

# Organization Management Journal

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Volume 5 | Issue 4

Article 1

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12-1-2008

## OMJ is a truly international journal

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### Recommended Citation

Ferris, William P. (2008) "OMJ is a truly international journal," *Organization Management Journal*: Vol. 5 : Iss. 4 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://scholarship.shu.edu/omj/vol5/iss4/1>



## Editorial Introduction

# OMJ is a truly international journal

William P Ferris

*Editor-in-Chief*

*Organization Management Journal* (2008)  
5, 185–186. doi:10.1057/omj.2008.29



Organization  
Management  
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For 2008, we have published a spring issue, a summer issue, and fall issue under the Palgrave Macmillan platform. This December issue is the final one for 2008. Palgrave has now been able to give us a preliminary idea of where our readers are located by geographic region, how many page visits we have had, and how many downloads as well. Here are some highlights.

We had almost 16,000 page views, over 3600 unique visitors, and almost 2000 article requests through September of 2008, the vast bulk of them since our first issue of the year came out in April. These statistics should build with the recent publication of the fall issue and now this last issue of 2008. The verifiable geography of our visits is very interesting, too. By far the most visits came from the UK, Brazil, the Netherlands, and France with California, Switzerland, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Texas rounding out the top 10. Interestingly, the traditional Eastern Academy of Management (EAM) northeast states are not even in the top six, and many did not make the top 25.

We have no real explanation for France and Switzerland, but since Palgrave Macmillan is located in London and our two EAM International Conferences of 2007 and 2009 are Amsterdam and Rio de Janeiro, respectively, we can hypothesize that international interest has been generated through our place of publication and our International Conference sites. We can't really explain California and Texas being so high (5th and 10th), and we are not 100% sure of our hypotheses, either. It may simply be that interest in management articles written in English is very high in the UK, Brazil, the Netherlands, France, and the rest of the world. It was an eye-opener, however, to find that out of the top 10 geographical locations, only three were from traditional EAM states/provinces; similarly, only five out of the next 15 were from traditionally EAM locations. Most of the rest were from Europe and southeast Asia. This shows that EAM is having an intellectual impact on management and organizational research beyond its traditional membership region. So if you are an *OMJ* author, you can truly expect your work to be downloaded and read around the world.

Clearly our White Papers Issue for 2008 was a big success with all four White Papers and the Introduction proving very popular. The Teaching & Learning and International EAM articles had just come out so the lesser number of downloads for them is not indicative of less popularity. We can expect increased download requests for them as the years go on.

### This issue

This particular issue of *OMJ* stars two articles from the First Person research section. This section, co-edited by Sally Riad of Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand and Michael Elmes of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA, USA, is part of what makes *OMJ* such a unique journal. I am unaware of any other management journal that features first person research. Please review the mission of this section to see the kind of articles that Sally and Mike are looking to publish. They do a great job of explaining the special components of good first person research in their introduction. The first of our two articles in this issue is "Breaking the Ice with a Guttled Rooster: Reflections on a Messy Day One" by Dave O'Connell; it shows the importance of reflexivity in connection with first person research as Dave reflects on how he "came up short" as a management professor in encouraging MBA students to think negatively about the worst jobs they had held. This approach did not connect expressed values with espoused values as he thought it should have, and reflecting about this in the article helps him to see how he could be a better management professor. In the second article, "Team on Teams: A Collaborative Inquiry" by Joy Beatty, Jennifer Leigh, and Paul Szwed, the authors chronicle their search as colleagues to improve their use of student teams in their courses. Again, there is a frank discussion of failure followed by reflection and a sharing of the emergence of something closer to their personal pedagogical ideal that they can model in their constant quest to provide the best possible environment for themselves and their students.

In the other featured section of this issue, Teaching & Learning, we present a great case featuring IBM and what it was doing in the time leading up to and including World War II in Germany, along with an extensive and insightful

teaching note by the same authors – Donald McCormick and James Spee. This is a case investigating the degree to which IBM collaborated with what Steve Meisel, in his Introduction, calls the "Nazi death bureaucracy of World War II." It is a gripping case highlighting social responsibility and ethics in the corporate world, a theme we have now featured in four straight issues, but in this case, complete with video references, we go beyond issues such as the possible exploitation of workers to an exploration of collaboration in the most grotesque and murderous violation of organizational ethics ever recorded. The second article, "An assurance of learning success model: Toward closing the feedback loop" by Bonnie L. Betters-Reed, Mindell Reiss Nitkin, and Susan D. Sampson, is not a corporate case but more of a university case that builds a model for assurance of learning. It is a very practical article that highlights the "Simmons College model," of assurance of learning. The authors are all from Simmons College in Boston, MA, where the model has been tested and found extremely useful. For schools looking to prove the value they add to students' knowledge and skill sets, this article is a lifeline. The authors have been invited to talk about their model by AACSB and around the US, so we are proud to publish it here.

Finally, Jennifer Cyr provides us a review of some recent research with a research note at the end of our issue. If you are interested in some of the latest thinking in trust and motivation in management theory, read her review of "Formal Control and Trustworthiness: Shall the Twain Never Meet?" by Antoinette Weibel writing in *Group & Organization Management*, a journal that has been affiliated with the EAM in the past.

We hope you enjoy this final issue of *OMJ* in 2008 and we will see you sooner than you think in 2009!