



Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management Mid-Year Report 2022

**Submitted by:
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Editor-in-Chief JHTM**

PAPER SUBMISSIONS – PUBLICATIONS

A detailed report including statistics about JHTM submissions is provided by Elsevier. Numbers reflect a continuous increase and of the JHTM impact and recognition in the field. The submission rate and numbers in 2022 show an increasing trend in comparison to 2021. The JHTM appeals shows an increasing international coverage. Paper submissions come from numerous regions around the globe; China, India, USA and Europe continue to be the major source of papers. Submissions from Australia/NZ also represent a significant and stable percentage.

JHTM has received more book review submissions in relation to past years, which reflects the commitment and the work of our 'relatively' new books' review editor. We also see an increase of 'research note' submissions. This is also partially due to the invitation of rejected but promising full papers to be re-edited and re-submitted as a research note. JHTM continues to see a great number of paper submissions related to COVID-19. It is expected that this COVID-19 related research will continue for the remaining of 2022.

The increasing impact factor and recognition of JHTM means more submissions but also higher rejection rates. As research quality has been impacted during COVID-19, there has been a more lenient policy during the desk-review process, to give the opportunity for more papers to undergo, and be improved through, the review process. However, based on statistics provided by Elsevier, it seems that this has also resulted in higher rejection rates during the review process, which means that probably the previous 'policy' would need to be revised so that we do not penalise our review system and reviewers too much. On the other hand, I do receive several comments from authors stating their satisfaction from the constructive comments they receive from the review process, which reflects and provide evidence of the good peer review and mentorship services that JHTM provides to its authors.

The commentary published by the Editor-in-Chief in 2021 about publication standards and expectations of JHTM and suggestions on how to conduct quality research has attracted the most attention / downloads based on social media metrics. This is very encouraging showing that the commentary has probably been found useful and valuable by numerous readers. By continuously attracting more submissions, it is not surprising that the metrics also reveal that JHTM will be accepting and publishing more papers in 2022 in relation to 2021. The continuous increase of the number of accepted papers in JHTM demonstrates that the journal is in a good health and strength.

The plans of JHTM activities in 2022 include the implementation of the three major JHTM activities (sponsored by CAUTHE):

1. the JHTM Research Symposium
2. JHTM Best PhD Award
3. JHTM Paper Hackathons.

For more details about these activities, please see sections below. All activities have managed to enrich the promotion of JHTM and attract more and higher quality submissions. We appreciate the continuous support of CAUTHE for the above mentioned JHTM activities.

CITATION STRATEGY

The JHTM continues to show a continuous increase in its impact factor and rankings for a continuous 5th year. The SSCI IF of JHTM has increased to 7.629 from 5.959. This is an amazing result as some other competing top journals (e.g. JTR and JHTR) have shown a decrease in the impact factor while for other journals (e.g. TM and Annals) impact factors have also increased.

JHTM is now ranked 12th (from previous 17th ranking) of journals in hospitality, leisure, sports & tourism and 45th (from previous 60th) of journals in management (SSCI Journal Impact Factor rankings).

The above performance brings JHTM very close to the same index of top ranked A* journals. Also, based on citations, JHTM ranks:

- 7th (from 9th position in 2021) in the top 20 tourism journals
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&view_op=search_venues&vq=tourism&btnG=)
- 1st (maintenance of 1st position in 2021) in the top 20 hospitality journals
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&view_op=search_venues&vq=tourism+and+hospitality&btnG=

Paper downloads continued to grow during the first half of 2022, specifically from Asian countries. Papers related to COVID-19 as well as open access published papers have seen the greatest numbers of downloads.

Papers in Special Issues also attracted a lot of downloads and publications, which confirms the need to continue attracting and publishing good Special Issues in terms of topics and leading scholars.

The social media channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram) and other JHTM strategies have also managed to attract visibility and downloads for published papers (more under the social media marketing below). This shows the importance of continuing and even strengthening the social media strategy of the JHTM. The JHTM social media channels have attracted several 'friends' but support from everyone is required to expand the JHTM social media network and impact/reach.

REVIEW PROCESS PERFORMANCE

Metrics reflecting the management of the review process of papers reflect an even better and faster review and management process of submissions. Detailed statistics about the review process are provided in the Elsevier report.

