

Model for achieving the indicators for influence in scientific areas of Bulgarian academic journals

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Abstract: The scientific report examines new opportunities for the Department of Library and Heritage in UNIBIT created by the project "Redesign of academic journals in accordance with indicators of impact factor and performance to achieve smart growth in the modern knowledge society". Thanks to the implementation of planned activities was created a new practical model for achieving the indicators for influence in scientific areas of Bulgarian academic journals where publish Bulgarian authors. Tools were created to redesign the scientific publications and the acquisition of science metric knowledge and analytical skills of scientists to write in high impact Bulgarian scientific journals.

Keywords: biblio-metrics, impact factor, science-metrics, indicators, innovative strategy, intelligent growth, applied-science products, knowledge society, redesign, Case Studies

1. Introduction

Changes in the form, manner of issuance and methods of assessing the influence of scientific journals in Bulgaria over the last 25 years provoke this research

from various perspectives. From 200 Bulgarian scientific periodicals - about 70 are on the list of titles on the database Scopus but currently only 39 are included while only 13 of them are registering increases of indicators for influence. In the ranking of journals with impact factor of Thomson Reuters are included 13 Bulgarian scientific journals.

Bulgaria as an EU member must achieve a leap in the performance of innovative strategies for smart specialization. The evaluation of the scientific achievements of Bulgarian researchers and teachers in awarding them with degrees accounts for the impact factor of the journals in which they are publishing. In assessing the scientific work of Bulgarian scientists and Universities indicators such as number of publications and number of citations in the ranking of journals with impact factor JCR Thomson Reuters and magazines from Scopus to Elsevier. MES through the Project "Science and Business", OP "Human Resources Development", NSF, strongly holds policy of strengthening the influence of Bulgarian scientific publication activity – supporting in eight sessions already authors of specialized publications in refereed journals and publications with impact factor, and assist the activity index of the Bulgarian scientific journals.

Project "Redesign of academic journals in accordance with indicators of impact factor and performance for achieving smart growth in the modern knowledge society" was realized with the idea to create a new practical model for achieving the indicators of influence in scientific areas of Bulgarian academic journals in which are published Bulgarian authors and for helping the process of implementation of indicators for smart growth in the modern knowledge society by integrating International and Bulgarian experience with new scientific ideas to deliver quality scientific journals, yearbooks, collections, monographs and more. By developing the ability of the authors to seek, investigate and deal competently with the information they need also to gain knowledge on how to publish quality research papers, reports, theses, monographs, articles, research reports and more.

2. Creation of tools for the redesign of scientific publications

The project has a major innovative scientific practical task to create tools for redesign of scientific publications and the acquisition of science metric knowledge and analytical skills of writing by scientists which have a high impact on Bulgarian science. In connection, this task was created with a specialized site on the topics of the project which is also the platform for its development. The address is: <http://redesign-impact.unibit.bg/>. Reflecting on the project in the UNIBIT's website under the heading "Research" - "Projects with external financing" - <http://www.unibit.bg/research/projects/projects-external-financing>.

PR-strategy of the project is its visual, verbal, event-driven and has contextual dimension.

Visual aspect – it was achieved with a vision that makes it recognizable and

unique. Basic PR-tools: project page under "Projects" on the website of UNIBIT; posts on the site of the project; poster workshop; issued manuals, etc. There are supported archive pictures of the project on its website which tracks the overall performance of the project's activities and documents its successful development.

Verbal aspect - contacts with publishers, researchers and teachers with students with a wider audience, publications, participation in scientific forums, and more.

Events aspect - promotion activities for the investigations carried out by the team responsible for the project tasks.

Context aspect - informing and promoting the purposes and effects of the project in various other forms of current activities of the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies, the Association of University Libraries, BLIA, forums at home and abroad such as: conferences, seminars, exhibitions, celebrations and others.

Summary and analysis of best practices in requirements of foreign and Bulgarian journals with impact factor

To carry out this work, detailed research of articles and presentations about requirements of foreign and Bulgarian journals with impact factor, was completed covered by these criteria and indicators based on free access to the Web of Science, Journal Citation Report, InCites, Scopus, Science Direct.

More interesting and informative articles containing requirements of foreign and Bulgarian journals with impact factor are uploaded to the project website - <http://redesign-impact.unibit.bg>

- i. [Good Publication Practice for Communicating Company Sponsored Medical Research: The GPP2 Guidelines](#)
- ii. [Good Research Practice: Principles and Guidelines](#)
- iii. [HRB Guidelines for Host Institutions on Good Research Practice](#)
- iv. [успешното научно списание – ръководство за редактори и издатели](#)
- v. [Model Transparency and Validation: A Report of the ISPOR-SMDM Modeling Good Research Practices Task Force-7](#)
- vi. [Principles of Good Research Practice for Publication & Authorship](#)
- vii. [Promoting Good Practice and Preventing Misconduct](#)

After being studied by the team practices in articles and presentations were subsequently used in other project activities. These and other articles and / or presentations served to prepare scientific papers presented at scientific conferences on topics related to the project. At the same time best practices for requirements of foreign and Bulgarian journals with impact factor covered by the criteria and indicators laid the two issued Manuals - A Guide to obtain impact factor and measure the progress of publishers and Guide to Successful publishing of Bulgarian authors in journals with impact factor. We did a

comparative analysis of the training and skills of Bulgarian and foreign authors to create publications for journals with impact factor and explored their potential to cover indicators for smart growth. Drafted detailed comparative analysis of the skills of Bulgarian and European academic authors by monitoring key performance indicators of 60 countries in Europe and the world and searched Bulgaria's place on each of the indicators. The publication is accompanied by significant implications for improving the skills of Bulgarian academic authors - one of the main objectives of the project.

