

## LSM Journal Classification System

*This note is approved by the ILSM Board 27/04/2011 for immediate application.*

### 1 Background

The need to create a common classification system was evoked already at the establishment of the LSM centers of excellence in 2007 by the LSM Research Commission, chaired by Prof. Rudy De Winne. The first classification system was based on the journal rankings of CNRS (*Comité National de la Recherche Scientifique*, FR) (section 37) and ABS (*Association of Business Schools*, UK), complemented with adjustments for journals not represented in any of the two and open arbitrage in the case of diverging classifications in the two rankings.

The classification system has been used in the annual research reports for LSM 2007, 2008 and will be applied for Institute ILSM 2009, 2010 and henceforth.

### 2 Objective and scope

The objective of the LSM journal classification system is to provide guidance to members of the institute with respect to orientation for part of their scientific production, to define the priority areas of publishing for the institute and to provide a tool to monitor and manage the quality and volume of scientific publication within Centers and the institute at large.

The scope of the LSM journal classification system is to encompass:

1. All peer-reviewed scientific journals within the field of management, as represented by the scientific orientation of the ILSM centers of excellence.
2. Peer-reviewed scientific conference proceedings in information science.

As the number of potential items is large and increasing, the system is built on a principles for continuous expansion and inclusion of new journals based on verifiable criteria and peer judgment. The scope of 'management' is interpreted widely as far as the primary authorship of an active member of ILSM of an article in a journal is seen as a strong indication that the journal covers a field related to management. Even journals that are not in any of the fields listed by the reference lists used as background sources are considered, but given a lower ranking in management as 'peripheral' journals. This mention is important as it defines the LSM journal classification system in a normative sense towards specific journals in the field of scientific concentration, which is consistent with its use as a strategic instrument to indicate where the Institute aims to make an impact. However, it also means that the system cannot be used for generic assessment of faculty productivity at e.g. a university level. Moreover, the LSM journal classification system must explicitly take into account peer-reviewed journals edited in French in certain disciplines, although these may not always be listed and ranked in the references conventionally used to measure impact and standing. As a consequence, the resulting classification will to some extent be unique and not fully apply to e.g. Anglo-Saxon management schools.

### 3 Criteria

Journal classifications are normally based on (1) peer assessments, (2) citation-based impact scores (e.g. ISI), (3) 'influence' scores (e.g. SJR) and combinations of those. Whereas (1) in principle can rank any journal on an 'absolute' scale, (2) and (3) require indexation of the ranked journal in databases such as ISI (2) or Scopus (3). Although the ranking of 'top-journals' may be less controversial using peer-reviews, the classification of thousands of journals of medium quality in domains such as economics and management is a daunting exercise that is not likely to result in a reliable result. For this reason, we choose to implement a two-stage process for the journal classifications in ILSM.

1. Annual reviews using peer-rankings and revisions.
2. Updates and inclusions using impact and influence scores.

#### 3.1 Annual reviews

The LSM Journal Classification in its entirety is submitted to the Board for annual revisions and adjustments, if necessary, based on analyses made by the Institute or its Centers related to the impact factors of the journals included and/or changes in the ranking for the journals in the underlying ranking systems (CNRS, AERES, ABS, etc). Given its policy importance, this review is essential to the credibility of the classification system. However, revision is prompted only for items that have systematic changes in their importance that could be validated with respect to the underlying criteria, not the possible prevalence of faculty publications in specific journals.

#### 3.2 Updates

The editing of periodic reporting of research productivity, such as the annual research reports, prompts for the establishment of tentative inclusion of journals in the LSM journal classification system. The updates are made based on three criteria; SJR inclusion, field and ERA/ABS ranking.

##### 3.2.1 SJR inclusion.

A journal edited in English is considered an international peer-reviewed scientific journal if it is listed in SJR. A journal edited in French is considered a recognized peer-reviewed scientific journal if it is listed in valid (i) AERES or (ii) ESSEC rankings. A journal not found either in SJR, nor in AERES/ESSEC (French), is not considered as a recognized peer-reviewed scientific journal and is attributed the default ranking 'E'. Journals that are recognized continue for review according to criterion 2.

##### 3.2.2 Management journals : LSM Analogy.

If the new journal is included in SJR (or in AERES/ESSEC for French) in a field that is represented in the LSM ranking ('management science' as defined by the subjects in ABS), then the preliminary ranking will be determined by a conservative estimate using analogy or interpolation, i.e. the new journal will be attributed a ranking that is equivalent or lower to the LSM Ranking of journals above in the relevant SJR (or AERES/ESSEC) ranking.

