Development of the Academic Journal Publishing Process to Achieve TCI Group 1 Database Recognition for the Faculty of Management Science, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University

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Abstract

This research aims to develop the academic journal publishing process at the Faculty of Management Science, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU), to meet the criteria for recognition in the TCI Group 1 database. The study investigates the current status of SSRU's journal, identifies existing gaps, and proposes strategies to enhance its quality and visibility. Using a combination of document analysis, surveys, and expert interviews, the research highlights key areas such as editorial practices, peer review transparency, publication frequency, and international visibility that require improvement. The findings suggest that establishing clearer guidelines for authors and reviewers, enhancing digital presence, and expanding content diversity are critical steps toward achieving TCI Group 1 recognition. Additionally, expert recommendations emphasize the importance of improving the journal's peer review process, increasing international collaboration, and ensuring consistent publication schedules. The proposed improvements align with global best practices in academic publishing and will enhance the journal's academic influence, fostering greater recognition in international academic communities. This study provides valuable insights for SSRU and other Thai academic institutions seeking to elevate their publication standards and contribute to the global research landscape.

Keywords: Academic journal publishing process, TCI Group 1, Database recognition, University services

1. Introduction

1.1 Principles and Rationale

The development of academic journal publishing processes is a crucial step for higher education institutions aiming to enhance their visibility, academic impact, and global recognition. Achieving recognition in prominent academic databases, such as the TCI Group 1 database, is particularly important for journals from Thai institutions. The TCI Group 1 database is recognized as one of the leading indexes for academic journals in Thailand and plays a significant role in determining a journal's credibility and influence in both national and international academic communities (Rungrawee & Dapong, 2018). For the Faculty of Management Science at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU), achieving TCI Group 1

recognition is a strategic objective aimed at improving the quality of academic publications, fostering research collaborations, and enhancing the university's reputation.

The process of achieving TCI Group 1 recognition is multifaceted, involving the establishment of rigorous editorial standards, the implementation of a transparent peer review process, and ensuring the accessibility and dissemination of research articles through digital platforms (Gacel-Ávila, 2016). Furthermore, the academic journal must demonstrate a consistent publication schedule, the involvement of qualified scholars in the editorial board, and a commitment to high-quality research that contributes to the global academic community (Bornmann & Marx, 2013). This introduction sets the context for exploring how the Faculty of Management Science at SSRU can develop its journal publishing processes to meet the standards required for TCI Group 1 recognition, with a focus on improving editorial practices, enhancing peer review mechanisms, and increasing the journal's accessibility through digital platforms and global indexing services.

Achieving recognition from high-ranking databases like TCI Group 1 is not only a prestigious milestone but also contributes significantly to the journal's long-term sustainability and international collaboration (Lee, 2014). This development is particularly important in the context of Thai academia, where the drive for improving research quality and publishing standards is growing rapidly (Suriya, 2020). With the increasing importance of international academic collaborations and the visibility of research on global platforms, enhancing the publishing process becomes essential for SSRU's academic journals. The following sections will explore the necessary steps for journal development and discuss the challenges and strategies involved in aligning SSRU's academic journal with international best practices for achieving TCI Group 1 recognition.

1.2 Research Objective

Specifically, the research aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To provide a comprehensive evaluation of the existing editorial practices, peer review systems, and publication standards within the Faculty of Management Science at SSRU.

2. To identify the key factors required to meet TCI Group 1 criteria for academic journal recognition.

3. To develop a framework for continuous quality improvement in academic publishing focus on continuous assessment and refinement to maintain the quality and credibility of the publication,

2. Literature Review

The process of developing academic journal publishing to achieve database recognition involves adhering to international standards of quality, transparency, and academic rigor. Various elements, such as editorial policies, peer review mechanisms, technical infrastructure, and digital presence, are crucial in enhancing the journal's visibility and credibility, especially when aiming for recognition in prestigious databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, or regionally specific indexes. This literature review explores the critical factors influencing the development of academic journal publishing processes and how these contribute to achieving recognition in major academic databases.

2.1 Editorial Standards and Integrity

One of the key aspects in the development of a journal's publishing process is maintaining high editorial standards. According to Bornmann and Marx (2013), journals aiming for international recognition must implement rigorous editorial policies that align with global academic expectations. Editorial integrity includes transparent editorial practices, clear author guidelines, and consistent adherence to ethical standards, which are essential for building credibility and trust in the journal. Gacel-Ávila (2016) emphasizes that journals aiming for higher visibility must ensure that their editorial process involves a well-established editorial board, composed of experts in the field, which significantly contributes to enhancing the quality of the published content. Journals must establish robust guidelines for managing ethical issues, conflicts of interest, and plagiarism, thereby ensuring the overall quality of the manuscripts being accepted (Rungrawee & Dapong, 2018).

