

35th Anniversary Special Issue | Building an Academic Journal that Supports Research on Chinese Scientific and Technical Journals –Postprint Written on the Occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the Founding of Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals

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Abstract

In February 1990, an academic journal devoted specifically to issues concerning Chinese scientific and technological journals—China Scientific and Technical Periodical Research (hereinafter referred to as Periodical Research)—was officially launched, providing an academic communication platform owned by Chinese periodical professionals themselves. The journal is supervised by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and jointly sponsored by the Editorial Research Society of Natural Science Journals of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the Periodical Research Society) and the National Science Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Periodical Research was founded by senior experts including Yan Jingxia, who successively served as deputy editor-in-chief, editor-in-chief, and honorary editor-in-chief, making an indelible contribution to the establishment and development of Periodical Research. As early as 1985, she had participated in initiating and organizing the Editorial Research Society of Natural Science Journals of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, advocating the integration of journal and society, thereby laying a solid foundation for the coordinated development of the Periodical Research Society and the journal.

Over the past decades, Chinese scientific and technological journals have made great strides: the gap with leading international journals has been narrowing, journal-running capabilities have been continuously strengthened, journal influence has been steadily enhanced, and the academic research capacity in editing and publishing has improved in parallel. Editors have written a large number of articles, either as in-depth summaries of journal-running experience (best practices) or as forward-looking reflections on problems in journal development (the-

oretical refinement). As Periodical Research, it is our responsibility to publish these excellent papers so that they can be shared within the journal community and stimulate further research or practical application.

Full Text

Building an Academic Journal to Support Research on Chinese Scientific and Technical Periodicals: On the 35th Anniversary of the Founding of *Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals*

In February 1990, *Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals* (hereinafter referred to as *Journal Research*) was officially launched as a dedicated academic journal for studying Chinese scientific and technical periodicals—an academic exchange platform belonging to Chinese journal professionals themselves. The journal is supervised by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and co-sponsored by the CAS Natural Science Journals Editors Association (hereinafter referred to as the Journals Association) and the CAS Documentation and Information Center. *Journal Research* was founded by pioneers including Yan Jingxia, who successively served as Deputy Chief Editor, Chief Editor, and Honorary Chief Editor, making indelible contributions to the journal's establishment and development. As early as 1985, she participated in initiating and establishing the CAS Natural Science Journals Editors Association, advocating for the integration of journal and association, which laid a solid foundation for the collaborative development of the Association and the journal.

Following Chief Editor Yan's retirement, Zhang Xiaolin and Zhang Wei, leaders from the Documentation and Information Center, have served as Chief Editors since 2013. As Director of the Editorial and Publishing Center and Executive Deputy Chief Editor of the journal, I have been responsible for the final review of manuscripts, assisting the Chief Editors in maintaining quality control. With support from the Journals Association's Secretary-General meetings, *Journal Research* transitioned to a monthly publication schedule in 2014 and introduced a digital office system, enabling rapid online review among authors, reviewers, and editors and facilitating immediate release through the journal's digital platform. These innovations substantially improved review efficiency and publication speed. Simultaneously, through strict quality control and enhanced multimedia dissemination, the journal's status and influence have grown, achieving a remarkable transformation to digitalization and shorter publication cycles while maintaining quality.

Journal Research is rooted in the needs of scientific journals and their editors, striving to build an academic journal that supports research on Chinese scientific and technical periodicals. Its fundamental positioning is that of a core professional journal conducting comprehensive research on the academic theory and practical innovation of scientific periodicals. Its content orientation empha-

sizes academic foresight, theoretical systematicity, application standardization, and practical guidance. Its functional orientation focuses on leading academic frontiers, promoting academic exchange, guiding professional practice, and cultivating specialized talent. Our editorial philosophy is: integrating journal and association for collaborative development, prioritizing academic quality with practical foundations, combining technique and principle in pursuit of excellence, and maintaining reality-based forward-looking planning.

Over the past decades, China's scientific and technical journals have made considerable progress, narrowing the gap with world-class journals, strengthening operational capabilities, continuously enhancing influence, and simultaneously improving scholarly research capacity in editing and publishing. Editors have authored numerous articles offering either deep summaries of editorial experience (best practices) or forward-looking reflections on journal development issues (theoretical refinement). As *Journal Research*, we have a responsibility to publish these outstanding papers, share them across the journal community, and stimulate further research and practical applications.

