

Expanding New Niche for DRJ: Evolution of an institutional Scholarly Publication

EMILY S. ANTONIO

Editor in Chief, Davao Research Journal,
Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology, City of Mati,
Davao Oriental, Philippines drj.editor@gmail.com



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ABSTRACT

The Davao Journal (DRJ) is in a transition period of expansion in its scope, types of manuscript accepted, manuscript preparation, and ethical standards. This expansion aims to cater more diverse manuscripts in various disciplines both in Natural Science and Social Science, while ensuring high quality and ethically-sound published papers. The evolution of DRJ is needed to survive challenging times.

Keywords: DRJ, institutional, scholarly publication, niche expansion, evolution

Historical Background Of DRJ

The DRJ has evolved from Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology (DOSCAST) Research Journal that was published from 1998 until 2006 with seven volumes and an ISSN number of 0119-7754 (Table 1). In the year 2012, DOSCAST Research Journal was changed to DRJ with a new ISSN number of 2244-4432. Since then, this is the fourth volume of DRJ, but is the 11th volume since DOSCAST Research Journal. To date, there is a total of 64 papers published in various fields, the highest of which is in Life Science (21) and Agriculture (18, Table

2). After two decades and 10 volumes, DRJ has evolved into a multidisciplinary institutional journal of DOSCST, catering research manuscripts in Agriculture, Life Science, Health Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Information Technology, Education, Social Science and Humanities as well as Business and Governance. There is an urgent need for manuscripts on Health Science, Engineering and Information Technology (Table 2).

Table 1. The historical publication of the institutional research journal of Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology.

Year	Volume	Name	ISSN Number	Published Papers
1998	1	DOSCST Research Journal	0119-7754	8
1999	2	DOSCST Research Journal	0119-7754	7
2000	3	DOSCST Research Journal	0119-7754	6
2001	4	DOSCST Research Journal	0119-7754	5
2002	5	DOSCST Research Journal	0119-7754	5
2003	6	DOSCST Research Journal	0119-7754	7
2006	7	DOSCST Research Journal	0119-7754	5
2012	8	Davao Research Journal	2244-4432	6
2013	9	Davao Research Journal	2244-4432	8
2014	10	Davao Research Journal	2244-4432	4
2015	11	Davao Research Journal	2244-4432	3
Total				64

Table 2. Scope and number of published papers in Davao Research Journal.

Scope	Published Papers
Agriculture	18
Life Science	21
Health Science	0
Mathematics	4
Engineering	0
Information Technology	0
Education	6
Language	3
Social Science	6
Business and Governance	6
Total	64

Finding new niche and setting boundaries

In this eleventh volume, DRJ is officially opening its doors for papers on Language written either in English or Filipino. The expansion of DRJ's scope will encourage linguists and researchers working on the any aspects of the diverse

languages of the Philippines to publish their works. The DOSCST recently hosted a monument called Bantayog-Wika for the Mandaya language, the native language by the indigenous Mandaya tribe of Davao Oriental. The inclusion of Language as one of the thematic scopes in DRJ is not only ringing bells for social scientists to actively study, document and publish about the Mandaya spoken and unspoken language and traditions, but also for the rest of the 135 ethno-linguistic groups in die Philippine. Although there were already 3 published in DRJ on

the Mandaya language (Table 2)³⁴⁵, obviously, there are a lot more to study about the Mandaya language and tradition before they will be forgotten and become extinct⁶. Moreover, there are three other researchable ethnic groups in Davao Oriental: the Ka'gan (also known as Kalagan), Tagakaolo and Manobo.

This journal is inaugurating the publication of its newest types of accepted Editorial manuscripts: *Technical Reports, Policy Briefs, Letters and Commentaries, Viewpoints, Book Reviews and Editorials*. In the previous 10 volumes, DRJ published mostly Research Papers (57) and few Notes (4). In the advent of the advance and fast paced research, many international journals have evolved to cater manuscripts that do not have succinct discussion and in-depth citation of related literatures but have enough information, description and explanation of the data at are of utmost important to the target readers⁸⁹. The timely publication of such information, used as strong scientific evidence for crafting of government policies and management strategies, has huge impact to society. Moreover, there is a rapid accumulation of unpublished data due to various reasons such as sudden abortion of a research project, author's in-availability to write a thorough Research Paper, or just lack of sense of urgency or motivation to write.

Writing is not for everyone, let alone publishing a peer reviewed paper. Although published papers are prerequisite for a Professorial rank in the Philippine Higher Education¹⁰, the of published papers by Filipino scholars has grown very slowly in the past years relative to other Asian counterparts¹¹. Therefore, DRJ is innovating and is accepting several types of manuscripts such as *Technical Reports* that have an in-depth experimental detail, data, and results and are usually produced to report on a specific need. Second, the first Policy Brief paper is published in this issue. Policy Briefs are concise summary of a particular issue that can help readers understand and likely make decisions about government policies. Letters and Commentaries are essays on critical observations on current professional issues and social problems. On the other hand, Viewpoints are the reader's professional critique on a published paper in DRJ and the author's reply. Such papers intend to stimulate dialogue within the profession and promote constructive competition. Finally, Book Reviews and Editorials are added to provide venue for profound analyses of a book, an important issue or self-evaluation of DRJ itself.

A change in the manuscript preparation is introduced in the *Instructions to Authors*. The reference list in the Literature Cited will follow a simplified APA (American Psychological Association) style. This change has been decided by

the Editorial Board so as to facilitate novice authors who are more familiar with the APA style. Although the published papers in this volume still follow the old style of referencing, authors who are planning to submit their work in DRJ should consult the most recent Instructions to Authors for details prior to manuscript submission. Included in the *Instructions to Authors* is the section on Ethical Responsibilities of the Authors. Starting next year, DRJ will ask the corresponding authors to comply a document on the Ethical Background of the Study during submission of a manuscript. This journal is acknowledging the importance of upholding the Ethical Standard of each and every published paper.

Challenges

In the light of the emergence of social media and big data, small institutional scholarly publications such as DRJ becomes less popular both authors and readers. To avoid extinction, DRJ needs to innovate and expand its niche. Starting with this volume, DRJ will evolve into a more modern and better-quality journal. The outside md inside appearance will have more stylish look. The expansion of DRJ's scope and types of accepted manuscripts aims to attract authors from different fields of hard-core Science and soft-bound Social Science. Finally, an online publication of DRJ will make way for internationalization and getting listed in leading citation databases. Like bamboo, DRJ needs to survive harsh environment by being flexible yet upholding quality papers.

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