

**JCHAS Editor's Report
Fall 2014
(Boston ACS Meeting)
Prepared 22 July 2015**

Pipeline

Since the San Francisco meeting, the pipeline has substantially rebounded to the point where it can be described as "robust." We are currently filling the May/June issue (Volume 23 #3) and have five manuscripts in some stage of review/revision.

Assistant Editor (for Business Continuity)

A carryover from the spring Denver meeting, no progress has been made on this to date.

A Challenge on the Horizon

In April, I was sent a notification from Elsevier's abstract and citation database, SCOPUS, stating that JCHAS would be delisted from SCOPUS in 2016 since JCHAS did not meet SCOPUS's "performance metrics" (notwithstanding that we have a publishing contract with Elsevier.) The notification was sent to our publisher, Lily Khidr, who was equally blindsided by it and we started investigating what the notification means and what corrective actions, if any, can be applied to prevent delisting. Delisting does not affect the business relation with Elsevier; it will make JCHAS less visible when people search for information.

Some of the SCOPUS measurement metrics where we are coming up short are:

Metric	Benchmark	Explanation
Self-citations	+200%	The journal has a self-citation rate two times higher, or more, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Citations	-50%	The journal received half the number of citations, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Impact Per Publication	-50%	The journal has an IPP score half or less than the average IPP score, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Article Output	-50%	The journal produced half, or less, the number of articles, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Abstract Usage	-50%	The journal's abstract are used half as much, or less, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Full Text Links	-50%	The journal's full text are used half as much, or less, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.

“Self-citation” means that authors cite their own works in subsequent JCHAS papers. “Citations” means JCHAS works cited in other journals. “Impact per publication” is some kind of magically derived number. Other categories are self-explanatory.

At the present, it appears as though JCHAS’s “peer journals in its subject field” include journals like *Journal of Loss Prevention in the Process Industries*, *Hazardous Materials*, and perhaps some pure research like *Fire Safety Journal*, none of which address our small and quite niche audience.

At first, one might say, “Unfair comparison?” and perhaps rightfully so. But we must deal with what is in front of us and we are by:

- Compiling “virtual issues” (compilations of previously published articles on the same general subject) and advertising those issues to drive traffic to ScienceDirect (increases abstract and full-text links metric).
- Soliciting more articles from various sources, understanding that some will survive the review process (increases “article output.”)

We are also approaching the SCOPUS side of Elsevier to find out exactly what they mean by “peer journals in its subject field” and find what they used for comparative journals. We have not heard back from the SCOPUS folks regarding what they have chosen as peer journals.