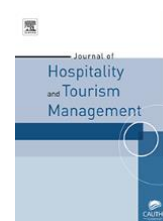


# Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management

## 2024 Mid Year Report

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



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### PAPER SUBMISSIONS – PUBLICATIONS

A detailed report including statistics about JHTM submissions is provided by Elsevier.

#### Submission Numbers

Numbers reflect a continuous increase of submissions to JHTM (1143 submissions during the first half of 2024 in relation to 2036 total submissions in 2023), which in some way reflect its increased recognition and top ranked position in the field.

The break-down of submissions in relation to the country of correspondent author reflects the continuous international appeal of the journal. Statistics show that the major source markets for paper submissions for JHTM remain the same for 2024 as in previous years, namely Asia, India, USA and Europe. Submissions from India and Korea have increased the most in the first half of 2024.

#### Acceptance – Rejection Rates

Desk-reject rates have remained more or less similar to past years. When looking at desk-reject and acceptance metrics, it appears that India represents the country with the highest number of desk-rejects followed by China. This is not surprising when considering that these countries also represent the greatest majority of submissions.

In fact, the desk-reject rate for papers submitted from India and China has increased much more than the rejection rate from other source markets. This fact confirms the previous finding that these countries do not really represent source markets of quality submissions.

The acceptance rates from Europe and USA have somewhat increased, which shows that JHTM is achieving to increase the attraction of good quality papers from these countries. Acceptance rates and submissions from Australia/NZ are more or less the same as past years.

In 2024, JHTM has managed to ‘control’ the number of submissions and acceptance of book reviews. There has been an influx of book review submissions in the past years due to the fact that book reviews in some countries are counted in individual performance records. The latter resulted in too many book review submissions that did not meet publication standards. We have now managed to communicate a message about what we look for from book reviews to be able to be published and make a contribution to our field.

Submission numbers of research notes continue to increase. We (editorial team) have discussed the option to create a new category of submissions to address the former issue as well as the increasing number of competing journals (e.g. Tourism Management, JHTR, IJCHM, Annals of Tourism Research) that have started accepting and publishing a new type of submission (usually entitled viewpoint or contemporary issues). We decided to investigate this option by using the anniversary SI celebrating the 30 years of JHTM as the test pilot to investigate the impact and contribution of such perspective papers in the impact factor and role of JHTM. Following the publication of this anniversary SI and some key performance indicators after its publication, we will reconvene to discuss the topic.

JHTM has accepted 70 papers during the first half of 2024 (in relation to 200 in total in 2023); this shows that JHTM is in good progress of publication rates, as we still have to count the papers from SI that will soon come in 2024, and we also need to be diligent with total number of papers published per year, as this affects impact factors (i.e. maintain quality vs quantity).

We have started working and planning all the three major activities of the JHTM (that help support and boost quality submissions) for 2024:

1. 2024 JHTM Online Research Symposium: investigating various possible conferences to host it back to back. The plan B is to host it online. This event will be themed to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JHTM and will feature presentations of leading authors writing the invited perspective papers to be included in the anniversary SI of JHTM
2. 2024 JHTM Best PhD Award; announcement and CFP have been distributed to various networks, social media and email lists. Deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2024 and we have received 18 submissions so far. Hopefully some more submissions will come last minute (as usual). Key source markets of Phd papers are Asia, USA and Australia/NZ. Very few submissions from Europe which is a lost opportunity as there are numerous PhD being produced in this area. We will be looking on how to better penetrate the European market.
3. the 2024 JHTM Paper Hackathon. Various conference options are being considered.

***If you are aware of a conference that is willing to host a hackathon, please contact me.***

In 2024, a special SI is being planned to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JHTM. The purpose of this SI is not only to celebrate JHTM existence and contribution to the field, but also to be used as an opportunity to further boost JHTM readership, image and impact factor. To that end, I had been working with Elsevier and the editorial team to find out the best way to do it.