The journal has been indexed in multiple authoritative core journal databases and was included in the PubScholar open academic platform, earning broad recognition for its quality and influence. In CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure), the journal's composite impact factor reached 3.381 and its comprehensive impact factor 2.967 (2024 edition), ranking among the top journals in its category. In 2024, the acceptance rate was 15.4% with 222 articles published. Additionally, 54 papers from the journal were selected for the "Top 100 High-Impact Papers on Journal Digital Development Research."

As a journal dedicated to studying periodical issues, *Journal Research* leverages its professional sensitivity to capture topics representing domestic and international trends in journal publishing, strengthening academic judgment with particular emphasis on both the "technique" and "principle" of journal operation. In topic planning and manuscript selection, we focus on: standards and construction of world-class scientific journals; the role and influence of Chinese and Chinese-language scientific journals; open publishing and policy issues in open science; the impact of new-generation technologies such as artificial intelligence on journal publishing; the relationship between preprints and journal publishing; the think tank function of scientific journals and its implementation mechanisms; publishing models for data papers and data journals; data intelligence, semantic publishing, and knowledge services in journal publishing; publishing ethics centered on responsible research; and reforms in the orientation of academic evaluation and journal assessment.

The journal's topic selection is based on: national needs and policy orientations for scientific journal publishing; practice-based research grounded in empirical cases; academic research centered on project-based studies; topics from National Social Science Foundation, Ministry of Education, and other funded projects; and academic and application innovation. Topic requirements include: supporting and advancing the national strategy for high-level scientific and technological

self-reliance; addressing current and future major needs of China's scientific journal enterprise; 致力于 better satisfying the needs of authors, readers, academia, and the industry; studying effective approaches to enhance journal operational capabilities and academic influence; and promoting the transformation from editorial experience and cases to theoretical scholarship and think tank outputs. This journal welcomes manuscripts with strategic height, academic vision, theoretical literacy, research methodology, solid foundation, practical grounding, realistic significance, and long-term value. We do not welcome mere experience introductions without generalizability, simple tool applications lacking in-depth analysis, foreign case introductions without lessons or inspiration, or empty generalizations lacking substantive content. In my final review, I particularly favor articles with practice, insights, data, analysis, height, foresight, novelty, and highlights.

Journal Research currently has 93 editorial board members, and a youth editorial board of 26 members was established in April 2024. In addition to writing, reviewing, and recommending manuscripts, board members actively participate annually in various academic activities organized by the journal, including the "Academic Journal Publishing Research and Paper Writing Seminar," co-organizing the China Association for Science and Technology's "Science and Technology Journals Development Forum" call for papers section, and the "Expert Forum on Quality Construction and Evaluation of Academic Journals" brand event. Board members are also invited to provide annual topic guideline recommendations. The journal maintains close interaction with the Journals Association, including participating in the Association's annual conference activities and the topic planning and publication of research project results. Since 2022, the editorial office has organized internal and external forces to interview and publish profiles of 17 "journal figures," sharing the inner worlds of leading editors during their editorial journeys.

Meanwhile, *Journal Research* attaches great importance to standardization construction, particularly in formulating editorial and publishing policies. The journal has successively released multiple publishing policies, including the "Open Access Publishing Policy Statement" (2013), "Publishing Ethics Statement" (2020), "Preprint Policy Statement" (2022), "Policy on Submission and Sharing of Paper-Related Data" (2022), "Policy Statement on AI-Generated Paper Content" (2023), and "Regulations on Authorship" (2024).

Journal Research has traversed a significant 35-year journey. I have served as Executive Deputy Chief Editor for 12 years since September 2013. I extend special thanks to the CAS Natural Science Journals Editors Association and the CAS Documentation and Information Center for their strong support of *Journal Research*, to successive Chief Editors for their trust and support, to the editorial board and reviewers for their quality control, to authors and readers for their appreciation of our work, and to the Journals Association Secretariat and editorial office for their dedicated commitment. Our predecessors have laid an excellent foundation, and we have a responsibility to carry on the legacy

while continuously innovating. As someone active in both information resource management and journal publishing, I have applied theories and methods from library and information science and transplanted some practices from founding journals such as *Library and Information Service* and *Think Tank: Theory & Practice* to *Journal Research*. In my heart, I always maintain a sense of responsibility and mission: the responsibility to build an academic journal that supports research on Chinese scientific and technical periodicals, and the mission to promote the innovative development of Chinese scientific journals and China's scientific enterprise.

The journey for *Journal Research* remains long, particularly requiring greater care, attention, support, and assistance from all parties to achieve the shared cause of advancing Chinese scientific and technical journals toward world-class status.

Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

Source: ChinaXiv –Machine translation. Verify with original.