

A Major Uplift – Recent Developments in REGION

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REGION has undergone various improvements over the last eight months. In January 2022, I took over as a managing editor of REGION and we appointed four associate editors in March. Since then, we have been committed to increase the visibility, quality and reduce the processing time of submissions to REGION. To develop a plan, we analysed the performance of the journal and published a first performance report. We analysed data on submissions, citations, processing times, views, downloads, authorship and readership. The [report](#) is published on our website. Overall, all indicators reflect a positive upward trend of success, attracting a sustainable number of submissions, recording an increasing number of citations and displaying a wide readership and authorship.

REGION is registered with all major indices, except for Web of Science (WoS). In May, we submitted an application to register REGION with WoS. If the application is successful, papers published in REGION will be indexed in WoS. WoS is a key platform as it provides the well know *Impact Factor (IF)* which tends to drive publication, recruitment, funding and promoting decision, despite calls for the responsible and ethical use of academic indicators for evaluating performance ([DORA 2022](#)), and recognition of the limitations of such indicators capturing other areas of academic life ([The PLoS Medicine Editors 2006](#)). We hope that the registration of REGION in WoS will further increase the number and quality of submission as the journal builds a strong *IF*.

We have also installed a plugin to integrate [ORCID](#) identifiers into our online Open Journal Systems (OJS), the open-source software we use for managing REGION. This addition facilitates registration of REGION publications with ORCID which uniquely identifies authors and contributors with the ORCID website increasing the visibility of their academic outputs. Additionally, we added a [Public Knowledge Project \(PKP\) Preservation Network \(PN\)](#) plugin into OJS. This plugin digitally preserves OJS journals by offering long-term archiving of articles published in REGION. Copies of published articles are stored in a decentralised way distributed across various servers, and warranties perpetual access and preservation of original published articles even if the journal is discontinued. Though, of course, this is not our expectation. We expect REGION to continue to build a strong academic profile.

An additional key development is the integration of [iThenticate](#) into REGION's OJS. iThenticate is a plagiarism detection software package and ensures automatic plagiarism checking for all submissions. Finally, we have changed our publication license to comply with the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) ([UKRI 2022](#)). REGION



switched from a CC BY-NC license, which requires non-commercial use of all material published, to CC BY. The latter has become the de-facto standard in open access publishing. This removes any potential disputes about open access publishing which is often a requirement from funding bodies. The change in license also contributes to enhancing the pioneer role of REGION as open access journal in Regional Science, offering an opportunity to publish at no cost for authors.

The developments described above adds to those reported in [Koster, Rowe \(2020\)](#). We are convinced that these enhancements will contribute to the long-term vision of increasing the visibility and quality submissions to REGION.

References

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