tiers* [4], it is now important to monitor all of the bibliometrics available to us, to help fade the collective memory of *Tiers*, and avoid the scenario identified in Editorial 27(6): "Is AJET forever locked into an 'underground' Tier B?" [5]. Table 1 contributes to this monitoring.

Table 1: SJR rankings for some educational technology journals
Rank order by SJR (covering 525 education journals). Data retrieval: 15 March 2012 [6].

Rank	Title	SJR	H index	Total docs. (2011)	Total docs. (3yrs)	Total refs.	Total cites (3yrs)	Citable docs. (3yrs)	Cites/ doc. (2yrs)	Ref./ doc.
21	Computers & Education	0.056	46	224	723	9,651	1.538	717	1.93	43.08
27	Journal of Computer Assisted Learning	0.051	33	56	132	2,170	173	127	1.27	38.75
44	British Journal of Educational Technology	0.045	29	96	300	2,740	334	285	1.05	28.54
52	Educational Technology Research and Devt.	0.043	37	45	122	2,349	139	114	0.87	52.20
55	Instructional Science	0.042	30	56	105	3,137	102	91	1.12	56.02
64	Australasian Journal of Educational Technology	0.041	9	36	173	1,360	153	158	0.83	37.78
84	Educational Technology and Society	0.038	25	43	258	1,633	207	252	0.66	37.98
211	Technology, Pedagogy and Education	0.030	4	16	77	547	25	68	0.33	34.19
-	Journal of Technology & Teacher Education	No SJR calculated in 2012								
-	Research in Learning Technology	No SJR calculated in 2012								

http://www.ascilite.org.au/index.php?p=conference

SJR (SCImago Journal Rank) rankings [7], produced by Scimago Lab, are calculated from citation data contained in Elsevier's *Scopus* database [8]. The key feature of SJR is summarised as follows by its originators, González-Pereira, Guerrero-Bote and Moya-Anegón (2009) [9]:

> The essential idea ... is to assign weights to bibliographic citations based on the importance of the journals that issued them, so that citations issued by more important journals will be more valuable than those issued by less important ones. This "importance" will be computed recursively, i.e., the important journals will be those which in turn receive many citations from other important journals. [9]

Comparing AJET with its major peers as ranked by SJR (Table 1 above), by Thomson Reuters *Impact Factor* [3] and by Tiers [3] shows only relatively minor differences, except in the case of the *Tiers* rankings for AJET and *Research in Learning Technology* [10]. AJET, though relatively well ranked according to *Impact Factor* and SJR, was B ranked in *Tiers*, whilst *Research in Learning Technology*, unranked in *Impact Factor* and SJR, was A ranked in *Tiers*. Interestingly, recent issues of *Research in Learning Technology* show a remarkably high proportion of Australian and New Zealand papers, 50%! [based on counts of country of first author, for regular issues 19(2), 19(3), 20(1) and 20(2) (as at 29 March 2012)]. There is a particular preponderance of Australian authors in *Research in Learning Technology* 20(1) and 20(2), raising the possibility that as a *Tier A* journal it quite recently became especially attractive to Australian authors.

To explore SJR a little further, consider the first seven journals listed in Table 1. All announce their Thomson-Reuters *Impact Factor* on their home pages, but none mention SJR, not even *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning* which ranks higher with SJR than with *Impact Factor*. One factor that could attract editors and authors to use of SJR is that it is an open access service, whereas *Impact Factor* is provided through subscription. SJR may have some problems that could be due to imperfections in coverage by *Scopus*. For example, Table 2, showing changes in AJET's SJR, also shows that *Scopus* counts of AJET articles differ from the actual counts, especially for 2011, and that SJR lists 525 journals under "Education", whereas *Tiers* listed 1012. The reasons for this are not known, so further investigation is warranted.

Table 2: SCImago data for AJET, 2008-2011

Year	SJR	Rank (out of 525)	*Scopus* article count	Actual article count
2011	0.041	64	36	86
2010	0.038	89	77	71
2009	0.032	134	49	45
2008*	0.000	362	47	42

* No SJR calculated for AJET in 2008

Moodlemoot au2012

Gold Coast, Queensland

1-4 July 2012

http://moodlemoot.org.au/

Hobart, 2-5 July 2012. http://conference.herdsa.org.au/2012/

Nevertheless, AJET's "climb" during its years of SJR inclusion is an encouraging bibliometric. At the same time, we have to be sensitive to other performance criteria that are not necessarily well-correlated with citation based bibliometrics, such as number of submissions per year, acceptance rates, numbers of issues and articles per year, measures of internationalisation, review process times, size of reviewer panel and average loads per reviewer. The identification of key peer journals for AJET, i.e. the journals that appear with AJET in ranking tables such as Table 1, is a moot point. If one chooses peer journals astutely, it is possible to always secure a position at the top of a rankings table!

In 2011 AJET received 349 submissions (including 29 full papers for two special issues). This represents a 48% increase over the 236 submissions received in 2010, and an 82% increase over the 186 submissions received in 2009 [11]. More details will be available within about two months, when the retiring Production Editor completes review and author advice processes for 2011's submissions.

Roger Atkinson
AJET Production Editor (retirement pending)

Endnotes

1. AJET Editorial 26(5). Idle Moment 40: *Impact Factor* revisited.
    http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet26/editorial26-5.html
2. AJET Editorial 25(1): ERIC indexing and abstracting.
    http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet25/editorial25-1.html
3. AJET Editorial 27(6): Impact Factor revisited: AJET ranking improved.
    http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-6.html
4. AJET Editorial 27(3). Dawn of a new ERA?
    http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-3.html
5. AJET Editorial 27(6): Draft ERA 2012 Journal List released.
    http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-6.html
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    php?area=3300&category=3304&country=all&year=2011&order=sjr&min=0&min_type=cd
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9. González-Pereira, B., Guerrero-Bote, V. P. & Moya-Anegón, F. (2009). The SJR indicator: A
    new indicator of journals' scientific prestige.
    http://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/0912/0912.4141.pdf
10. *Research in Learning Technology*. http://www.researchinlearningtechnology.net/
11. AJET Editorial 27(4). AJET review process outcomes: 2010 data.
    http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-4.html

10th International Conference of the Learning Sciences

The Future of Learning

International Society of the Learning Sciences (ISLS)
and
Centre for Research on Computer Supported Learning and
Cognition (CoCo), University of Sydney, 2-6 July 2012
http://www.isls.org/icls2012/

4th IEEE International Conference on Technology for Education

IEEE Computer Society and IEEE

Hyderabad, India, 18-20 July 2012
http://t4e.iiit.ac.in/

EAC2012: ePortfolios Australia Conference

Australian Catholic University
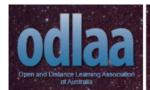North Sydney, 27-28 September 2012

http://eportfoliosaustralia.wordpress.com/
conference/conference-eac2012/

ACEC 2012

Australian Council for Computers in Education and the
Educational Computing Association of Western Australia

Perth, 2-5 October 2012

http://acec2012.info/

Sydney, 4-7 February 2013. http://www.odlaasummit.org.au/