

JSCI Policy for its Second Phase

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First Phase of the JSCI (2003-2008)

The first issue of the Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (JSCI) was published on February 2003. Since then, and up to the present (August 2008), 34 issues have been published in electronic and hard copy versions. The access to the electronic version has been a Full Open Access, and the hard copy version has been sent, by means of a complimentary subscription, to the libraries of the universities and research centers where the authors of the published papers are affiliated.

Almost all papers published, up to the present, in JSCI are among the best 10%-20% of the papers presented at the conferences organized by the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics (IIS) (which means about the best 5%-10% of the articles submitted to these conferences), with no additional cost for their authors. The financial support of JSCI has been provided by the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics: IIS. Consequently, IIS has been providing JSCI with the best papers presented at the conferences organized by it, as well as the financial support required for editing, producing and distributing the journal. About 200 libraries have received JSCI as complimentary subscriptions and IIS has been providing the support for this operation, including the printing and the shipping and handling of 34 issues. The business model of JSCI has been, since its beginnings, a **subsidy** model, where the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics (IIS) subsidized the 100% of the editing, production and distribution costs.

Since the first issue was published, an increasing number of potential authors submitted papers, not previously presented at IIS conferences, for their possible publication in JSCI. Consequently, the publisher of JSCI has been trying to conceive a publishing model that would allow the publication of these papers in such a way as to:

- be financially self-supportive,
- maintain a Full Open Access of most of the articles published in the electronic version of the journal, and
- maintain the policy of, at least, one year/six issues complimentary subscriptions to the libraries of the universities and research centers of the authors publishing in JSCI.

Second Phase of the JSCI (2003-2008)

The challenge for JSCI in its second phase, which is oriented to the publishing of papers not previously presented at conferences organized by the IIS and selected as the best papers, is to find the means of electronically publishing these newly submitted papers, producing the printed product, and maintaining the complimentary subscriptions (of at

least one year) for the libraries of the organizations at which JSCI's authors are affiliated.'

All articles submitted to JSCI will have at least three double-blind reviews and 2-3 non-blind, non-anonymous reviews. To obtain the advantages of both double-blind and non-blind, open reviewing, and to avoid the disadvantages of both of them, each method will be a necessary condition for the acceptance of the paper, but none of them, alone will be a sufficient condition. Consequently, a submitted article, to be accepted, should be recommended by both the double-blind reviewers as well as by the non-blind, non-anonymous reviewers. Submitting authors should suggest the names of at least 2 reviewers for the non-blind, non-anonymous review of their papers.

The Article Processing Charge (APC), for all papers selected for publication, to be covered by the author or his/her institute will initially be \$450 in order to cover the cost of the publication. Several studies have shown that journal publishing costs are in the range of \$500-\$3000 depending on (1) the publisher kind (for-profit and not for-profit), (2) the level of extra funding (grants, etc.), (3) the additional revenues that the publisher has (publicity, number of subscriptions, etc), (4) the kind of publishing media (electronic, printed or both), and (5) on the business model (based on subscription, Full Open Access, Optional Open Access, hybrid, etc.). The following are some examples:

BioMed Central: £750 (about \$1,480)

Blackwell: online open £1,250 (about \$2,470)

Oxford University Press: Oxford Open: £1,500 (about \$2,960)

Public Library of Science: PLoS: \$1,500

Springer: \$3,000

More details can be found in our short review on this issue: "Revenues, costs and prices in Scholarly Publishing" (Callaos, 2008) and in the references included it.

The Article Processing Charge (APC) \$450 for publishing in JSCI is low, as related to most Full Open Access journals, because the financial support provided by IIS and because authors are asked to take responsibility if the copy editing and the proofreading of his/her article. JSCI will provide the author with the conceptual editing made by the article reviewers.

In reciprocity to the authors' contribution and partial subsidy of the publication costs, JSCI will:

1. Publish the article in the electronic journal with Full Open Access
2. Publish the article in the printed version of the journal.
3. Provide a complimentary subscription, of the printed product, of at least one year to the library of the university or research center at which the publishing author is affiliated. This complimentary subscription means that the organizations of the authors will be getting back their partial subsidy via free subscription to the journal.

4. Additional printed copies will be provided with a discount of 50% to the authors of the journal.

Authors whose institution library is a subscriber of the journal will have a 40% of discount.

The cost of institutional subscription is a yearly fee of \$500 which includes a volume of six issues, and it will be about \$800 if the journal is to be a monthly publication (12 yearly issues per volume). In any case, the subscription cost will be about \$0.75 per page.

The individual subscription yearly fee, for the current format (six issues, of about 100 pages, per year) is \$120.