

INTRODUCING JUPTRR: A NEW KIND OF ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

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Welcome to the first issue of the *Journal of Unconventional Parks, Tourism & Recreation Research* (JUPTRR). We hope you share in our excitement about the launch of this new venue for publication of leisure research.

JUPTRR is designed as a resource for educators, professionals, and students in recreation, parks, and tourism. As with all academic journals, manuscripts accepted to JUPTRR provide research that contributes to the body of knowledge in a field. What makes this journal unique is the focus on unconventional methodologies and topics.

Many top-tier journals have limited space for strictly theoretical manuscripts, topics that may be considered "edgy," or research that focuses on smaller populations. Even when those manuscripts are accepted, it may take months or years before they are published through traditional channels.

While opportunities to publish in academic journals continue to expand, many still find it difficult to publish or, more importantly, have their research read (Stokowski, 1999). As a free online resource, JUPTRR is accessible to anyone with interests in leisure research. In the first issue you will find an exploration of prostitution as leisure, a study measuring wisdom and values of teens in a service-learning environment, another examining the benefits of half-day challenge course participation on leadership and work efficacy, and a theoretical model of experiential andragogy.

The journal adheres to standard academic practices whereby all research manuscripts go through a blind, peer-review process. We are slightly unconventional in that submissions are sent to two associate editors and one "tyro editor" for review. A tyro is someone new to an activity or learning a skill, and the tyro editor designation includes doctoral students and recreation practitioners. Based solely on the first

issue, the acceptance rate for JUPTRR is 33%. This is comparable to other academic journals in the field. The editor of *Schole* reports a 33% to 38% acceptance rate over a three-year period; *Leisure Sciences* has a 20% to 25% acceptance rate; and the *Journal of Leisure Research* has an 18% to 20% acceptance rate.

Traditionally, as acceptance rates for journals decline prestige increases. The downside is that fewer researchers are able to publish. Gaa, Moiseichik, and Marx (2006) analyzed articles published in the *Journal of Leisure Research*, *Leisure Studies*, *Leisure Sciences*, *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, and *Schole* from 2002 to 2004. They found that an elite group of 16 researchers, primarily from doctoral/research institutions, wrote or co-wrote 98 of the 297 articles (33% of the total). Over the three-year period, these 16 researchers published an average of 6.13 articles in the five journals analyzed. This is in stark contrast to the 366 of 451 authors who only published once.

We want as many people involved in JUPTRR as possible. To that end, we have recruited 55 associate editors and 22 tyro editors to review manuscripts. The editors represent nearly 60 universities, colleges, and agencies in the United States, as well as Australia, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, New Zealand, and Taiwan. We are committed to JUPTRR being a well-respected outlet for theoretical or empirical research while providing a venue that is open to unique methodologies or presentations of that research.

Without the assistance of key individuals the *Journal of Unconventional Parks, Tourism & Recreation Research* would never have made it from a great idea to publication. We would like to extend thanks and appreciation to:

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JUPTRR will be published electronically twice a year – fall and spring – with submission deadlines of February 15 and August 15. Applied researchers, first-time authors, practitioners, graduate students, and researchers with a sense of exploration are encouraged to participate.

REFERENCES

- Gaa, J. A., Moiseichik, M., & Marx, A. C. (2006). Professional journal research: An analysis of five leisure research journals and who is publishing in the field of recreation. *Schole*, 21, 35-45.
- Stokowski, P. A. (1999). Trophy hunting in the shadow of the castle keep. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 31(2), 189-191.