Positioning Sport Management Journals for Future Impact

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In a recent report commissioned by the North American Society for Sport Management (Chalip et al., 2014) examining the landscape of sport management journals, a total of 97 journals were identified as supporting the community of sport management scholarship. Nine journals were identified as providing comprehensive coverage of the field including the Journal of Sport Management, European Sport Management Quarterly and Sport Management Review. Another five were identified as covering sport marketing and media, four covering economics, finance and operations, with the rest covering sport and the law (18), sport policy and development (2), school and university sport (7), teaching (3), leisure and other combinations with sport management (10) (i.e., Managing Leisure), and 37 covering areas relevant to sport consumer behaviour (i.e., sociology, psychology, history. It was concluded “that the field is flooded with journals, which is to the field’s detriment as the field is balkanized and its journals are low impact” (Chalip et al., 2014).

With the prospect of more journals emerging in the field it is timely to consider how existing journals central to the field should seek to position themselves during the next decade. This challenge is directly relevant to journal editors and professional associations and their individual members responsible for establishing the strategic direction for their journals.

This session is dedicated to an examination of how sport management journals contribute to the intellectual properties of the field, and therefore impact. It will also consider how those journals defined as ‘comprehensive’ (i.e., JSM, SMR, ESMQ) should be positioned to maximize impact during the next decade. Scope of journal content and coverage will be a focus in this discussion. Impact as it relates to shaping intellectual thought internal and external to the field will also be examined, as will the importance of journal rankings and the politics of journal rankings generally.

A panel of current and former editors will discuss the key issues as it relates to positioning sport management journals for future impact during the next decade. Audience interaction will be a feature of this session, with audience participation encouraged via questions to panel members.