

Editorial

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Yet another journal? And what is the windmill about? Those are two questions that we heard a lot lately. Yes, another journal, or rather, a different journal, called Mechanical Sciences (MS). The main difference is that the journal is open access, of which there are not many in the field of mechanical sciences. Grant agencies more and more demand part of the research output to be in open access form, the reasoning being that the knowledge was generated with tax money so it should be available to all tax payers, including small and medium sized enterprises. In knowledge economies this makes good sense. But there is more.

Idealism

The fact that a truly internationally oriented open access journal in mechanical sciences did not exist is only part of our motivation. We have the ambition to contribute to an ideal scientific world, where knowledge is available “here and now”, for free and for anyone around the globe. This general idea is becoming personal if we consider individual young scientists, graduate or postgraduate students. For them to gain a position in the academic world, especially internationally, it is vital to have a publication portfolio in English. This requires short time-to-publication, and for this the open access model is well suited, especially if in combination with open review.

Education

A second reason to launch this journal is to provide a platform for training of young scientists in writing high quality papers. Many students perform literature reviews, why not do this under the direction of a research question and turn the result into a journal article? This is good exercise and will produce material that is valuable to other scholars. Apart from writing, we also provide the opportunity for young researchers to gain experience in editorial work. Our board of Topical Editors consists of a blend of bright novices and very reputable senior researchers. Mechanical Sciences teams them up to increase learning efficacy and efficiency.

Our first issue is an example of how this may work. It consists of papers from an international workshop organized by a final year PhD student, a newly appointed associate professor, and a more experienced professor. The workshop attracted papers from all over the world from top scientists in the field, and we are proud to provide the means to distribute the latest results in this area.

Positioning

We intend and believe to provide a publication means complementary to well-established journals. It was very encouraging to find even Editors-in-Chief of leading scientific journals in mechanical sciences so enthusiastic and supportive of the initiative that they joined the Advisory Board of our journal. This is a great honor and motivated us even more to pursue our dream. Our primary target group are young researchers who are building high quality publication portfolios in English. In addition, we have the flexibility to consider eccentric papers, for instance based on a visionary farewell address upon a retirement, and are open to emerging fields. Review articles were mentioned before, and also Short Communications will be considered in addition to the regular Research Articles.

Windmill

Then the other issue, what about the windmill. We selected the classical windmill as our logo because it is a landmark in mechanical engineering science and technology that incorporates most if not all of the fields covered by Mechanical Sciences, including aerodynamics, vibrations, mechanical transmission mechanisms, structural mechanics, manufacturing, mechanics of materials, and hydrodynamics considering that many windmills were used to drain excess water from reclaimed land. It is an iconic design, symbolizing the art and achievements of engineering where all mechanical sciences reinforce one another. Also it is a blink towards the country where this journal originates, i.e. the Netherlands, which was also the reason to base the cover and website colors on Delft Blue. The windmill logo was drafted after an early work by the Dutch painter Piet Mondriaan (1872–1944). He is famous for his geometric-abstract work with horizontal and vertical lines and primary colors. His radical development be an inspiration to explore the non-existing or unknown.



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