

SATISFACTION WITH APPROPRIATED TECHNIQUES IN SELECTING ACADEMIC JOURNALS FOR INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATION OF LECTURERS IN FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SUAN SUNANDHA RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY.

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to study on the satisfaction level of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU), with the techniques used to select academic journals for their international publication. The research employed quantitative method by using questionnaires as the tool of this study with the number of 83 from the total of 104 lecturers in the Faculty as the sample by simple random sampling technique. Statistics used to analyze data consisted of frequency, percentage (%), mean (\bar{x}) and standard deviation (S.D.). As a result of the study, it was found that 1) 65.1% of the samples were female, 61.5% were aged between 31-40 years, 65.1% were graduated in doctoral degree, and 37.3% were between 5-9 years of their working period at SSRU; and 2) Satisfaction as a whole of the sample with appropriated techniques used to select academic journals for international publication was at high level ($\bar{x} = 4.04$). When considering by items separately, it showed that the highest satisfaction of the sample was on quality of the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.33$) followed by information of the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.17$) and rights for author after article publication in the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.04$), respectively.

Keywords: Satisfaction level, Academic journals, International publication.

INTRODUCTION

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU) is one of the universities in Thailand located in Bangkok, the capital of the country. The university was founded in 1937 or approximately eighty two years ago. At present, SSRU is ranked as the 19th seat among all universities of the country due to Webometric ranking of the world [1]. It is reported that the total number of undergraduate and graduate students of SSRU was about 20,000 to 30,000 students in 2019 with the number of academic and supporting staff of almost 2,000 persons [2]. The university is now in the process of upgrading its status from national to international level by the development of many academic schemes especially for the potential of academic staff in their teaching and research works. By this reason, one of the main policy of SSRU is to persuade academic staff or usually called “lecturers” enter a higher academic position as Assistant professor, Associate professor or Professor depending on their academic areas and experiences in teaching and doing research.

In order to achieve the policy mentioned above, SSRU has established the ongoing project to encourage academic staff by providing experts and some budget to support their academic works. Lecturers, therefore, need to submit the academic works which are related to

their education background and experiences to the committee for approval. It is understandable that article publication is supposed to be one of the important factors for lecturers to be promoted to the higher position. In fact, this is not important only for the lecturers themselves but also for ranking of the university both in the country and in the world.

By definition, “Academic article” or sometimes called “Scholarly article” is an article that has been peer-reviewed before it is published [3]. The most important characteristic of an academic or scholarly article is that it has to pass an academic quality assessment before it can be published in an academic journal. Before an article is accepted for publication, it has to be reviewed by researchers working in the same field. This control process is called peer-reviewing and is designed to guarantee the academic standard of an article [4].

There are two ways for publishing academic article in any journal both in national and international level. Firstly, authors submit their full papers in order to attend the national or international conference. Then, each of the full papers will be considered and selected by peer review process and the editorial board to be published as an article in the proceeding of that conference. In this case, that article must be presented either by oral or poster format to the conference before publishing in the proceeding. Secondly, authors register to access to the website of any academic journal in order to directly submit their full papers for publication in that journal. After that, the editorial board is to consider and select full papers on the basis of interesting and valuable paper by means of peer reviewers. According to this process, the editorial board will be able to accept or reject those full papers individually. However, full papers accepted to publish in the journal need to be revised according to the recommendation of peer reviewers before their publication [5].

It is the purpose of this research to investigate what should be the most concern of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, to select academic journals for their international publication. And which of the following items including quality, information and rights for author after article publication in the journal should be the most satisfaction among the lecturers in this aspect. The output gained from this research can be useful as a guideline for those who plan to publish their academic articles in the journal in the future.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research was to study on the satisfaction level of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU), with the techniques used to select academic journals for their international publication.

METHODOLOGY

The study method of this research can be described according to the following detail:-

1. Population

Population in this research were 104 lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. All of them work as the full time staff for undergraduate students in 14 programs which consist of Computer Science, Home Economics, Applied Physics, Applied Statistics, Sport and Health Science, Food Science and Technology, Information Technology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Industrial Microbiology, Environmental Science, Biology, Informatics Mathematics and Forensic Science, respectively [6].

