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Management Strategies of Journal of Sport and Applied Science*

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Abstract

Purpose: This study is to develop managerial implications for JSAS for advancing to highly qualified journal and achieving its goals. Furthermore, the study sought to deduce implications of ethical issues of JSAS and to generate insights and future directions for JSAS management. **Research design, data and methodology:** This study employed a qualitative approach to review the current status of JSAS including its aims, managerial strategies and ethical systems. The study discussed ethical issues about fake journals and predatory journals to analyze the current states of JSAS's ethical system and to compare with each other. **Results:** Results indicated that JSAS has abided ethical requirements of common journals and established strict criteria, yet it should continuously observe blind peer-review systems to avoid unnecessary risks of being perceived as predatory journals. The rigorous ethical obedience will help JSAS to effectively perform its managerial strategies and to achieve its goals: Increasing submissions, inviting prestigious scholars to board member, and advance to high quality of journal. **Conclusions:** Continuous efforts of JSAS for ethical management is the most effective method to move to a high qualified international journal with reputation in academia. With the consideration of Korean journal society, ethical studies need to be further conducted.

Keywords: JSAS, Management Strategies, Ethical Issues, Predatory Journals

JEL Classification Code: M12, M31, Z10

1. Introduction

Journal of Sport and Applied Science (JSAS) is an official and public journal published by the Korea Sports Science Association (KSSA). JSAS is an international peer-reviewed journal, which is devoted to original research analysis on various aspects of sports and applied sciences (Korea Sports Science Association, 2020). The journal covers various disciplines, including philosophy,

psychology, sociology, management, economics, exercise physiology, medicine, anatomy, biomechanics, and other interdisciplinary views. JSAS is an open access journal that aims to facilitate practitioners, researchers, and scholars to continue to explore, examine, and resolve diverse issues of sport and to share knowledge with both academia and industry. JSAS publishes both quantitative and qualitative findings as well as scholarly commentaries, book reviews and other types of reports relating to all aspects of sports. JSAS is published quarterly (March, June, September, and December), and the articles are available on JSAS online at <http://www.kjsas.or.kr>.

This study is to develop managerial implications for JSAS for advancing to highly qualified journal and achieving its goals. For this, the study reviewed the current status of JSAS including its aims, current managerial strategies and ethical systems. In particular, the study discussed ethical issues about fake journals and predatory journals to analyze the current states of JSAS's ethical

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system and to compare with each other. The following sections cover overview of JSAS, managerial strategies and ethical issues of JSAS, and future implications for JSAS.

2. Review of JSAS

Journal of Sport and Applied Science (JSAS) is an official and public journal published by The Korea Sports Science Association (KSSA). JSAS is an international peer-reviewed open access journal covering original research analysis on various aspects of the sports and applied sciences (Korea Sports Science Association, 2020).

2.1. Aims and Scope

JSAS seeks to build prestigious academic platforms where international sport scientists present their academic achievements and interact with others. The mission of JSAS is to bring the latest theoretical and empirical findings of sport and applied sciences. In specific, the journal aims to facilitate practitioners, researchers, and scholars to continue to explore, examine, and resolve diverse issues of sport and to share knowledge with both academia and industry. The journal covers various disciplines, including philosophy, psychology, sociology, management, economics, exercise physiology, medicine, anatomy, biomechanics and other interdisciplinary views.

2.2. Manuscript Types

Journal of Sport and Applied Science (JSAS) is an open access journal that publishes empirical, theoretical, and review articles focused on diverse areas of sport. Submissions should be written in either English or Korean. JSAS is a quarterly publication and all articles are peer-reviewed by a minimum 3 referees. JSAS publishes the following types of papers: regular articles, short communications, and reviews.

Regular articles: Regular article should include new and/or scientifically investigated findings, and research methods should be given in sufficient detail or others to verify the work. Articles should be 5,000 - 7,000 words long to describe and interpret the work clearly.

Short Communications: A Short Communication is suitable for recording the results of complete small investigations or giving details of new models, innovative methods or techniques. The style of main sections does not need to follow that of full-length papers. Short communications should be much shorter, usually 1,000 - 3,000 words long.

Reviews: JSAS also encourages authors to submit reviews and perspectives covering topics of our current

interest. Reviews should be concise, usually 2,000 - 4,000 words long. Submissions are also peer-reviewed.

2.3. Editorial Board

JSAS 's editorial board members consist of experts with exceptional achievement in the field of sport science and related areas. Each board member plays a role as a subject editor according to their expertise. Due to covering a various sub-fields of sport sciences, JSAS continues to invite international scholars to participate in the editorial board. Current board members are as follows.

