

Customs Scientific Journal: recent developments and future plans

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Members of the Editorial Board, Customs Scientific Journal

Introduction

The *Customs Scientific Journal* (CSJ) is published by the University of Customs and Finance in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, on behalf of the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) and Regional Training Centres (RTCs) for the European Region of the World Customs Organization (WCO). The University of Customs and Finance is a member of the International Network of Customs Universities (INCU).

The CSJ is published in English and Russian and since its pilot edition of April 2011, it has established itself as a valuable source of scholarly publications. It now attracts authors from a variety of countries and WCO regions, international organisations, academic institutions and the private sector. As the quality of articles has continued to improve over the past six years, the readership has also increased which is evidenced by the number of citations of papers published in the CSJ.

The Editorial Board has been considering ways to promote the CSJ and improve its academic and scientific standing to become an internationally recognised research platform. At the Inaugural INCU Global Conference 2014 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Editor-in-Chief of the CSJ presented several ideas on how this may be achieved. A number of steps have already been taken in that regard and the purpose of this report is to update the readers of the *World Customs Journal* on recent CSJ developments, and to share the Board's plans and ideas.

Increased online presence

In order to ensure the journal is suitable for, and attractive to, both young researchers/students and established scholars, and to raise its standing and expand its reach, it is essential to have the CSJ included in at least one international scientometric database, such as Scopus, World of Science or Copernicus. After working on the procedural and other formalities required for inclusion into these databases, an application for a preliminary appraisal of the CSJ was submitted to Copernicus database in March 2016.

As part of this process, and to expand the journal's scientific geography and accessibility, a Google Scholar profile for the journal was established (<https://scholar.google.com.ua/citations?user=WUUZufQAAAAJ>). Currently, the CSJ h-index is 2 which, although not very high, shows that papers published in the journal are being cited and, therefore, that the journal is read and known. The CSJ has also been placed on the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform (<http://ccjournals.eu/ojs/index.php/customs>), which is a journal management and publishing system. The OJS provides comprehensive indexing of content, and information from OJS is accessed by all major libraries in the world and scientific databases (<http://ccjournals.eu>). This allows for metadata of papers to be automatically exported to the global library system, WorldCat. Most of the other indices and libraries use the data exchange format adopted by the OJS.

The official bilingual website of the CSJ has been developed (<http://umsfjournal.wix.com/customs-journal>), with the pilot version launched in March 2016. The official website has a nicer look and feel than the OJS platform, but from a scientific community perspective, the Editorial Board feels it is more important to provide access to the journal on the OJS. The CSJ is also available on the websites of the University of Customs and Finance, the WCO European ROCB and the INCU.

Editorial Board changes

The CSJ has established an Editorial Advisory Board to support the existing Editorial Board. The Editorial Advisory Board consists of recognised top-ranking professionals in the field of customs affairs and foreign trade, which helps in promoting the journal and raising its standing in the research community.

Members of the Editorial Advisory Board are:

- Professor Aydin Aliyev – Chairman, State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan; INCU Honorary Fellow
- Dr Zsolt Dezsi – Regional Training Center for the European Region of the WCO, Hungary
- Mr Roger Hermann – Head of the ROCB for the European Region of the WCO
- Professor Aivars Vilnis Krastiņš – Riga Technical University, Latvia
- Mr Oleg Platonov – President, Plaske JSC, Head of the Public Counsel at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine
- Mr Zlatko Veterovski – Regional Training Center for the European Region of the WCO, Macedonia

The Editorial Board is comprised of scientists from different research fields with a citation index measured at not less than 4 (h-index), who specialise in various aspects of customs affairs, foreign trade, sustainable development or other fields.

The new composition of the Editorial Board is as follows:

- Professor Olena Pavlenko (Editor-in-Chief) – Regional Training Center for the European Region of the WCO, Ukraine
- Professor Lothar Gellert (Deputy Editor) – Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences, Germany; INCU Advisory Board Member
- Professor Viktor Chentsov – Chairman, Scientific Council, University of Customs and Finance, Ukraine
- Professor Wiesław Czyżowicz – Warsaw School of Economics, Poland; INCU Advisory Board Member
- Dr Oksana Getman – University of Customs and Finance, Ukraine
- Dr Mikhail Kashubsky – Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, Charles Sturt University, Australia; Head of INCU Secretariat
- Professor Dmytro Pryimachenko – Vice-Rector, University of Customs and Finance, Ukraine

Sub-Editors:

- Dr Olga Triakina – Regional Training Center for the European Region of the WCO, Ukraine
- Ms Tetyana Chukhno – Regional Training Center for the European Region of the WCO, Ukraine

It is anticipated that both the Editorial Advisory Board and the Editorial Board will continue to expand their membership. The Editor-in-Chief is interested in hearing from emerging and established scholars who think they can actively contribute to the CSJ as a member of the Editorial Board.

Another development is that it is now a mandatory requirement for members of the CSJ Editorial Board to have an online researcher profile and/or citation index, such as a Google Scholar profile (all current members of the CSJ Editorial Board have researcher profiles/citation indexes).

Future plans

The inclusion of the journal into scientific databases will help to broaden the readership and authorship of the journal and attract financial resources to support the production of the journal. However, the Editorial Board understands that the inclusion of the journal into scientific databases is not the 'end game'. Further short-to-medium-term plans for the CSJ include attracting more international authors by publishing special/themed issues, expanding the composition of the Editorial Board, establishing a system of cross-citation, introducing new 'Announcements' and 'Advertising' sections of the journal, continuously improving the presentation of the journal, and introducing an online subscription facility.

For further information, please contact the Editor-in-Chief of the CSJ, Professor Olena Pavlenko at o.pavlenko@mail.ru.