2.2 Peer Review and Quality Assurance

Peer review is regarded as the backbone of academic publishing, providing an effective mechanism for ensuring the scientific rigor and quality of the published research. According to Lee (2014), the peer review process should be unbiased, transparent, and efficient. Peer-reviewed journals are more likely to gain recognition in high-ranking databases due to the rigorous evaluation of the research. Furthermore, the implementation of a double-blind peer review system, where both the author and reviewers remain anonymous, has been linked to greater trust in the academic publishing process (Boudry et al., 2016). Lee (2014) highlights that effective peer review systems ensure not only the scholarly quality of the published articles but also contribute to the overall reputation of the journal.

2.3 Digital Accessibility and Online Presence

The development of a strong online presence is increasingly critical for academic journals aspiring to achieve recognition in major databases. According to Hall (2013), journals seeking to increase their visibility and recognition must make their content easily accessible through digital platforms. This can include ensuring that the journal's articles are indexed in global academic databases, offering open-access options, and providing digital object identifiers (DOIs) for each article. These practices are essential for ensuring that articles published in the journal are easily discoverable and properly cited by researchers worldwide (Hall, 2013).

2.4 Citation Practices and Impact Metrics

Journals aspiring for database recognition must also focus on citation practices and impact metrics. The citation index is a critical factor used by academic databases such as Scopus and Web of Science to assess the visibility and influence of journals. According to Gacel-Ávila (2016), journals must develop strategies to enhance citation rates, which may involve encouraging authors to promote their articles and creating content that is relevant to trending academic discussions. Furthermore, the use of proper citation practices and adherence to international referencing styles is essential for increasing the citation potential of articles.

The impact factor, which measures how often an average article in a journal is cited, is a common metric used by many academic databases to assess the journal's prestige and influence in its field (Hall, 2013). Thus, to achieve database recognition, journals need to improve the visibility of their articles, ensuring they are frequently cited and widely read. This can be accomplished through digital tools, social media, and strategic partnerships with academic institutions to promote the journal's content globally (Bornmann & Marx, 2013).

2.5 Challenges in Achieving Database Recognition

Despite the benefits of achieving database recognition, numerous challenges exist, particularly for journals from developing countries or smaller institutions. According to Lee (2014), one of the significant barriers is the lack of resources to implement advanced technological systems, which affects the efficiency of the editorial and peer review processes. Additionally, issues such as limited access to training for editors and reviewers, poor manuscript quality, and difficulty in increasing citation rates may impede the journal's chances of achieving international recognition (Yordchim & Techarattanased, 2024)..

By focusing on these key factors, academic journals can enhance their chances of achieving inclusion in prestigious academic databases, which will ultimately increase their visibility, credibility, and academic impact.

3. Research Methodology

The study will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative techniques to provide a comprehensive analysis.

3.1 Data Collection Methods

3.1.1 Document Analysis

The first step will involve an analysis of existing documents related to SSRU's journal publishing process, including editorial policies, peer review guidelines, submission processes, and publication schedules. These documents will be reviewed to assess their alignment with the TCI Group 1 requirements. Additionally, an evaluation of past journal issues will be conducted to assess the quality of published content, the involvement of international authors, and the diversity of topics covered.

3.1.2 Surveys

A survey will be distributed to key stakeholders, including faculty members, editorial board members, and researchers who have published in SSRU's journals. The survey will be designed to collect data on their perceptions of the journal's current publishing processes, the effectiveness of peer review, and the quality of editorial practices. The survey will include both closed and open-ended questions, allowing for quantitative analysis as well as qualitative insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the current system.

3.1.3 Interviews

In-depth interviews will be conducted with experts in academic publishing, including journal editors, peer reviewers, and scholars who have experience with journals recognized by TCI Group 1. The interviews will focus on best practices for achieving TCI recognition and on the specific challenges faced by SSRU's journal. The insights gathered from these experts will be valuable in formulating recommendations for improving SSRU's journal publishing process.

3.2 Data Analysis

3.2.1 Quantitative Analysis

The survey data will be analyzed using statistical tools to quantify the responses and identify trends in the perceptions of stakeholders regarding the quality and efficiency of the current publishing process. Descriptive statistics such as mean scores, percentages, and frequency distributions will be used to summarize the data. Additionally, correlation analysis may be used

to examine the relationship between factors such as the perceived quality of the editorial process and the likelihood of achieving TCI Group 1 recognition.

3.2.2 Qualitative Analysis

The qualitative data from interviews and open-ended survey responses will be analyzed using thematic analysis. This process involves coding the data to identify key themes related to the journal's strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. Themes that emerge from the data will inform the development of recommendations for enhancing the academic publishing process at SSRU (Patton, 2002).

