



## Editorial

### Editorial: Tourism Management Perspectives

The journal 'Tourism Management' is now 33 years of age, and much has changed since that journal was initiated by colleagues at Surrey University. It was an age before the internet and search engines, and an age when the North Atlantic English speaking of nexus of North America and the United Kingdom dominated the research in our field. To launch a new journal in 2012 marks an auspicious period. Today over half of the world's population live in urban areas, and according to research conducted by Elsevier, in 2013 China will overtake the United States as the foremost country publishing scientific research results in English, in terms of output. There are 9 billion searches per annum using Google, and today even tourism researchers have become a subject of research as authors analyse 'top research institutions' and journals using bibliometrics that are, themselves, an offshoot of the databases created by the major publishers as they fulfill the functions of (a) permitting authors to disseminate their findings, (b) subjecting those findings to processes of peer review and (c) permitting researchers ever easier access to a literature that can help inform new research. Today the hard copy journal plays a secondary role to the article available on the internet, and slowly researchers are beginning to complement their published articles with additional internet based material that includes additional details such as copies of the questionnaire used, additional statistical data sets where appropriate and video clips that comment on the research process.

During these past 33 years and the above processes 'Tourism Management' has grown significantly and is today distributed to over 7000 subscribers and over 1.2 million downloads of articles occur annually. Once one of only two tourism journals cited by the Thomson's ISI Web of Science, it now shares this distinction with about 35 other journals in a category allocated to tourism, hospitality, sport and leisure, and in consequence has seen its SSCI impact factor significantly increase to be the leading journal by the criterion of the two year SSCI Impact factor. This in itself has attracted yet more submissions to that journal as different countries become enamoured of such measures and require academic researchers to obtain publications as part of acquiring a doctoral degree (as is the case in China), tenure (as in the case of Taiwan) and promotion (as is the case of almost every country) while at the same time some university systems offer staff additional payments for obtaining publications in given lists of journals.

These considerations have led to 'Tourism Management' receiving, in 2011, over 710 submissions. Given that as editor there are always articles under review from the previous year, that has meant that in any given 12 month period almost 750 articles are being reviewed. While the advent of the internet and internet based publishing has

changed the cost structures of journals, most leading journals still would wish to retain acceptance rates that in themselves are symbolic of processes of quality control, and thus over the last two years the acceptance rate of Tourism Management has varied from between 9 to 18 percent on a month to month basis. One practical implication of this process is that papers that once would have been published are now being excluded as the number of submissions has been climbing faster than the numbers being published, and authors are then being faced with further delays to having their research published as they resubmit papers to other journals. Consequently, in spite of the faster publication rates as publishers can now place uncorrected proofs onto the internet, in some instances a period of almost two years may occur before an author attains publication as an author progresses through these process of review and resubmission while simultaneously pursuing their other duties of teaching and educational administration.

It was these considerations that have led to the publication of 'Tourism Management Perspectives'. The journal currently seeks to take advantage of papers that marginally fail to secure publication in 'Tourism Management' and thereby offers those authors an opportunity to secure a publication faster than might otherwise be the case. There are advantages for authors besides simply easing the path towards publication. Like 'Tourism Management', 'Tourism Management Perspectives' is fully supported by Elsevier's leading technology that lies behind ScienceDirect, Scopus and Sciverse and the different 'apps' that these databases support. Consequently the papers published in 'Tourism Management Perspectives' will be easily available to students and researchers seeking information on any given topic. The journal will quickly obtain SciMago Impact ratings and will be subject to the same processes as any other journal for SSCI Impact factor assessment. The editorial board and production team that lead 'Tourism Management Perspectives' is the same as that for 'Tourism Management' and hence the two journals will be subject to much of the same criteria and assessments that have helped the latter journal to its current position as a leading journal.

In short, this, the first issue of the new journal is perceived as a means by which researchers can obtain dissemination of their research through proven processes, while students can be confident that the papers published within the journal are comparable with those published elsewhere.

Christopher Ryan  
 University of Waikato Management School  
 E-mail address: [caryan@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:caryan@waikato.ac.nz).