

EDITORIAL

Impact

Evaluated from its first issue, in the seventh year of apparition European Journal of Science and Theology receives the first impact factor calculated by the Institute for Scientific Information Thomson Reuters. By the time when this issue is prepared for printing the value was not officially released but in June you will surely know it.

Last year, NSD, the Norwegian responsible for the register of scientific journals, series and publishers listed already a DBH factor 2 and an ISI impact factor of 0.17 for EJST in the period 2005-2009 (www.uhr.no/download.php?objectId=7716).

Delft University of Technology announced an impact score of 1.18 in 2009. Also in 2009, the Romanian Ministry of Education released an adjusted relative impact factor of 1 for our journal. Based on a variety of impact factors the specialists from University of Barcelona calculated a Secondary Diffusion Composed Index (ICDS) for the journals from the field of Humanistic Sciences in 2009 (<http://miar.ub.es/consulta.php?issn=1841-0464>). On this list, the European Journal of Science and Theology is granted a 3.5 factor.

Turkish university libraries consider EJST belonging to the group A journals among those from Social Sciences.

The interest for our work at the journal increased each year from its apparition, fact proved by the website traffic statistics (Figure 1), our readers coming from more than sixty countries. Among these countries, the readers from Romania are obviously on the first place (more than 70%). USA used to have the second place in this ranking (special thanks to Dr. Alfred Kracher from Iowa State University for his promoting activity), lost in favour of Greece this year. UK, Germany and Norway (the efforts performed by Professor Einar Strumse must to be mentioned here) were always on this top. It deserves to be mentioned here the increased interest shown by India, who reached the third place this spring, proving the good work done there by our regional editor – Dr. Manzoor Shah.

According to last years' data, despite the fact that we do not have a regional editor there yet, countries from South America occupied a high position in our statistics. I do suspect that the duplex transmission made at ECST X, from Barcelona, under the management of Manuel Doncel and his team, had a very important role on bringing closer the two continents, Europe and South America, on Science & Theology.

Among cities, Iasi is obviously on the first site, followed by Bucharest and Athens (thanks to Professor Linos Benakis and the other two Greek editors).

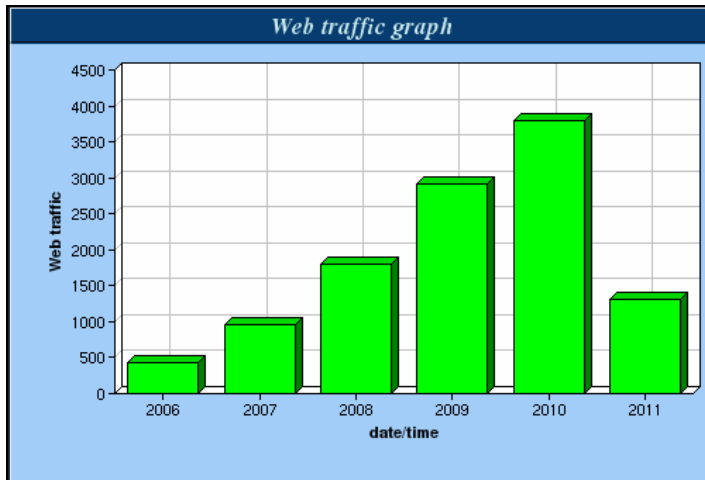


Figure 1. Web traffic at the journal's site (www.ejst.tuiasi.ro).

However, the dissemination results wouldn't reach this level without the continuous effort made by our editor in charge with the website, Professor Rodica Diaconescu, and by her assistant - engineer Liviu Tambris.

A very important direction of our journal is represented by the Religious art restoration and conservation. I must to mention here the work made by two of our editors – Professor Nicoleta Melniciuc and Dr. Mihail Liviu Craus. Apart of the refereeing and promoting activity, Professor Nicoleta Melniciuc, with the devoted aid of her husband Fr. Dr. Ilie Melniciuc, has organised every two years the European Symposium of Religious Art Restoration and Conservation

The impact factor we have is not very high, BUT WE EXIST (!), despite the 'corrosive' conditions I had to manage the development of European Journal of Science & Theology. However, I think that the price of this impact factor was too high. A few weeks before finding out that she was cancer ill, my wife told me: "It is true that you suffered a lot of humiliations all this period but do you know what God will give to you in order to repay this?" I answered: "What could He give to me? I lost, at least, several of my best years that I shall never recover." Now, after almost two years, I have an answer to the rhetoric question of Alice Antonela. As a reward, God gave to me more and much harder humiliations to carry on. But, in this entirely messy situation, I found out that there still are some humans on Earth. I received unexpectedly many really touching e-mails (and felt the prayers) from people I never knew: readers, authors, referees and editors that made me cry much more than I did before. I can't make a list with all of them, but I deeply appreciated the moral support granted by Professor Edward Joseph Alam (a colleague, a friend and a brother), Professor Milan Dimitrijević (always at a heart beat distance), Professor Cornel du Toit (the first one who answered to my desperate appeal) and Professor Javier Leach with his entire team from Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

In fact, which is the real impact that the European Journal of Science and Theology has? Why, such important state and Church structures made efforts in order to stop or change the journal's original aims? Maybe, some of you asked

yourselves why I didn't quit all this totally unexpectedly dangerous enterprise, which is the publication of a Science and Theology journal in a post-communist country.

When I was in England, in 1997, in order to prepare my lectures on Inorganic Chemistry, I was taught that you never know who, when or how someone will use the results of your study. Therefore, you need always to make an honest and correct academic work. And this was what I have done with my work at EJST. On the other hand, I made a promise in front God that I shall do my best to keep running this journal [1]. And when I had to choose between the fear of people and the fear of God, I preferred the fear from people. It was a hard way, but it has impact.

Initially, I thought that such a journal was highly needed in the Europe of the communist epoch in order *to open widely the eyes* (to paraphrase the title of a movie) of those for which God and science were almost equivalent notions. But it seems that even now is not yet too late. The people don't change over the night, neither for good nor for evil. "For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.' So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" (Psalm 95.10, 11)

Furthermore, in the near future Science and Theology will have much often and increasingly harder clashes, if we speak justly and *just about* carbonaceous meteorites and impacts... [2]

These are only a few reasons that waked up of such a high manner the interest for the impact of the European Journal of Science and Theology and lead to the continuous persecution of me and my family.

This year, God, as a theologian would say, or the planets, as an astronomer would say, made Easter coincided for all Christian denominations, while the Jewish Pesach is celebrated once again on Tuesday – the Holly Week. I repeat my message [3] that maybe the time has come "to declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; when the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD" (Psalm 102.21, 22), and this before the increasingly frequent earthquakes or other tragic events get totally out of scale.

Dr. Iulian Rusu

References

- [1] I. Rusu, Eur. J. Sci. Theol., **1(1)** (2005) 1.
- [2] R.B. Hoover, Journal of Cosmology, **13** (2011), available at <http://journalofcosmology.com/Life100.html>.
- [3] I. Rusu, Eur. J. Sci. Theol., **6(2)** (2010) 1.