

Current Status and Plans for Further Development of Acta Informatica Pragensia

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Abstract

The editorial summarizes the development of the Acta Informatica Pragensia journal over the last four years (2019–2022). Thanks to the indexing of the journal in the Scopus citation database since 2019, the journal has not only consolidated its position in Central Europe but also began to build its position in the international community of informaticians. The paper presents Scopus metrics and statistics of submitted and accepted articles for the observed period of four years. Furthermore, it presents Acta Informatica Pragensia in the context of other informatics-oriented journals published in the Czech Republic and indexed in the Scopus or Web of Science citation databases. An overview of the main changes over the given period and plans for the further development of the journal are presented at the end of the paper.

Keywords

Journal; Information; Applied informatics; Editorial board changes; Special issues; Statistics.

In introducing this issue, we would like to summarize the development of the scholarly journal Acta Informatica Pragensia (subtitled *Journal of Social and Business Informatics*) in the last four years and present plans for the future of the journal. In this context, we would like to follow up on Mildeova et al. (2018), who summarized the development of the journal in previous years. Currently, Acta Informatica Pragensia is a peer-reviewed journal that uses the Diamond Open Access model of sharing scientific knowledge — that means **fully open access, no fees for authors or readers, free English proofreading**. The journal has regional roots with a core community of scholars from Central Europe. The journal covers a broad range of topics dealing with the social and business aspects of informatics. In European understanding, the term informatics is a broad computer-oriented area with many interdisciplinary and application intersections. Therefore, this understanding of informatics mainly includes the following computer-oriented areas from the US perspective: computer science, information science and information systems.

A key moment in the last four years was the successful indexing in the international citation database Scopus at the end of 2019. In 2022, 215 journals from the Czech Republic are indexed in Scopus in all disciplines or areas of research.

Citation: Smutny, Z., & Mildeova, S. (2022). Current Status and Plans for Further Development of Acta Informatica Pragensia. *Acta Informatica Pragensia*, 11(2), 149–151. <https://doi.org/10.18267/j.aip.191>

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According to the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) indicator, Acta Informatica Pragensia is in 110th place. 105 journals published in the Czech Republic are indexed in the Web of Science citation database, including the Emerging Sources Citation Index (Acta Informatica Pragensia is not yet indexed there).

In terms of journals published in the Czech Republic, Acta Informatica Pragensia is one of the few informatics-focused journals indexed in any of the world's leading citation databases, Web of Science or Scopus. In Scopus, only seven journals¹ with a Czech publisher are indexed in the Acta Informatica Pragensia indexing areas² (and only two can be found indexed in Web of Science). Acta Informatica Pragensia has been indexed in Scopus for only three years. In addition to the newly indexed *European Journal of Business Science and Technology* (indexed since 2020), the other informatics-focused journals published in the Czech Republic have been indexed in Scopus for more than nine years. Acta Informatica Pragensia does not yet have complete data for all indicators, i.e., four years of consecutive data are needed for SJR and CiteScore indicators, and its current metrics are therefore not yet fully comparable with other journals.

In more than 10 years, the journal has become a recognized publication platform not only for informatician scientists in the Czech Republic, but also in the world. Regarding thematic focus, Acta Informatica Pragensia is the only computer-focused journal with a broad interdisciplinary focus on social and business areas published in the Czech Republic. In this regard, the journal has a privileged position in the regional context. Thanks to the indexing in Scopus, the numbers of submitted and accepted articles have increased. Table 1 presents the basic statistics since 2019.

Table 1. Basic statistics of article processing in the last four years.

Year	Accepted and published articles**			Refused articles **		Total number of articles submitted	Total number of citations of articles published in the given year according to Crossref database ****
	Absolute number	Numbers according to article types***	Share of total submitted	Absolute number	Share of total submitted		
2019	6	A:6	35.3%	11	64.7%	17	15
2020	14	A:11; M:3	20.6%	54	79.4%	68	19
2021	23	A:16; R:4; M:1; E:2	20.4%	90	79.6%	113	7
2022*	10	A:7; R:1; M:2	13.2%	66	86.8%	76	5
Total	53	A:40; R:5; M: 6; E:2	–	221	–	274	46

Notes: * As of 31 July 2022, only one issue has been published; ** It includes all article types: Article, Review and Miscellanea; *** Article types are A=Article, R=Review, M=Miscellanea, E=Editorial; **** Only citations from publications with a registered Digital Object Identifier or DOI (these are mostly journal articles). The total number of citations is higher.

