

Editorial

The Early History of Journal Publications

The Assumption University Journal of Technology (AU J.T.) entered the second decade of its existence with the publication of issues 1 and 2 of volume 11. With the Editorial of the third, January 2008 issue of the said volume, the Editorial Office takes a look back to the Renaissance foundations of scholarly journals.

The first literary and scientific journal, *Le Journal des Sçavans* (later renamed *Journal des Savants*), was founded in France 343 years ago. The Editor, using the pseudonym Sieur d'Hédonville, was Denis de Sallo, Sieur de la Coudraye (1626-1669), a French writer. The first number was published on Monday, 5 January 1665, by Jean Cusson, ruë S. Jacques, Paris, France. Pages 1 and 2 contain a contribution entitled, *Victoris Vitensis, et Vigilii Tapsensis, Prouinciæ Bizacenæ Episcoporum opera*, by Pierre-François Chifflet (1592-1682). The electronic version of *Le Journal des Sçavans* is available at URL: <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k56523g>.

The first scientific journal printed in English language, the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London* (or *Phil. Trans.*), was founded in England two months after *Le Journal des Sçavans*. The Editor was Henry Oldenburg (1619-1677), a diplomat and a philosopher. Henry Oldenburg initiated the practice of peer review by sending the submitted manuscripts to competent referees for evaluation. The first volume was published on Monday, 6 March 1665, with the following historic text on its front cover: “*Philosophical transactions: giving some accompt of the present Undertakings, Studies, and Labours of the ingenious in many considerable parts of the world. Vol I. For Anno 1665, and 1666. In the Savoy, Printed by T.N. for John Martyn at the Bell, a little without Temple-Bar, and James Allestry, in Duck-Lane, Printers to the Royal Society.*” The volumes of *Phil. Trans.* are being published to the present day. The term “natural philosophy” is equivalent to the term “science” and the title “philosophical transactions” could be interpreted as “transactions of science” instead. The electronic version of *Phil. Trans.* is available at URL: <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k55806g>.

To the amazement of the modern reader, most of the existing basic aspects of professional writing concerning form and content were implemented since the very beginning in 1665. Concerning the form, one can notice, in particular, the table of contents, the lexicographic sorting, the pagination, even the use of italic style. There was also an effort to provide a self-consistent and verifiable content related to history, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, physics, geology, etc.

Further analysis of academic studies throughout the centuries reveals the never ending pursuit of truth and knowledge despite mistakes and difficulties. The academic community successfully copes with the increasing amount of information and stimulates the creativity of the young scholars.

Nowadays, timely modifications to both form and content of the modern scholarly publications take place due to the systematic contributions to the body of knowledge. The number of scholarly journals increases in order to cover the multitude of academic disciplines and the dynamic updates in science and engineering. The breakthroughs in technology occur at an accelerating rate which poses fundamental technical and ethical challenges. Here the cybertechnology aims to assist the humanity in building a harmonious and peaceful society in a rapidly changing environment.

The Assumption University Journal of Technology was founded in 1997 as an international academic journal which publishes technology related findings related to the research activities of several faculties within Assumption University. There are numerous submissions from other national and international institutions as well. So far, the journal is in its infancy compared to the founders of academic publishing. Realizing that it does take a lifetime to make a worldwide contribution to technology, the journal invites both lecturers and students to submit original articles for review and publication.

Editorial Staff