



## Editorial

I feel rather proud as I write this editorial for the second hard copy collective volume of Engineering, Technology & Applied Science Research. This book includes all issues published in 2013, the third year of operation for our journal. When we first began in 2011, we aimed to launch a journal for researchers from researchers. We were all active researchers with experience from various journals that cover different research areas, follow different policies and are published by different houses. We had all acted as authors, reviewers and even editors (in some cases) for several journals. Therefore, a wide view of the peer-reviewing system and of the various practices followed was available. A strong idea about the weaknesses and the characteristics that an “ideal” research journal should, at least, NOT have was also available due to our collective experience. Therefore, we tried our best to avoid having the major shortcomings that annoyed and disappointed us when dealing with other journals and at the same time make sure that the basic positive characteristics were fully adopted. Fast and accurate review and publication, thorough copyediting, internationality, open access and transparency, low charges, timely response and willingness to work with authors and reviewers in order to produce the best possible result were the basic elements that we wished to characterize our journal.

The quality of published papers is of course a stand-alone proof for our review and copyediting procedure. However, the feedback we get from authors and the fact that we have authors returning to our journal or proposing it to their colleagues are also strong indications that we are on the right path and that our efforts do not go unnoticed. Number wise, we feel rather satisfied by reporting a fall in the mean time from submission to the end of the review process from 34 days (for 2011-2012) to 32 days (for 2013). On the other hand the period from submission to publication rose from 54 to 86 days but this was mostly due to certain delayed payments. Our acceptance rate fell from 56% (2011-2012) to 47.4% (2013). It is also worth noting that ETASR was one of the journals that declined a bogus paper submitted to 255 OA journals (60% of them accepted it), as a part of a “sting” operation that gained much publicity in 2013, even though the concept, process, conclusions and motivation of this sting (and of the publicity around it) are highly questionable. I am personally happy to also announce that our always growing database currently includes 400 reviewers (out of 3470 registered members) and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them and our editorial board (currently consisting of 45 people from 40 institutions and 20 countries) for their voluntary contribution of time and effort.

The last year also gave us the opportunity to give something back to the community by sponsoring some events and, most importantly, by becoming a Publishing Member of DOAJ. We decided to include info and links for these and other facts (mostly indexing sites that include ETASR) to the newly added INDEXING & LINKS page in our site. Another page added in 2013 was DATA & STATISTICS, which aims to openly provide statistics and data descriptive of our journal’s operation (overall and per year). In terms of numbers, in 2013 we published 42 different papers written by 110 different authors from 23 different countries and 51 institutions/organizations. The corresponding numbers for the sum of the three years of operation are: 97 published papers, 231 different authors, 34 countries and 104 institutions/organizations..

We welcome 2014 with our second hard copy volume and some more changes in our site and journal, including a revised template, in our constant effort to provide the best possible result for our authors and readers. Looking forward for another exciting year of interaction with all ETASR members.

Dionisios Pylarinos  
ETASR Editor-In-Chief