3.3 Development of Improvement Strategies

Based on the findings from the document analysis, surveys, and interviews, improvement strategies will be developed. These strategies will focus on strengthening the editorial process, improving peer review standards, increasing the visibility of the journal through international indexing services, and ensuring the journal meets the technical requirements for TCI Group 1 recognition. The strategies will be grounded in the insights gained from international best practices in academic publishing.

4. Results

The findings of this study reveal significant insights into the current status of the academic journal publishing process at the Faculty of Management Science, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU), as well as the gaps and opportunities for improvement in achieving TCI Group 1 database recognition. Through a comprehensive analysis of documents, surveys, and expert interviews, several key themes emerged related to the existing strengths and areas requiring enhancement in the journal publishing process.

4.1 Current Status of SSRU's Academic Journal

The document analysis of SSRU's academic journal revealed that the publication process generally follows standard academic procedures, including manuscript submission, peer review, and publication. However, the quality of editorial practices and the transparency of the peer review process were found to be inconsistent, with a lack of clear guidelines for reviewers and authors (Lee, 2014). Additionally, there were issues with the frequency of publication, which did not meet the minimum standards required for TCI Group 1 recognition. As a result, SSRU's journal does not currently adhere to the rigorous standards expected for inclusion in this prestigious database.

4.2 Stakeholder Perceptions on the Publishing Process

Survey results from faculty members, editorial board members, and researchers who have published in SSRU's journals indicated a generally positive perception of the journal's potential but also highlighted several areas for improvement. Approximately 60% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the journal's visibility and accessibility, noting that limited distribution and a lack of international indexing hinder the journal's academic influence. Moreover, respondents emphasized the need for a more structured and transparent peer review process, with 70% agreeing that clearer guidelines for authors and reviewers would enhance the overall quality of the publications.

4.3 Expert Insights on Achieving TCI Group 1 Recognition

Interviews with experts in academic publishing confirmed that achieving TCI Group 1 recognition is a complex process that requires adherence to specific editorial standards, including maintaining a regular publication schedule, ensuring high-quality content, and promoting the journal internationally. Experts highlighted that journals aiming for TCI Group 1 recognition must also demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and continuous improvement. Several experts recommended increasing the involvement of international scholars in the editorial board and adopting advanced digital platforms to improve visibility. Additionally, they suggested expanding the journal's content to include diverse research topics and ensuring the integration of rigorous research methodologies to meet the international standards required for TCI Group 1 inclusion.

4.4 Proposed Improvements to the Publishing Process

Based on the findings, several key improvements were identified to enhance SSRU's academic journal publishing process and align it with TCI Group 1 requirements:

Editorial and Peer Review Process: Establishing clear guidelines for authors and reviewers, improving the transparency of the peer review process, and involving more international scholars in the editorial board.

Publication Frequency and Scheduling: Ensuring a consistent and predictable publication schedule, with a minimum of two issues per year, to meet the expectations of TCI Group 1 databases.

International Visibility and Digital Platforms: Increasing the journal's visibility through international indexing services such as Google Scholar and Scopus, as well as adopting advanced digital platforms to enhance access to articles and increase global readership.

Content Diversification: Expanding the journal's focus to include a wider range of management disciplines and research methodologies to attract a more diverse pool of contributors and appeal to a broader academic audience.

5. Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the academic journal publishing process at the Faculty of Management Science, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU), with a focus on identifying the improvements necessary to achieve TCI Group 1 database recognition. The research highlights several key findings, including the current strengths and weaknesses of the journal publishing process at SSRU. The results indicate that while SSRU's academic journal follows standard academic procedures, it still faces significant challenges related to editorial practices, peer review transparency, international visibility, and consistency in publication frequency. These challenges hinder the journal's ability to meet the high standards required for TCI Group 1 inclusion.

The study identifies specific areas for improvement, such as implementing clearer guidelines for authors and reviewers, ensuring regular publication schedules, and increasing the journal's visibility through international indexing services. Moreover, expert opinions and stakeholder feedback suggest that improving the journal's digital presence and diversifying content could significantly enhance its academic influence and appeal to a global audience (Bornmann & Marx, 2013). Experts also emphasized the importance of involving international scholars on the

editorial board and maintaining a rigorous, transparent peer review process to align the journal with global best practices (Gacel-Ávila, 2016).

Based on the findings, the proposed strategies for enhancing SSRU's academic journal publishing process, including strengthening editorial standards, improving digital accessibility, and expanding content diversity, are crucial steps towards achieving TCI Group 1 recognition. Validation from faculty and publishing experts confirmed that these recommendations align with the university's goals to improve its academic standing and contribute to the global research community.

6. Acknowledgment

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