

Preliminary activity report 2014 Mechanical Sciences

Just Herder, Nima Tolou, Amin Barari, Andreas Müller

General information

Mechanical Sciences (MS) is an open access journal that was launched in August 2010, and is published by Copernicus Publications GmbH, Germany (www.mechanical-sciences.net; ISSN: 2191-9151; eISSN: 2191-916X; <http://www.mech-sci.net>). Particular objectives include the ambition to be a platform for young researchers worldwide to obtain publishing opportunities and gain editing experience.

Since 2011, the journal is officially affiliated with IFToMM. An MoU is in place and will be renewed every four years. The IFToMM community is encouraged to make use of the journal whenever appropriate, bearing in mind that eccentric papers will also be considered. In particular, thematic issues based on IFToMM activities or events are welcomed.

Main achievements 2014, up to Sept 12

MS obtained was indexing in Scopus in 2013. This year it was announced by Thomson Reuters that MS is accepted for ISI indexing. This is considered important especially for the visibility of the journal. A first reference to an MS paper in Science has appeared.

Andreas Müller (Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China) joined the Executive Editors team. He has already been very active as Guest Editor and it is a great enrichment for the team. Also Huafeng Liu (Imperial College, London, UK) joined as Supporting Editor.

MS entered its fifth volume. The following table shows the distribution of papers over the issues.

Year and volume	Regular issues	Pages	# articles
2014, Vol. 5	2	29-58 (so far)	3 (so far)
	1	1-28	5
2013, Vol. 4	2	251-356	9
	1	1-250	17
2012, Vol. 3	2	49-93	4
	1	1-47	6
2011, Vol. 2	2	139-225	10
	1	1-137	16
2010, Vol. 1	1	1-42	6

The following special issue is being published in 2014:

"Design of medical devices: creative solutions by young researchers"

Eds. N. Hanumara, D. Brouwer, W. Durfee, and P. Iazzo

Another special issue on selected papers of EUCOMES 2014 is scheduled for 2014/2015.

Prospects

Maintaining high-quality standards will remain a key feature of the journal policy. Now that ISI indexing is achieved, a strategy for starting to charge authors fees will be implemented, which is timely as the NWO grant is nearing exhaustion. To this end, a foundation will be established to emphasize the not-for-profit nature of the journal. Any revenues will be invested in the journal, e.g. to waive authors fees for authors from low-income countries.

Statistics

The publisher provided some detailed information over the past year (2013) as follows:

Submitted papers (2013):

	2013 Papers	2012 Papers
Total	31 -3.1%	32
Regular Papers	17 (54.8%) +54.6%	11
Special Issue Papers	14 (45.2%) -33.3%	21

Papers published (2013):

MS				
	2013		2012	
	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages
Total	31 (+210%)	390 (+328.6%)	10	91
Regular Papers	2	18	5	51
Special Issue Papers	19	372	5	40

These figures show that from a fair amount of regular submissions, only few actually get published.

	Average	Median	Min	Max
Submission to Decision for Publication (days)	109	98	46	338
Submission to Topical Editor Assignment (days)	10	4	0	47
Editor Assignment to Initial Decision (days)	1	0	0	15
Number of nominated Referees	7	5	3	31
Number of agreed Referees	3	3	2	4
Number of Referee Reports	2	2	2	4
Referee Call to Referee Agreement (days)	4	2	0	28
Referee Agreement to Referee Report (days)	26	27	0	91
Last Referee Report to Decision for Publication (days)	56	53	0	192
Topical Editor Assignment to Decision for Publication (days)	99	85	41	312

The figure above learns that the average time between submission and publication is around 100 days.

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Main achievements 2013

MS obtained indexing in Scopus. This is very important for the journal's visibility and is a good step towards ISI Thompson Reuters indexing, which will be applied for in the next year.

MS entered its fourth volume. The following table shows the distribution of papers over the issues.

Year and volume	Regular issues	Pages	# articles
2013, Vol. 4	2	251-356	9
	1	1-250	17
2012, Vol. 3	2	49-93	4
	1	1-47	6
2011, Vol. 2	2	139-225	10
	1	1-137	16
2010, Vol. 1	1	1-42	6

Several special issues were published in 2013:

- Advances in compliant mechanisms: theories, tools and applications, by Guest Editors G. Hao, H. Su, and Y. Li. (19 articles)
- Recent advances and current trends in numerical multibody dynamics by Guest Editors A Müller, O. Brüls, B. He, A. Jain, and A. Tasora. (18 articles)

Awards in the form of Delft Blue tiles were issued as follows:

- Best Editor 2012: Andreas Müller
- Most cited article 2012: Lazarov, B. S., Schevenels, M., and Sigmund, O.: Robust design of large-displacement compliant mechanisms, Mech. Sci., 2, 175-182, doi: 10.5194/ms-2-175-2011, 2011. This article was cited 8 times (Thomson Reuters).

Article metrics were introduced: for every paper, the number of views and downloads are registered and made available for the public via the journal website. The counters start in 2013.

Prospects

Maintaining high-quality standards will remain a key feature of the journal policy. Aiming at ISI indexing, a steady flow of regular submissions will be strived at, even though special and thematic issues will remain important.