All metrics (time for desk review, for first decision, for final decision and for publication since the time of submission) (slide 36 in Elsevier report) show a slight improvement in 2022 in relation to 2021. This is actually a great achievement when considering that submission numbers continually increase from year to year.

There have been some unforeseen events for JHTM in May 2022; one associate editor had to step down and another one to take urgent leave. The editor in chief had and the remaining one additional associate editor had been undertaken increased workload to ensure that the journal is managed as best as possible and without disruptions. I highly appreciate everyone support during this period as it seems that JHTM has performed as nothing has happened.

Because of the above issues and the continuous growth of the journal, a decision has been taken to expand the High Editorial Board of JHTM and recruit a fourth Associate Editor. The additional associate editor enables JHTM to reduce the existing workload across all editors, address the increasing submission rate as well as to have a 'buffer' capacity to address any urgent and/or planned leave of existing editors.

The promotion, recruitment and induction of two new Associate Editors (one for replacing the lost position and one additional one) have been implemented during May – July 2022. The two new Associate Editors bring new perspective, strong research profile and regional representation for JHTM. The JHTM has been now back to business as normal and with a much strengthened editorial board.

I would like to thank all my Associate Editors ('old' and new) for their continuous support and dedication to the journal, despite their own difficulties and workloads and the increased rate of submissions that we have to manage.

SPECIAL ISSUES

JHTM continues its Special Issue (SI) Strategy. The SI based on CAUTHE 2022 has been progressing slowly but it is running. The following SI are currently in progress:

- VSI: Tourism Industry 4.0
- Special Issue: CAUTHE 2022 – this reflects the continues support of JHTM to the CAUTHE conference
- SI on ‘*Experimentation for New Knowledge in Hospitality & Tourism*’
- SI on “*Disruption and resilience in post-pandemic volunteer tourism: rethinking theory, contents and methods*”

The JHTM continues to attract quite few proposals for SI. However, we are very prudent in selecting and prioritizing SI given that JHTM should publish only 2 SI per year; more than 2 SI would be a bad strategy and sign for the ranking and reputation of the journal. The JHTM is always open to discuss other good ideas for special issues. Please contact the editor-in-chief for more information and/or discussion.

JOURNAL AWARDS

The multi-distribution promotion for the 2022 JHTM best PhD awards is active and have been running since early 2022. So far, 5 paper submissions have been received. Please share the news with your PhD students and graduates and motivate – support them for a paper submission to JHTM. Please promote the JHTM Awards by liking and sharing our campaigns on social media.

JOURNAL MARKETING ACTIVITIES

As more and more conferences return to in person events, JHTM has also been active in being represented in such conferences. For example, during the first half of 2022, JHTM has been represented as well as promoted during and through the following conferences and events:

- The 5th International Conference on Tourism Research (ICTR2022) organised by the School of Hospitality and Tourism, the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (ESHT/P.PORTO), 19 – 20 May 2022, Vila do Conde, district of Porto, Portugal
- *Managing Tourism Across Continents – Tourism for a Better World* (MTCON'22) International Conference co-organised by Oxford Brookes University and Eastern Mediterranean University, 24-26 March 2022, Antalya, Turkey
- *3rd International Hospitality Research Symposium 2022* organised by the HotelSchool The Hague, Amsterdam Campus, 9 – 10 June 2022, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- The JHTM has also been promoted through various online conferences and webinars (e.g. an Emerald webinar and the CRiT Summer School).

Future conferences within 2022 whereby JHTM will be promoted include:

- The first International Conference on Tourism and Social Research titled *Rethinking Tourism, Hospitality and Events for a Better Future*, co-organised by Clique College (Maldives) with Curtin University (Australia) and Nottingham Trent University (UK), 2 - 5 August 2022, Ukhulhas, the republic of Maldives
- International Conference *TMS ALGARVE 2022 – Sustainability Challenges in Tourism, Hospitality and Management* organised by the University of Algarve, Portugal, 16 – 19 November 2022, Algarve, Faro, Portugal. This conference is one of the most important ‘Latin’ tourism conference attracting more than 400+ delegates from Latin America and the tourism academic circles in the Iberian Peninsula.

In 2022, the JHTM has planned to conduct its two major events in person and hybrid (to combine the benefits of in person and virtual events). Specifically, the 2022 JHTM Paper Hackathon will take place during the EuroCHRIE 2022, in October 2022. The latter represents one of the major tourism and hospitality conferences worldwide attracting around 200+ delegates per year (last year due to COVID-19 it had about 100 international on site participants).