It was decided that the SI will be published first thing in 2025 (to maximise time exposure and year of publication of papers and their role in driving citations and impact factors). The SI will feature max 5-6 invited perspective papers by well-known researchers to reflect on current research on their perspective expertise field and develop a future research agenda. It is envisioned that such papers will attract readership and citations for the next years. Work in progress: leading scholars are identified and approached and discussing with them the content and purpose of their publication.

All the above-mentioned activities are designed and planned to enrich the promotion and reputation of JHTM with the ultimate goal to attract more and higher quality submissions. We appreciate the continuous support of CAUTHE to provide financial support for the above three JHTM activities for the next 3 years.

#### Open Access Publication Policy

It was proposed and accepted by CAUTHE executive board to enable the JHTM to publish OA papers. This is important as it will enable the journal (as other competing journals do) to tap into submissions and authors that need to publish under an Open Access policy as a requirement of the funding bodies supporting their research. The latter is a somewhat standard policy of researcher funders in the EU and mainly authors in this area do select journals based on their OA possibility.

We are currently in discussing and deciding the fee that JHTM should be charging for OA papers. Fees charged by competing journals are being considered as well as other related factors.

We expect that OA may have a small impact on the royalty fees obtained from OA, but it is difficult to predict the direction and the size of this impact at the moment. We will be watching this space for any related needed action.

#### Royalty Statement 2024

The royalty statement of JHTM has been received in June 2024. Revenues from JHTM in 2024 had a record number which is the highest during the last 5 years.

#### CITATION STRATEGY

The 2023 SJR journal ranking list.

- JHTM has advanced from #15 (in 2022) to #11 in the rankings! <https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=1409>

The 2023 ISSCI impact factors were released in June 2024.

- The ISSCI IF of JHTM is 7.6 (from 8.3 in 2023).

In 2024, impact factors of all journals have dropped dramatically with impact factor reduction across journals varying from around 1 point to 3 points. Two major reasons for the drop of impact factors:

1. merge of two databases of journals (as a result two journals from sports and medical sciences are now listed in top 10 journals in tourism, hospitality and leisure, and they are listed above JHTM)

2. citations of COVID-19 papers in 2020 not counted anymore. The second reason will continue in the following years.

The drop of impact factors for the latter reason signifies that ‘playing’ the game with topical paper topics and/or leading authors attracting citations to increase citations is only a temporary solution. Journals that are more focused on topic and publish much less papers per year (e.g. JDMM and JHMM) also benefit from being on top of the list.

Despite the changes in impact factors JHTM has had one of the lower drops in impact factor. The JHTM has also managed to maintain its ranking and position in the top ten journals (and Q1) in the field.

Paper downloads continued to increase during 2024, specifically from Asian countries, while we now collect statistics from USA as well.

Papers in Special Issues have 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. We expect the 30-year anniversary SI to further help readership and citations of JHTM.

The social media channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, X and Instagram) and strategies of JHTM have also attracted visibility and downloads for published papers (more under the social media marketing report of JHTM). This shows the importance of continuing and even strengthening the social media strategy of the JHTM.

## REVIEW PROCESS PERFORMANCE

Metrics in 2024 reflect an efficient and effective management of the review process of paper submissions despite the continuous increase of submissions. During the first half of 2024, the speed of the review process of submissions during all the review stages until publication (i.e. time for desk-reject, first decision, time to final decision) are somewhat the same as past year (with a very small increase). This is partially due to the special circumstances of some associate editors faced during the first months of 2024, but it has been under controlled. The time from first submission to time to publication is the same and slightly better in the first months of 2024. Detailed statistics about the review process are provided in the Elsevier report.

It is proposed to recruit one more additional associate editor in order to be less vulnerable to special circumstances of associate editors (i.e. sickness, leave, workload, relocation etc.) as well as to address the continuous increase of submissions.

I would like to sincerely thank my editorial team of associate editors for their hard work and commitment to JHTM. I would also like to thank the full editorial board of JHTM as well as the reviewers that are not included in the JHTM. Their support is enormous and highly appreciated. The JHTM Annual Best Reviewer awards have been designed and given every year to really recognize this significant work of our full editorial team and team of reviewers.

## SPECIAL ISSUES

JHTM continues its Special Issue (SI) Strategy. There has not been interest for a SI following the CAUTHE 2024, so this is not progressing.