Table 1: Editorial Board of JSAS

Editorial Board	
Editor-in-Chief	<p>Won Jae Seo, Ph. D. Department of Sport & Outdoors, Eulji University, Seung-Nam, South Korea. Email: wonjaeseo@eulji.ac.kr <i>Sport Sociology, Sport Management</i></p>
Editorial Board	<p>IL-Young Kim, Ph. D. Lee Gil Ya Cancer and Diabetes Institute, Department of Molecular Medicine, Gachon University School of Medicine, South Korea. Email: iykim@gachon.ac.kr <i>Sports Medicine, Excercise Physiology</i></p>
	<p>Jung Woo Lee, Ph. D. Moray House School of Education and Sport, ISPEHS, University of Edinburgh, UK. Email: J.W.Lee@ed.ac.uk <i>Sport Sociology</i></p>
	<p>Seungmo Kim, Ph. D. Department of Sport Education, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong. Email: kims@hkbu.edu.hk <i>Sport Management</i></p>
	<p>Taeyeon Oh, Ph. D. Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management, The University of Mississippi, USA. Email: toh@olemiss.edu <i>Sport Management</i></p>
	<p>Xin Ye, Ph. D. Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management, The University of Mississippi, USA. Email: xye1@olemiss.edu <i>Excercise physiology (fatigue, motor unit control and neuromuscular physiology)</i></p>
	<p>Jarrod D. Schenewark, Ph. D. Department of Sport Science, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, USA Email: Schenewark@tarleton.edu <i>Sport Management, Sport History</i></p>

Source: Journal of Sport and Applied Science website (2020)

2.4. Managerial strategies of JSAS

In the 2020 International forum on business convergence (IFBC2019), JSAS declared its mission and goals to advance as a highly qualified journal and presented four major strategies to achieve them (Seo, 2020). This subsection reviewed the presentation of JSAS to gain insights for JSAS’s future directions.

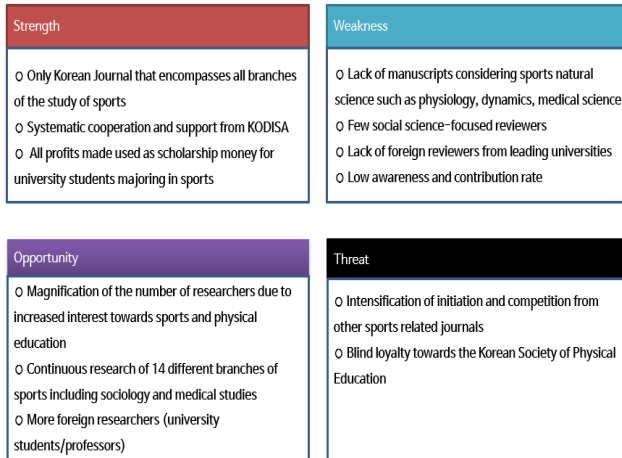


Figure 1: SWOT of JSAS

To start with JSAS’ strengths, JSAS is the only journal that encompasses all branches of the study of sports. By embracing other unnoticed branches of this study, JSAS can increase and enhance knowledge with other aspects and insights. Another strength is that JSAS plans to use its most profits into scholarship funding for graduate students. Hopefully, many students and scholars will be encouraged by this funding and be encouraged to submit their quality studies to JSAS.

Despite having these strengths, JSAS has a few weaknesses on its side. Although JSAS may stretch out to many sub-studies of sports, it still lack works of natural science which includes physiology, dynamics and medical science. JSAS also lack reviewers who are mainly focused on natural and applied science, not to mention international reviewers from leading research institutions. But most critical of them all, there is very low awareness and contribution rate to JSAS.

To fortify these weaknesses, JSAS must take advantage of certain opportunities. JSAS tries to invite researchers of various specialties, as well as foreign researchers. Additionally, JSAS will continue to receive qualified research on the different branches and aspects of sports, which include sociology and medical studies.

Unfortunately, JSAS has potential threats to keep in mind. Continuous academical success of JSAS will provoke other

sports related journals to initiate and compete with JSAS. Therefore, JSAS needs to show consistent results.