Sample size

The sample size of lecturers employed in this study was calculated by using the Taro Yamane's equation [7] as follow: -

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Note that n = corrected sample size
 N = population size of undergraduate students
 e = Margin of error (MoE) which is equal to 0.05

Therefore, the sample size used in this study was equal to 83 lecturers as shown below:-

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{104}{1 + 104(0.05)^2} \\ &= 82.5 \end{aligned}$$

The number of 83 lecturers were then selected by stratified sampling technique which was divided into 14 programs as mentioned earlier. After that, the sample of lecturers in each program were selected again by using simple random sampling technique.

2. Research equipment

In order to collect data for this research, a questionnaire involving the satisfaction of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology with the techniques used to select academic journals for their international publication was established by means of the project advisor and also the experts in this field. This questionnaire was the equipment employed for this study by distributing to all of 83 sample of lecturers from 14 programs in Faculty of Science and Technology, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. Then, the data were analyzed in order to achieve the objectives of the research.

3. Statistical methods

The statistics used in this study were frequency and percentage in order to describe personal characteristics of 83 sample which included sex, age, education background, academic position and period of working at SSRU, respectively. In addition, mean (\bar{x}) and standard deviation (S.D.) were also used in order to describe the satisfaction level of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU), with the techniques used to select academic journals for their international publication [8].

RESULTS

The results of this research can be described by the detail given below:-

1. Personal characteristics of the sample

The number of 83 lecturers who were selected as the sample of this research can be described for their personal characteristics into 5 items as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Personal characteristics of lecturers in this study

| Personal Characteristics | Frequency (student) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Sex | | |
| male | 29 | 34.9 |
| female | 54 | 65.1 |
| Total | 83 | 100.0 |

| Personal Characteristics | | Frequency (student) | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Age | 31-40 years old | 51 | 61.5 |
| | 41-50 years old | 24 | 28.9 |
| | 51-60 years old | 7 | 8.4 |
| | > 60 years old | 1 | 1.2 |
| | Total | 83 | 100.0 |
| Education background | Master degree | 29 | 34.9 |
| | Doctoral degree | 54 | 65.1 |
| | Total | 83 | 100.0 |
| Academic position | No position | 46 | 55.4 |
| | Assistant professor | 33 | 39.7 |
| | Associate professor | 4 | 4.9 |
| | Total | 83 | 100.0 |
| Period of working at SSRU | < 5 years | 10 | 12.1 |
| | 5-9 years | 31 | 37.3 |
| | 10-15 years | 30 | 36.1 |
| | 16-20 years | 10 | 12.1 |
| | > 20 years | 2 | 2.4 |
| Total | 83 | 100.0 | |

It can be concluded from Table 1 that 65.1% of the sample were female and 61.5% were aged between 31 to 40 years. Their education background were 65.1% for doctoral degree and the rest were master degree. It was also found that about 40% of them were positioned as Assistant professor and only 4.9% were at Associate professor. In the case of working period at SSRU, the research showed that 37.3 and 36.1% of the sample were between 5 to 9 and 10 to 15 years of working, respectively.

2. Satisfaction level with the techniques used to select academic journals for international publication

It was found that satisfaction level with the appropriated techniques used to select academic journals for international publication of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, SSRU as a whole was at high level ($\bar{x} = 4.04$). When considering by items separately, it was indicated that the highest satisfaction of the sample were on quality of the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.33$) followed by information of the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.17$) and rights for author after publishing article in the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.04$), respectively (Table 2).

Table 2. Satisfaction level with the techniques used to select academic journals for international publication of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, SSRU.

| Items | Mean | S.D | Satisfaction level | Ranking |
|---|------|------|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Quality of the journal | 4.33 | 0.46 | high | 1 |
| 2. Information of the journal | 4.17 | 0.58 | high | 2 |
| 3. Rights for author after article publication in the journal | 4.04 | 0.79 | high | 3 |
| | 4.04 | 0.79 | high | |

Table 3. Satisfaction level with quality of the journal of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, SSRU.

