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Self-Citations and Increasing Influence of Our Research on Other Fields

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This is the last time you are going to see Chicago style being used in the *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly* (*JMCQ*). This issue is a collector's item that many of you may want to keep on your bookshelves. As we are moving to APA style from the autumn issue, you will see fewer footnotes and our explicit editorial policy discouraging excessive self-citations as listed in our Information for Contributors. The APA style puts authors' names within the main body text, while the references are listed by the authors' last names in alphabetical order. This makes the authors' names much more visible than the Chicago style. Regarding this, some authors received a note from me asking them to refrain from citing their own works too much, because that would have identified them easily. They have been asked to cut their self-citations before we sent the manuscripts out to reviewers. Authors certainly may have done many prior works on the topic that they would like to refer in the manuscript. At a time when impact factor and number of citations is becoming more and more important for institutions, it is understandable that authors may want to include as many of their own works in the manuscript as possible. However, this practice will threaten the integrity of the blind review process. When a reviewer sees an article citing five or more works from the same individual, he or she will question the relationship between the author and the individual who got cited so many times. As scholars, we should be judicious in citing our own works and acknowledge others who also have contributed to the same topic. Simply listing "author" without name in front of the citation will not help as it is very easy to find online the author from the article title nowadays. Citing the author's own works the same way as others' works is the best way to avoid the author being identified.

As I started posting tweets on Twitter for our articles, I realized how our *JMCQ* articles aroused interest of political scientists, sociologists, scientists, and people in other fields from their retweets. In addition to increasing the theoretical and methodological rigor of our field, highlighting the relationship of our research with other fields will broaden the impact and elevate the status of research in our field. One thing I did quite often recently was to suggest to some of our accepted manuscript authors to consider making their titles more relevant to readers and highlighting the unique contribution or essence of the study. In these days with short text messages dominating online conversations, a good title, just like a news headline, will make a big difference to how many people read the text of the full article. An article with a title that does not reflect the article well will drastically lower its readership potential.

New Keyword System in *JMCQ*

Authors and reviewers should know that we now use a new set of keyword categories in the *JMCQ* manuscript submission system. There are nine keyword categories that are standardized, and all authors are required to choose one or more item in each category as appropriate for their submitted manuscript specifically and themselves as scholars. The nine keyword categories are (1) Topic (34 topics),[1] (2) Approach (Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed, Conceptual only), (3) Method (19 methods),[2] (4) Statistics (12 common statistical techniques, quantitative research only),[3] (5) Medium (14 media types including media in general),[4] (6) Country of study or expertise,[5] (7) Theory (29 common theories and a write-in category),[6] (8) Research interests related to any of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) division/interest group,[7] and (9) author's own keywords (other than those keywords given in the eight categories). I hope this scheme is comprehensive enough to accommodate all types of manuscripts, authors, and reviewers. It will also help new authors to easily see if their manuscript falls within the scope of our journal when they check the categories. The success of this system relies on the cooperation of authors and reviewers to provide us with the necessary information.

The standardization of keywords will make our manuscripts much easier to be found in online search engines, which is essentially a keyword-based system; and help us match reviewers and authors much better using the same terms. It will also help us in analyzing the trends of research by using these keywords consistently. SAGE can promote and group the articles more easily. If other journals would like to adopt the same categories, they are more than welcome to use the same system.

Highlights of the Articles

In this issue, we feature the blind refereed review essay of Lance Holbert and Christiane Grill on scale development in journalism and mass communication research with the use of confirmatory factor analysis. For those who are using surveys or experiments in journalism and mass communication research, this essay is a must read because scales are developed and applied to measure concepts and constructs in these types of research. How to assess the validity and reliability of the scales used in the study and handle specific problems we face in mass communication research will be addressed.

All the original articles in this issue were accepted under the editorship of Dan Riffe. News sharing is one of the most important phenomena in the study of online news. Piotr Bobkowski's article reported two online experiments of a panel of national social media users to test how perceived information utility and opinion leadership facilitate news sharing. Opinion leaders were more likely to share news than nonleaders regardless of its information utility. Jeannine Relly, Magaret Zanger, and Shahira Fahmy's article examines how Iraqi journalists' attitudes toward government information access were shaped by their democratic norms and forces of gatekeeping. Juliane Lischka examines the dynamics of agenda building and agenda setting process of reporting on general economy and unemployment in Germany from 2001 to 2012

using a longitudinal analysis approach. The author compares the relationship between coverage of the topic in both commercial and public broadcast TV news and newspapers with consumer economic expectation survey data. News interpretation was found to be more consistent in economic downturns, and less consistent in upturns. But the consumers' economic expectations are more influenced by economic indicators than by news coverage, supporting the obtrusive contingency hypothesis.