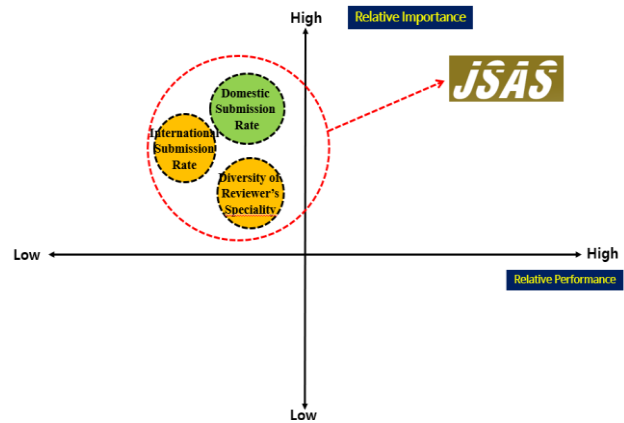


Figure 2: IPA of JSAS

To advance toward prestigious journal, both domestic and international submission rates are important. As shown in the graph, JSAS is still struggling to collect quality articles from our field. This is because JSAS has only been created three years ago and therefore is not an indexed journal yet. To increase submission rates and encourage prominent scholars to participate in the JSAS board, JSAS need to promote its academic potential and aspiration, giving a sense of pride for the participants including future authors and reviewers. Regarding promotional activity, JSAS should continue to establish rigorous ethical-criteria and abide by it. Ethical challenges will be discussed in the next section.

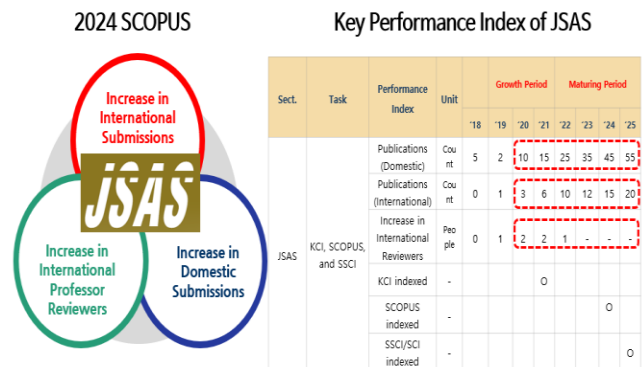


Figure 3: Goal of key Performance Index

JSAS has established the goals for increasing submission rates and participation rates. As presented in the figure, JSAS looks forward to the increase in both domestic and

international submissions as well as international reviewers. Also, presented on the chart, JSAS seeks to have KCI indexed by 2021, SCOPUS by 2024, and SSCI by 2025.



Figure 4: Operational Strategy of JSAS

For next year's strategy, JSAS has presented four major strategies: recruitment of reviewers, promotions of both international and domestic publications, and extension of regular academic conferences. First, JSAS will recruit qualified international board members by spreading its mission and ambition, which contribute to supporting the future of sport science society. Second, JSAS will encourage authors to submit their quality studies. For this, JSAS will continuously develop its official website, its contents, and online-submission system for international authors. Third, JSAS will actively participate in KODISA's conferences to develop its ability of hosting and managing an international conference for JSAS. This will provide an opportunity to interact with potential future board members and authors.

3. Ethical Management of JSAS

JSAS provides ethical guidance for authors. Prior to submitting a manuscript, the guidance assists them to deal with critical issues concerning publication ethics, malpractice, and editing and other potential issues.

3.1. Submission Declaration

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published seminar, lecture or academic thesis), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all

authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere including electronically in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the copyright-holder. Each submission must contain "Submission Declaration Statement" in its cover letter as follows: "We hereby confirm that the manuscript has no any actual or potential conflict of interest with any parties, including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence or be perceived to influence. We confirm that the paper has not been published previously, it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and the manuscript is not being simultaneously submitted elsewhere."

3.2. Conflict of Interest

All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work.

3.3. Copyright

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a "Journal Publishing Agreement Form" of the Publisher (for more information on this and copyright see <http://www.JSAS.or.kr>). Acceptance of the agreement will ensure the widest possible dissemination of information. An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a "Journal Publishing Agreement Form" or a link to the online version of this agreement. Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article.

3.4. Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice

The journal is committed to upholding the highest standards of publication ethics and takes all possible measures against any publication malpractices. All authors submitting their works to the journal for publication as

original articles attest that the submitted works represent their authors’ contributions and have not been copied or plagiarized in whole or in part from other works. The authors acknowledge that they have disclosed all and any actual or potential conflicts of interest with their work or partial benefits associated with it. In the same manner, the journal is committed to objective and fair double-blind peer-review of the submitted for publication works and to prevent any actual or potential conflict of interests between the editorial and review personnel and the reviewed material. Any departures from the above-defined rules should be reported directly to the Editors-in-Chief, who is unequivocally committed to providing swift resolutions to any of such a type of problems. Further to the above, the journal is following the highest standards of publication ethics and the Code of Conduct for Journal Editors. By joining and supporting the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) the journal will help support the ethical imperative in promoting publication ethics and providing advice for editors and publishers (<http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>).

