

Two Words on the Way to 2008

Dear Authors, Editors and Referees

Page budget. This year we have published seven regular issues instead of six, and one Special Issue, i.e. a supplement. Nonetheless, even two additional issues could not comprise the number of articles to be published. Therefore, we had to additionally extend the regular page budget (64 pages per issue) of each edition. Without the Special Issue of 80 pages, we published a total of 564 pages, whereas the regular budget would have yielded 448 pages. So we have 116 pages in excess that we had offered for free.

On the one hand, this is an indicator that the scientific credibility of Int J LCA is high, which we note with great pleasure. This is also an indicator for the effectiveness of our Subject Editors and Associate Subject Editors. On this occasion, we would like to express our gratitude to them for their dedicated work.

On the other hand, this positive indicator has the negative consequence that remunerations and costs are not well balanced. With the first issue in 2008, it will not be possible to extend the regular budget of 64 pages per issue. The significant impact of this action means that the peer-review process has to be handled even more stringently, and that we must request our authors to restrict the maximum length for their articles to 8 printed pages. If you need more space, please apply the two- or three-part approach, right from the beginning.

Impact Factor. Even if we doubt that the Impact Factor is an objective indicator for the quality of a journal, we have to live with it. The significant impact of this insight means that we must try to not only sustain the current level but to further increase it. Int J LCA had a slight decrease in the Impact Factor for 2006 (from 1.483 in 2005 to 1.420 in 2006). The reason is twofold:

1. For one it is the high number of articles per year, which influences negatively the quotient '*number of citations : number of published articles*', and
2. on the other hand it is the low number of so-called 'self citations', i.e. citations from the journal itself by our authors.

Dear Authors, it should be a matter of course, **for the sake of your own paper**, that you search for relevant articles in the journal that you have selected to be your publication forum. You can search in the Subject Index (www.scientificjournals.com/sj/all/Search), in the Author Index (www.scientificjournals.com/sj/all/AuthorIndex), in the back issues (www.scientificjournals.com/sj/lca/issues) and, not to forget, in the OnlineFirst list (www.scientificjournals.com/sj/lca/onlineFirst).

Moreover, there is the following aspect that plays a significant role: Int J LCA is a **self-containing** journal. It is entirely devoted to LCA, the majority of LCA articles appears here, and therefore, who else could reference papers from this journal if not you, our authors?

almut.heinrich@hjr-verlag.de and walter.kloepffer@t-online.de