| Items | Mean | S.D | Satisfaction level | Ranking |
|--|------|------|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Worldwide journal among academic researchers | 4.45 | 0.55 | high | 1 |
| 2. High impact factor (IF) | 4.43 | 0.59 | high | 3 |
| 3. Citation databases (eg. Science Direct, SciFinder, Scopus, Web of Science, Google scholar) | 4.45 | 0.77 | high | 1 |
| 4. Peer review process | 4.37 | 0.62 | high | 4 |
| 5. Reputation of governing board (eg. Editorial board or recognized experts in the subject area) | 4.31 | 0.80 | high | 5 |
| 6. Open access journal/ E-journal | 3.95 | 1.06 | high | 6 |
| | 4.33 | 0.79 | high | |

3. Satisfaction level with quality of the journal

Table 3 shows the satisfaction level with quality of the journal as a technique used to select academic journals for international publication of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, SSRU. It was found that the lecturers concerned with quality in terms of how worldwide of the journal among academic researchers ($\bar{x} = 4.45$) and also the citation databases of that journal as the first priority ($\bar{x} = 4.45$). The other reasons were impact factor (IF) ($\bar{x} = 4.43$) followed by peer review process ($\bar{x} = 4.37$), reputation of governing board (e.g. Editorial board or recognized experts in the subject area) ($\bar{x} = 4.31$), and open access to the journal or E-journal ($\bar{x} = 3.95$), respectively (Table 3).

4. Satisfaction level with information of the journal

Table 4 shows the satisfaction level with information of the journal as a technique used to select academic journals for international publication of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, SSRU. It was found that the lecturers concerned with information of the journal in terms of number of volumes per year and reviewing process of the journal as the first priority ($\bar{x} = 4.31$). The other reasons were widely use of the journal among several target groups ($\bar{x} = 4.19$) and duration of acceptance for publication ($\bar{x} = 4.19$) followed by number of years published from the beginning of the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.17$), costs of peer reviewer, article publication and access to the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.11$), and number of articles published in each year of the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.05$), respectively.

Table 4. Satisfaction level with information of the journal of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, SSRU

| Items | Mean | S.D | Satisfaction level | Ranking |
|--|------|------|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Widely use of the journal among several target groups | 4.19 | 0.79 | high | 2 |
| 2. Number of years published from the beginning of the journal | 4.17 | 0.76 | high | 4 |

| Items | Mean | S.D | Satisfaction level | Ranking |
|--|------|------|--------------------|---------|
| 3. Number of articles published in each year of the journal | 4.05 | 0.85 | high | 6 |
| 4. Number of volumes per year and reviewing process | 4.31 | 0.68 | high | 1 |
| 5. Duration of acceptance for publication | 4.19 | 0.96 | high | 2 |
| 6. Costs of peer reviewer, article publication and access to the journal | 4.11 | 0.94 | high | 5 |
| | 4.33 | 0.79 | high | |

Table 5. Satisfaction level with rights for author after article publication in the journal of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, SSRU.

| Items | Mean | S.D | Satisfaction level | Ranking |
|---|------|------|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Rights to distribute article after publication in the journal | 4.02 | 0.90 | high | 2 |
| 2. Rights to distribute final version of article on the website | 3.99 | 0.88 | high | 3 |
| 3. Rights to use figures, graphs and tables in article published in the journal for any purpose | 4.10 | 0.85 | high | 1 |
| | 4.04 | 0.79 | high | |

4.5 Satisfaction level with rights for author after article publication in the journal

Table 5 shows the satisfaction level with rights for author after article publication in the journal as a technique used to select academic journals for international publication of lecturers in Faculty of Science and Technology, SSRU. It was found that the lecturers concerned with rights to use figures, graphs and tables in article published in the journal for any purpose as the first priority ($\bar{x} = 4.10$). The other reasons were rights to distribute article after publication in the journal ($\bar{x} = 4.02$) followed by rights to distribute final version of article on the website ($\bar{x} = 3.99$), respectively.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study on satisfaction with appropriated techniques used to select academic journals for international publication was conducted as a case study in Faculty of Science and Technology, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU), Bangkok, Thailand. The aim of this study was to investigate the level of satisfaction of lecturers with techniques used to submit their articles for international publication. As a results of the study, it was found that the highest satisfaction of the lecturers were on quality of the journal in terms of highly worldwide, citation databases and high impact factor of the journal. Besides, the lecturers were also satisfied with other factors such as the number of volumes per year and reviewing process, the duration of acceptance for publication in the journal, and the rights for authors to use figures, graphs, and tables in article published in the journal for their own purpose.

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