The 2022 JHTM Research Symposium is planned to take place on 30 November 2022 in collaboration with University of Applied Science of Breda, Holland. The venue and university were selected because is it centrally located in Europe offering good accessibility within Europe and specifically along the speed train line of Eurostar and other major German and French railway lines. It is also a back-to-back event with CBTS 2022, a biannual internal conference attracting good participation and global attention.

The 2022 JHTM Research Symposium is planned to take place hybrid in order to:

- Allow participation and speakers from all over the globe
- Involve the CAUTHE and JHTM international community
- Benefit from the local presence and win-win collaboration with CBTS
- Promote and establish links with the tourism academics located in the national and wider regional area of Breda.

The promotion of the 2022 JHTM Paper Hackathon is ongoing – please help disseminate the event. The program and promotion of the 2022 JHTM Research Symposium are on going (to be released in September when Europeans return to office). Please help us promote the event and contact the Editor-in-Chief, should you wish to participate and contribute to the hybrid event.

Planning of future events (2023 and beyond) to promote JHTM:

- A paper hackathon is organised in collaboration with the organisers of the following conference: International conference DSOTT 2023 *Diversity & Sustainability – Opportunities and Threats*, University of Coimbra, 31 May - 2 June 2023, Coimbra, Portugal.
- Continuing the relation with CAUTHE 2023 conference.
- Sourcing Ideas /venues for the 2023 JHTM Research Symposium and Paper Hackathon.

Please contact the Editor-In-Chief if you are interested in supporting these events. JHTM welcomes collaboration ideas with major conferences.

Social Media Marketing

The Editor-In-Chief has been working with Hassan Salehi, JHTM Social media engagement officer, to develop a social media strategy and plan for JHTM in 2022. A plan has been developed and agreed and Hasan has been now more active and engaged in its implementation since the last month.

After reviewing the social media strategies of other journals, a decision has been taken to create a profile and promote JHTM through WeChat (the Chinese dominant social media platform). An expert volunteer has been identified and approached to discuss this opportunity (thank you CeCe for the connection). The JHTM profile development and promotion strategy are in process and more news will be revealed soon.

EDITORIAL TEAM

After the recruitment of the two new Associate Editors, the current composition of the editorial team is:

- Professor Marianna Sigala, Editor-in-Chief, University of Piraeus
- Dr Edmund Goh, Associate Editor, EDU
- Dr Seyyed Mostafa Rasoolimanesh, Taylor's University
- Dr Xi Y. Leung, University of North Texas
- Dr Ching-Hui (Joan) Su, Iowa State University
- Dr Aaron Tham, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Hassan Salehi, Social media engagement officer

The JHTM would like to welcome the two new associate editors in its editorial team. We are very pleased to work with both of them, who will add a new disciplinary perspective to the journal and help with the paper review process.

I would also like to take the opportunity to heartfully thank Dr Emily Ma (University of Massachusetts System, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America) who has just completed her term of office as associate editor of JHTM. Dr Ma has been very supportive to JHTM during all the period of her term of office and played a key role in promoting JHTM in USA.

There has been very good cooperation amongst all the members of the editorial team of the journal as well as the publisher's presentative from Elsevier. The team has regular virtual meetings and online discussions for taking decisions, actions and developing a strategy for the journal. The international editorial review board of the journal is due to be revised and updated in February 2023. In the meantime, we are monitoring and evaluating the performance of existing board members, as well as identifying other scholars to help with paper review. The quality and commitment of the reviewers and editorial board are considered as one of the key success factors of the journal.

ELSEVIER JHTM MANAGER

It is my pleasure to announce that Elsevier has now appointed a permanent manager to look after JHTM and the wider portfolio of tourism/hospitality journals (as well as Information Science) of Elsevier. Laura Birrell is going to be our new contact with Elsevier. Online meetings are currently taking place to welcome Laura and start collaboration with her.

Welcome Laura and looking forward to working with you.

JHTM continuous to grow and we as the editorial board of JHTM are committed to work hard to continue having JHTM as one of the top ranked journals in our field.

I would like to personally thank everyone that has and is contributing to the JHTM directly and / or indirectly, anonymously and/or eponymously.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Prof Marianna Sigala
Editor-in-Chief JHTM