3.5. Ethical Issues of JSAS

As discussed above, JSAS established rigorous-ethical requirements to avoid conflicts of interest and it is operating systematical peer-review via ACOMS.com. Even though JSAS has rigorously managed its ethical issues for peer-review and publications, it is still important to be cautious to avoid risk of being perceived as predatory journals. Eaton (2018) presented a clear overview of the topics of predatory journals and questionable conferences and advice on how to avoid them. She conducted electronic searches manually using Google and Google Scholar. Search terms included predatory journals, predatory publisher, predatory conference, questionable conference and vanity conference. In this research, Eaton (2018) discussed common characteristics of a predatory journal (table 2).

Table2: Traits of a Predatory Journal

	Traits	JSAS
Predatory journal	Are not linked to or run by a credible scholarly, academic or technical society or association	Running by KSSA
	Do not receive public (e.g. government) funds or grants.	N/A
	Send spam e-mails.	Sending email for call for paper

Brag about the high quality of the journal, which can include false claims about journal metrics and where it is indexed.	Non-promotional marketing
Features an editor-in-chief who also edits numerous other journals, from a variety of different disciplines.	Sole EIC for JSAS only
Make false claims about where the journal is indexed	Does not claim where JSAS is indexed
Promise fast publication.	JSAS abides peer-review system of its publication criteria
Promise an easy peer-review and process.	JSAS abides peer-review system of its publication criteria
Have titles very close to those of highly respected legitimate journals, with only subtle modifications.	JSAS is its unique title of journal
May include the words, “International”, “World”, “Global” or “Universal” in the title.	JSAS does not include any word “International”, “World”, “Global” or “Universal” in the title
Claim to be based in major cities (e.g. London or New York), when they are really published somewhere else.	JSAS and KSSA have been based in single city (Seung-nam, South Korea)
Make it difficult to find out who manages the journal.s	JSAS declare EIC’s affiliation and his information

Source: Modified from ‘Avoiding predatory journals and questionable conferences’ (Eaton, 2018)

In similar vein, National Research Foundation of Korea (2019) reported precaution against predatory journals. As shown in table 2, NRF analyzed types of fake journals: Hijacked journals, predatory journals, and mass publication journals. In a similar vein, cautions about predatory journals and conferences have been frequently analyzed and discussed in previous studies, providing ethical implications for academia (Berger, 2017; Eaton, 2018; Fitzpatrick, 2015; Harvey & Weinstein, 2017; Kurt, 2018).

The study reviewed JSAS and analyzed its current ethical status by comparing with fake journals and normal journals. As shown in table 1, 2, and 3, JSAS has established ethical

regulations and systems according to ethical criteria commonly required in academia.

Table 3: Fake Journal Types

Types	Traits	JSAS
Hijacked Journals	Using similar prestigious journal names to confuse authors	JSAS has its own journal name
Predatory Journals	Seeking only monetary compensation for publication	JSAS does not charge any fees for publications
Mass publication journals	Publishing numerous articles in a single volume	JSAS is publishing few qualified studies in a single volume

Source: Modified from 'Avoiding predatory journals and questionable conferences' (Eaton, 2018)

Table 4: Comparison of Fake Journals and Normal Journals

	Fake Journals	Normal Journals	JSAS
Peer-review	No peer reviewing / Inadequate peer reviewing	Require peer reviewing at least 4 weeks	Require peer reviewing at least 4 weeks
Marketing	Hostile marketing	Non-promotional marketing	Non-promotional marketing
Information of EIC and board members	Shady, usually not listed on website	Listed clearly on website	Listed clearly on website
Academic scope	Various studies	Specific studies	Specific studies (Sport)
Charging process	Charging via E-mail	Displayed on official website	Displayed on official website

Source: Modified from 'Avoiding predatory journals and questionable conferences' (Eaton, 2018)

6. Conclusions

This study discussed management strategies of JSAS. With reviewing the mission of JSAS and its current managerial activities, its ethical issues were also discussed by reviewing publications about predatory journals, predatory publisher, and predatory conference. Results indicated that JSAS has abided ethical requirements of common journals and established strict criteria, yet it needs to continuously observe blind peer-review systems to avoid unnecessary risks of being perceived as predatory journals. The rigorous ethical obedience will help JSAS to effectively perform its managerial strategies and to achieve its goals: Increasing submissions, inviting prestigious scholars to board member, and advance to high quality of journal. To conclude, continuous efforts of JSAS for ethical management is the most effective method to move to a high qualified international journal with reputation in academia.

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