The mean acceptance rate from all submitted manuscripts for the last four years is only 22.4%, and the mean rejection rate is 77.6%. If we focus only on peer-reviewed papers (article types: Article and Review), the mean acceptance rate is even lower, 17.3%, and therefore, the mean rejection rate is 82.7%.

A total of 177 articles were published from 2012 to mid-2022. Google Scholar has recorded a total of 490 citations for these articles, of which 298 were obtained from 2019 to mid-2022. Unfortunately, the disproportion of published articles in individual years (see Table 1) is negatively reflected in the citation indicators in the Scopus database, which is why the journal has a low SJR (2021, Q3 is the best quartile) = 0.153, and CiteScore (2021) = 0.8. This will have a negative impact on these metrics in 2022 and 2023 as well. For this reason, we want to keep the number of published articles between 20 and 30 articles per year in the coming years.

¹ These are the journals: *Neural Network World*, *Kybernetika*, *Masaryk University Journal of Law and Technology*, *Journal of WSCG*, *Mendel*, *Acta Informatica Pragensia*, *European Journal of Business Science and Technology*.

² This is primarily the area of computer science (and all its subcategories) and further specific categories of library and information sciences and management information systems.

In addition to the aforementioned indexing of the journal in Scopus, it is appropriate to review the other changes regarding the functioning of the journal that have taken place in the past four years. Thanks to financial support from the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, Prague University of Economics and Business, we have been able to provide English proofreading for accepted articles since the beginning of 2019. The aim of this step has not been only to increase the quality of published articles, but also to motivate potential authors to submit a quality manuscript (we have limited financial resources for this service, so we have to choose the best papers). For the purpose of better electronic publishing with the possibility of individual printing of the article, we changed the graphic layout of the articles in 2021.

At the personnel level, individual sections of the editorial board have been expanded with new members. On 1 January 2022, after ten successful years at the head of the journal, Stanislava Mildeova handed over the position of editor-in-chief to Zdenek Smutny, who had been working for the journal since 2012 and was at its birth with other colleagues.

We are delighted that scholars from other universities are involved in creating Acta Informatica Pragensia. Since the summer of 2022, we have cooperated with Charles University (Institute of Information Science and Librarianship), whose scholars are now in charge of the "Information Science" section of the journal. Adela Jarolimkova is the head of this new section. Currently, the core of the journal comprises scholars from four universities that collaborate on the preparation of the journal – Charles University, Prague University of Economics and Business, University of Finance and Administration, and University of Pardubice.

Also due to the use of the word *Pragensia* (Prague, the so-called heart of Europe) in the title of the journal, we would like to expand the editorial board to include other scholars from Central Europe. In this context, we plan to open new thematic sections (focused on other aspects of informatics or other domain-applied informatics) and involve other universities in the preparation of the journal. At the same time, we would like to make the journal attractive to readers and contributors from all over the world. We currently offer free unique services to authors (the first decision in approximately one month, fully open access with digital object identifier, no fees for authors, free English proofreading for accepted articles) to support quality research and academic activities. We hope that we will be able to maintain the free open access model in the years to come.

In this direction, we want to continue to strive for international cooperation in the preparation of special thematic issues that will focus on current trends and challenges. We hope that this approach will bring the journal greater awareness in research communities around the world and an increase in prestige, as quality research articles also bring citations in prestigious journals. In the coming years, we would like to obtain and maintain Q2 in Scopus according to SJR in all categories and newly obtain indexation in Web of Science.

We want to thank everyone who has supported the journal with their work. Acta Informatica Pragensia is created thanks to the tireless work of dozens of academics and researchers who serve the informatician community, mainly as reviewers and editors. Their voluntary activity is without the right to a fee. At the end of this editorial, we would like to remember Stanisław Wrycza (1949–2022), who was a member of the editorial board of Acta Informatica Pragensia (section Information Systems Development). He was an important representative of business informatics in Poland and Central Europe (Wikipedia, 2022). We honour his memory.

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Acta Informatica Pragensia is published by Prague University of Economics and Business, Czech Republic.

ISSN: 1805-4951