Seungahn Nah, Masahiro Yamamoto, Deborah S. Chung, and Robert Zuercher's article on citizen journalism showed that mainstream news organizations modeled after citizen journalism to engage their readers. Thomas Zerback, Thomas Koch, and Benjamin Kramer's experiment on how people perceived the climate of opinion were affected by cues in the media. They differentiated media coverage into explicit cues such as survey results and implicit cues such as arguments and demonstrated their different effects on the cognitive processing of the audience and perception of opinion climate of the society.

Perry Parks' historical research on the supporters of the Scopes' trial in 1925 in Tennessee shows how an opportunity to educate public on evolution became more of a confusion due to the journalists' preference for conflict and an emerging professional objectivity. The author discusses how such focus still persists today, hurting the communication of science. A contemporary case study of how journalists covered Juan Williams' dismissal from National Public Radio by Ryan Thomas and Elizabeth Hindman illustrates the journalistic paradigm. The paradigm is characterized by role confusions, objectivity norm, and intertwined with ethical responsibilities of the commentator as a facilitator of public discourse.

Kenon Brown, Andrew Billings, Dana Mastro, and Natalie Brown's national experiment of strategies used by athletes to repair their image after sport-related transgressions showed that race is a significant factor with a race-by-gender interaction effect on image repair process. Black athletes were being rated better than white athletes across the image repair strategies conditions.

Happy Reading!

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Notes

1. Topic Categories

Advertising
Audience Analysis/Media Consumption
Communication Theory
Digital Divide
Economics
Education
Effects—Individual
Effects—Social
Ethics

Gender
History
International
Internet and Technology
Law and Policy
Management and Ownership
Media and Society
Media Industry Analysis
Media Messages/Content
Methodology
Minorities
News
News Coverage and Reporting
Political Communication
Political Economy
Press Performance
Professional Issues
Public Opinion
Public Relations
Regulation
Trends
Uses and Adoption
Visual Communication
Other Topics

2.   Research Method Keywords

Content Analysis
Survey
Experiment
Network Analysis
Citation/Bibliometric Analysis
Meta-Analysis
Log Data Analysis
Field Observation
Other Quantitative Methods (write-in)
Ethnography
Historical Method
In-depth Interview
Focus Group
Case Study
Critical/Cultural Study
Textual Analysis
Discourse Analysis/Rhetoric Criticism
Legal Method
Other Qualitative Methods (write-in)

3. Statistics (Quantitative research only)

Descriptive Statistics
Basic Inferential Statistics, for example, Bivariate Correlations and Significance Tests
Intermediate Multivariate Statistics Analysis, such as Multiple Regression and Two-way ANOVAs
Advanced Multivariate Analysis, such as MANCOVA, Path Analysis, and Structural Equation Models
Time Series and Trend Analysis
Factor Analysis
Discriminant Analysis
Conjoint Analysis
Bootstrapping
Multi-dimensional Scaling
Cluster Analysis
Poisson Regression, Logistic Regression, and Loglinear Models
Other Statistics (write-in)

4. Medium Type

Media in General
Web sites/Online Media/Internet in General
Print Media
Radio
Television
Telephony (include landline and cellular phones)
Social Media
Mobile Media
Books
Magazines and Newsletters
Newspaper
Cable/Satellite
Broadcast
Other Specific Media (write-in)

5. Country of Study (manuscript)/Expertise (authors/reviewers only)

Single Country Study or Multi-country Study
Specific Country from a List in Alphabetical Order (can check multiple countries)

6. Theory

Agenda-Setting
Cultivation
Third-Person Effect
Knowledge Gap
Diffusion of Innovation

Framing
Spiral of Silence
Uses and Gratifications
Social Learning
Selective Exposure/Attention
Gatekeeping
Theory of the Niche
Interactivity
Credibility
Persuasion Knowledge
Media Richness
Game Theory
First Amendment/Freedom of Speech
Civic Participation/Public Sphere
Media Dependency
Media Imperialism
Cultural Discount
Feminism
Mediation
Socialization
Technology Acceptance Model
Situation Crisis Communication Theory
Priming Theory
Opinion Leadership
Other Theories (write-in)

7.   AEJMC divisions and interest groups

Advertising
Communicating Science, Health, Environment, Risk (CommSHER)
Communication Technology (CTEC)
Communication Theory and Methodology (CTM)
Cultural and Critical Studies
Electronic News
History
International Communication
Law and Policy
Magazine
Mass Communication and Society (MC & S)
Media Ethics
Media Management and Economics
Minorities and Communication
Newspaper and Online News
Public Relations

Scholastic Journalism

Visual Communication

Community Journalism Interest Group

Entertainment Studies Interest Group

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Interest Group

Graduate Student Interest Group (All graduate students submissions)

Internships & Careers Interest Group

Participatory Journalism Interest Group (formerly named the Civic and Citizen Interest Group)

Political Communication Interest Group

Religion and Media Interest Group

Small Programs Interest Group

Sports Communication Interest Group