An analysis of indicators and mechanisms contributing to the redesign of scientific publications and to smooth skills of the authors of scientific publications was made being a result from the collected sources. We outlined a detailed analysis of indicators and mechanisms that must be unified building useful skills in academic authors and publishers in academic publications. Also were created methodological guidelines for publication in the field of social sciences and humanities summarized on the grounds of a conducted bibliographic study on the topic. We prepared recommendations for a new complementary content based on studies on the impact of the indicators and made a selection of instructions for publication. These studies were enriched by experience gained from working visits to publishers.

While tracking the latest research in academic journals and science metrics the free access to platforms of Web of Science, Journal Citation Report, InCites, Scopus, Science Direct were very useful together with the collected materials from the working visits and trainings. Based on research done by the team members was done scientifically message tracking on the latest research in academic journals and science metrics. We conducted a retrospective analysis and recommendations for the redesign of academic publishers and change of the preparation of writing researchers.

We created and summarized important scientific products on the topic:

- i. Conclusions and recommendations for qualitative transformation of Bulgarian scientific authors into successful ones publishing in journals with impact factor
- ii. Conclusions and recommendations for the necessary redesign of periodicals for turning them in journals with impact factor.

Based on intensive team-work analysis we came to a decision to create a draft curriculum course "Skills for academic publication" to be offered to the Management of the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies for introducing the synopsis of graduate programs thus to be probated the achieved project results and the achieved sustainability of the project objective: to integrate new scientific ideas to reach the highest criteria for influence and smart growth taking into account the characteristics of the modern knowledge society and to create innovative applied science interactive products used by students, PhD students, researchers for refining and improving the quality of

their scientific work and publications within the training platform ILIAS. The team also created a brochure with brief information about the most important recommendations to publishers and authors.

We had discussions and correspondence with representatives of Thomson Reuters to purchase and organize licensing access to Thomson Reuters Core Publishing Solutions and free access to the array of free resources of the EU. Carried a videoconference presentation of the publishing product SclarOne and training of the project team. A schedule was obtained for performing service activities related to the service Purchasing of a license for Thomson Reuters Core Publishing Solutions.

In the task Survey of readiness, motivation and conditions for the redesign and quality of publications by authors we implemented a working research visits to Bulgarian scientific publishing and editorial teams of scientific publications. We held meetings with discussions with scientific publishers in Blagoevgrad; the National Publisher Az Buki within the Ministry of Education and Science, BAS's publishing house with representatives of the university publishing houses from Sofia. We performed a survey on the conditions, competence, models and necessary knowledge, willingness and motivation to redesign the scientific journals and to publish in scientific journals globally - through the traditional method - outreach printed version and online.

Based on comparative analyzes of competence models and the necessary knowledge, willingness and motivation to redesign the scientific journals and to publish in scientific publications two manuals have been prepared - to help publishers and to help authors who are preparing publications for journals with impact factor - Guide to obtain impact factor and measure the progress of publishers and Guide to successful publishing of Bulgarian authors in journals with impact factor. Based on meetings and talks with scientific publishers, and as a result of the analysis of the conducted survey are reached conclusions and recommendations for the necessary redesign and qualitative change of the authors.

There was written, edited, reviewed and issued Handbook for publishers in order to provide methodological support to develop the potential to rank among Bulgarian scientific journals with impact factor publications - in paper and electronic format. Information Handbook was published on the project website – <http://redesign-impact.unibit.bg/materials/indicators-and-mechanisms/>.

The text was released also on DVD.

The manufactured product was spread to all Bulgarian scientific publishers, to their respective academic managements, publishing boards, editorial teams, MES and others.

Guide to Successful publishing of Bulgarian authors in journals with impact factor was written and issued in order to provide methodological assistance for

dealing with information and analytical tools for creating successful copyright collectives and collaborations for referencing, indexing and preparing bibliographic descriptions, monitoring the process of publishing and distribution.

3. Application for redesign, consulting and skills training

The creation of a project for "Interactive application for redesign of scientific journals to achieve impact factor for developing skills of authors to publish in journals with impact factor and deal with information and analytical tools" starts with platform - application with consulting tool and skills training of authors of scientific publications through which interactively are trained academic authors to successfully publish in journals with impact factor, as well as editors of Bulgarian scientific journals to measure progress of getting a place in the ranking of journals with impact factor. Integrated are three modules: Introduction to biblio-metrics; achieving community outreach publications; platform redesign of the Bulgarian scientific journals. The idea is to use the capabilities of the editorial system ScholarOne and gradually to integrated various indicators for smart growth and innovation as well.

4. Conclusions

Thanks to the implementation of planned activities new practical model was created for achieving the indicators for influence in scientific areas of Bulgarian academic journals in which publish Bulgarian authors. Tools were created for redesigning the scientific publications and the acquisition of science metric knowledge and analytical skills of writing scientists with which to achieve a high impact on the Bulgarian science. Studied models and good practices related to science metric studies in Europe and Bulgaria for achieving impact factor of Bulgarian scientific journals and high levels of indicators derived from impact factor were generated in different research products. Two manuals were written, edited, reviewed and issued, their content is consistent with recent research on successful issuance and maintenance of journals with impact factor for the successful publication of Bulgarian scientists in highly influential publications.

There is accumulated rich material information and knowledge to serve future scientific research, curricula, conceptual designs and other inter scientific forms of exchange. The created application for redesign, consulting and skills training provides easy and convenient access to information on the subject of project redesign and skills for publication. The completed activity presents serious scientific excellence and promotes scientific communication problems publication, influence of publications, the citing, the impact factor of scientific publications, promotion of scientific results in the field of humanitarian and social disciplines.

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