

## Editorial

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Although it is often said that “only bad schools measure,” journal impact factors undeniably play an increasingly more significant role in library budget allocations and tenure and promotion decisions. A particularly important issue with this increasing reliance on impact factors is that they can be manipulated, sometimes quite easily. Indeed, several rumors abound of journals that enter into “dubious practices” in order to raise their impact factors. The *Journal of Scheduling* refrains from such practices, and so our impact factor represents a fair indication of the Journal’s standing. We are pleased to report that our ISI impact factor has placed us consistently among the top journals in our field over the last few years. For 2008, this impact factor was 1.050.

The controversy around impact factors has led to the development of alternative, more sophisticated and informative journal ranking methods. The Eigenfactor ranking method, which produces the *Eigenfactor Score* and the *Article Influence Score*, is arguably the most prominent one (see [www.eigenfactor.org](http://www.eigenfactor.org)). The Eigenfactor method ranks journals in much the same way that Google ranks websites: by an estimate of the percentage of time (i.e., the *Eigenfactor Score*) that library users spend with each journal. The underpinning idea is that the amount of time that a researcher spends with each journal, while conducting a literature search and hopping from one paper to the next, is an indication of a journal’s importance within the network of academic citations. Connected to the Eigenfactor Score is the *Article Influence Score*, which measures the per-article citation influence of the journal. It is calculated as the Eigenfactor Score divided by the number of articles published in the journal over the relevant measurement period. In particular, this Article Influence Score is a welcome alternative to the (sometimes misused) impact factor.

So, what is the Article Influence Score of the *Journal of Scheduling*? Well, it is 0.96, which ranks us 9th (out of 84 Operations Research journals). This score provides further evidence to confirm our solid position as a leading and

influential primary outlet for high-quality and high-impact scheduling research papers. Clearly, we also interpret this as a confirmation that our editorial policy works.

Hence, we continue to keep the *Journal of Scheduling* on the course we chose so many years ago, positioning the journal as the main platform for scheduling research in the broadest sense. The goal is, and always has been, to bring together scheduling research communities from across a wide range of disciplines. This means that we continue to seek papers, theoretical and applied, from all sorts of research methodologies and backgrounds. We also continue to serve you as a preferred outlet for special issues connected to selected scheduling conferences or specific scheduling research themes. For example, in 2009, we had special issues containing selected papers presented at both the MISTA 2007 and the MAPSP 2007 conferences. In addition to our special issues, the number of papers submitted to our journal continues to be very healthy; this number has averaged, over the last four years, at 159 new submissions per year. This very high number forces us to keep our acceptance rate low. Currently, the percentage of papers accepted lies at an average of 24.62% over the last four years.

As usual, we end this editorial by thanking all the people who have helped us to make the *Journal of Scheduling* such a success. The staff at Springer have, as usual, provided us with superb support. We would like to thank them all, especially Neil Levine, Matthew Amboy, Paulo Montes, Robert Darnowsky, and Candace Rosa. We would also like to give a special thank you to Orinta Skačkauskienė for the outstanding way in which she has dealt with the typesetting and copyediting. We are particularly grateful to our dedicated team of associate editors and referees. Their hard work underpins the success of the journal. Finally, as always, we would like to offer our extended thanks to you—our authors and readers.

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