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The Significance of a New Peer-Reviewed and Scholarly Journal for the Sport Management Profession

William F. Stier, Jr.



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He currently serves as the editor of three academic journals: *International Journal of Sport Management*, *The Physical Educator*, and *ICHPER-SD Journal of Research*.

It is indeed a great personal and professional pleasure to be able to recognize and endorse the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Sport Administration & Supervision* as well as to share a sincere expression of thanks and appreciation to its founder, publisher and editor. This journal joins a select few other journals (*The Applied Research in Coaching and Athletics Annual*; *International Journal of Sport Management*; and *Sport Marketing Quarterly*, for example.), in providing authors opportunities to share current, significant, timely, readable and understandable research and conceptual articles for those scholars and practitioners within sport management profession.

It is important to note that this new journal fills an important void and meets an equally important need in the professional literature in several respects. **First**, it is a vehicle that has as its stated purpose the dissemination of timely, meaningful and important (scholarly and practical) knowledge in the professional literature. **Second**, the journal will be an outlet that is both grounded in academic theory and driven by the needs of academicians, practitioners and the environment in the sport industry*.

Third, this scholarly research-based journal is based upon an *open-access concept*. That is, it is to be published/disseminated in such a format (i.e., housed within the University of Michigan Library Scholarly Publishing Office) that it will be freely and immediately

available and accessible to all, worldwide, as an on-line scholarly journal, via the WWW. And, **fourth**, this journal is to be based on a phenomenological approach (the study of distinct phenomena, ideas and events) to knowledge within the field of sport management.

I can remember being a doctoral student and having one of my professors, decades ago, espouse the opinion that a scholarly (professional) journal that is only read by a mere few doctoral students and/or by the author(s) themselves is not truly a meaningful or significant publication. Neither is a journal which has such a limited view of what is scholarly or which has a narrow or prejudicial opinion that only a certain type of research design or super statistical approach is worthy of being published, in the opinion of my mentor. And, finally, this outstanding scholar also indicated that true and respected scholarly journals should not be a place for a small clique of self-serving individuals who perpetuate their own affiliation with the publication with like-minded individuals. Whether these thoughts/opinions are correct or not should be determined by members of our profession as they consider reading and contributing to various journals, including this one.

I, for one, am inclined to learn toward the argument that scholarly, peer-reviewed journals should be judged by the quality and usefulness of the articles that are published rather than

merely by the names of the authors, the so-called sophistication of the statistics used or the complexity of the research design.

It should also be noted that there can be no more important role or responsibility within a profession than serving as a GATEKEEPER relative to the scholarly literature that supports the profession such as sport management. Toward this end, a whole host of competent and qualified professionals are involved; publishers, editors and reviewers are required. Of course, one cannot forget about authors and researchers who submit their scholarly work for blind review. A profession, such as sport management, cannot survive either in academia or in the marketplace without the existence of a scholarly based literature upon which all (scholars and practitioners alike) can draw upon in the course of their day-to-day work. It is vital that a profession have scholarly journals that disseminate, on a timely basis, meaningful, insightful and useful articles that are read, understood and that can help advance the knowledge base of the profession and also advance the practical aspects of the profession within the real work, the actual marketplace which we all live.

It is important to note that this journal is not merely a journal suited exclusively for junior scholars or for new or inexperienced practitioners to share one's research efforts. Likewise, it is not a journal that only junior scholars or less experienced practitioners will

find useful and worthwhile to read, understand, integrate; and, possibly utilize. Instead, the *Journal of Sport Administration & Supervision* will be an important and respected scholarly, peer-reviewed journal for all scholars and for all practitioners, both experienced and those new to the profession.

It is also noteworthy that the editorial review board consists of experienced and respected professionals in our field as well as highly regarded and successful practitioners out there in the real world of sport management. The value and worth of any scholarly, peer-reviewed journal rests in the role that the editor and reviewers play as well as the quality and usefulness of the articles that are submitted, accepted and published within the journal—whether it is an on-line journal or one that produces a hard copy. The first two requirements, that of having excellent editors and reviewers, have been met. What remains is to have appropriate, timely and scholarly manuscripts submitted for review and possible publication within the *Journal of Sport Administration & Supervision*.

In this respect, the *Journal of Sport Administration & Supervision* is on the right track and has done all that could be expected in terms of instituting and publishing a highly respected, peer-reviewed, scholarly journal. Those who have been instrumental in its creation and in its day-to-day operation are to be congratulated.