Discussions and interest for a SI based on CAUTHE 2025 have been initiated and expressed and currently under discussion. The following SI are currently in progress:

1. SI on ‘virtual influencers’
2. SI on Space Tourism

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 2024 JHTM best PhD paper awards have received 18 submissions so far (closing date 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024) coming from all over the globe.

The 2023 annual JHTM best paper awards and the 2023 JHTM best reviewer awards have been implemented. The award winners were presented at the 2024 CAUTHE conference and several press releases and social media posts have been created and published already to recognize the winners and boost the promotion of JHTM.

## JOURNAL MARKETING ACTIVITIES

JHTM has been quite active during the first months of 2024 in being represented and promoted in international conferences. Examples of conferences include:

1. ICHRIE Graduates Conference, Jan 2024
2. [Global Hospitality and Leisure Summit \(GHLS\)](https://www.globalhls.org/call-for-papers) organised by the Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management, University of Las Vegas and University of Macau, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 <https://www.globalhls.org/call-for-papers>
3. International Conference organized by Haci Bayran Veli University in Ankara Turkey (16 – 18 May 2024) <https://hacibayram.edu.tr/itt24>
4. international conference organized by Cluj Napoca university, Romania (16 – 18 May 2024) <https://tbs.ubbcluj.ro/conference/>
5. 4th International Conference on Responsible Tourism and Hospitality (ICRTH) 2024, Kuching, Malaysia ( <https://www.responsibleborneo.com/icrth2024>
6. SERVSIG 2024 (AMA conference). <https://13thservsig.eventsadmin.com/Home/Welcome>
7. INC conference, (Tourism, Hospitality & Events International Conference) “Technology Enabled Competitiveness and Experiences in Tourism, Hospitality and Events”. THE INC is the annual official conference of ATHENA, and in 2024 is hosted by the Hotelschool The Hague, 5- 7 June 2024, Amsterdam, The Netherlands <https://theinc2024.wordpress.com/>
8. 6th edition of the Alliance research for Wine and Hospitality Management, Reims, France 25 – 28 June, 2024.
9. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Globalisation Conference, August 2024 <https://www.wittenborg.eu/globalisation-conference-intro.html>

## Social Media Marketing

An additional Social Media engagement officer (Raymond Rastegar) has been recruited to support and strengthen the activities of the existing Social Media engagement officer (Hassan Salehi). The Editor-In-Chief has met and working with the two new officers to develop a

stronger and updated social media strategy. The social media report of JHTM reflects the major activities that have been undertaken during the last months.

The WeChat profile of JHTM has been active and working as usual during the first half of 2024.

## EDITORIAL TEAM

The 2024 composition of the editorial team is:

- Professor Marianna Sigala, Editor-in-Chief, University of Piraeus
- Dr Edmund Goh, Associate Editor, Bond University
- Dr Seyyed Mostafa Rasoolimanesh, Edith Cowan 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
- Raymond Rastegar, Social media engagement officer

There has been very good cooperation amongst all the members of the editorial team of the journal as well as the publisher's representative from Elsevier. The team has regular virtual meetings and online discussions for taking decisions, actions and developing a strategy for the journal.

The initial period of appointment of the associate editors has ended in 2024. All associate editors have been approached to discuss their willingness and time commitment to continue their work for JHTM during 2024. The re-appointment of all associated editors for 2024 has been confirmed.

As previously mentioned, we believe that there is a need to start the process (publication of expression of interest) for the recruitment of one additional associate editor.

Minor updates and additions have been undertaken to the international editorial review board of the journal in March 2024. New inclusions represent highlighted committed and performing reviewers that have also been awarded a best reviewer awards for JHTM. We believe this is a prudent and rewarding practice to do to our reviewers' body. The full revision of the editorial board is due February 2025 (this reflects its revision every two years). 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

There has been a continuous and constructive good cooperation and communication between the editor-in-chief and the Elsevier representative of the journal, i.e. Laura Birrell.

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

Let's continue the good work.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Prof Marianna Sigala  
Editor-in-Chief JHTM