##### 3.2.3 Peripheral journals : SJR/ERA ranking.

If the new journal is found in a field outside of those represented in the LSM Ranking, the rank will be awarded based on a combination of the SJR and ERA ranks. A journal may receive the ranking B in LSM if it is in the first SJR quartile and ERA 'A' –ranked, journals in SJR with rankings Q2 receive LSM rank C and Q3 or lower LSM rank D. Some consideration is taken also to the field of the journal, meaning that fields clearly outside of any reasonable definition of 'management' are given at most a tentative 'C' ranking.

## 4 Procedure

### 4.1 Application

The LSM journal classification system is maintained and published by the Institute at its webpage. The system is used in internal and external reporting by the Institute, with the obligation to validate tentative rankings by the Board at least annually.

### 4.2 Affiliation requirements

Normally, the Institute members should state the statutory affiliation as 'Louvain School of Management' and optionally their center of excellence. For permanent (affectés) members of the Institute, their scientific production is automatically attributed to LSM from DIAL.

### 4.3 Timeframe

The LSM journal classification system should be revised at most annually to remain stable for normative use.

## 5 Use in faculty evaluation

The Institute provides evaluations of faculty productivity using the LSM journal classification system as one element for the annual faculty reviews (PAI) within LSM. This extract is to be complemented with other material (conference participation and organization, editorial activities, awards etc) by the concerned faculty member.

## 6 Sources

The following public journal classifications have been consulted for this analysis.

- 6.1.1 CNRS (Section 37) Categorization of Journals in Economics and Management. Version 2.1, June 2008.
- 6.1.2 Erasmus Research Institute of Management, ERIM Journals List (EJL) 2006-2008. (with updates 1.1.2009)
- 6.1.3 Tinbergen Institute, Journal List (TL). (<http://www.tinbergen.nl/research-institute/journal-list.php> )
- 6.1.4 AERES (Econ/man), Classement, June 2009.
- 6.1.5 ESSEC Business School, Paris, 2010.
- 6.1.6 Australian Business Deans Council, 2010.
- 6.1.7 ABS (Association of Business Schools), ranking, ver 4, March 2010.
- 6.1.8 ERA (Australian Research Council), final list, 2010.
- 6.1.9 SJR (SCImago Journal and Country Rank), <http://www.scimagojr.com> , access March 2011.



## AI. Tentative rankings 2011

Journal	LSM_Rank	SJR	SJR_Q	Field	
Journal of Visual Languages and Computing	B	SJR	Q1	Linguistics	
Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics	B	SJR	Q2	Appl M	
Journal of Systems and Software	B	SJR	Q2	IS	
European Journal of Mechanics A - Solids	C	SJR	Q1		
Neurocomputing	C	SJR	Q2	AI	
Fertility and Sterility	C	SJR	Q1	Med	
Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment	C	SJR	Q1	Psy	
The American journal on addictions	C	SJR	Q1	Med	
Journal of psychosomatic obstetrics and gynaecology	C	SJR	Q2	Med	
SIAM Journal on Discrete Mathematics	D	SJR	Q2	Appl M	
European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research	D	SJR	Q4	SCM	
Reproductive Biology and Endocrinology	D	SJR	Q1-Q3	Med	
Journal de Gynécologie Obstétrique et Biologie de la Reproduction	D	SJR	Q3	Med	
Le Travail Humain	D	SJR	Q3	IEM	
Psychologica Belgica	D	SJR	Q3	Psy	
IEEE Transactions on Services Computing	D	SJR	Q4	IS	
Scandinavian Actuarial Journal	D	SJR NR	ERA		B
Managing Leisure	D	NOT SJR	ERA		B
Diritto delle Relazioni Industriali	E	NOT SJR	ERA		0
Emac Chronicle	E	NOT SJR	ERA		0
Finance Management - CFO Magazine	E	NOT AERES	ESSEC		0
Gestions Hospitalières	E	NOT AERES	ESSEC		0
Revue Bancaire et Financiere	E	NOT AERES	ESSEC		0
Revue d'Histoire des Sciences Sociales	E	NOT AERES	ESSEC		0
Revue Générale	E	NOT AERES	ESSEC		0
L'Echo	E				
Vers l'avenir	E				