
Editorial

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The *International Journal of Shipping and Transport Logistics (IJSTL)* was launched in 2009 with the aim of providing an international research forum on shipping and transport logistics. Despite its brief history, *IJSTL* has been accepted for tracking in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) under the categories of 'management' and 'transportation' since 2010. Recently, we are excited to note from the newly released ISI Journal Citation Reports (JCR) by Thomson Reuters that *IJSTL* secured an impact factor of 1.00 in 2010. It is quite an accomplishment for a nascent journal to become an SSCI journal in such a short period of time and to have attained a relatively high impact factor in the maiden round of compilation of the measure. No doubt this achievement is the result of the hard work and contributions of the authors, the anonymous referees, the editorial board members, the editorial team, and last but not least, the publisher.

To celebrate this great news, we are pleased to provide free access (<http://www.inderscience.com/www/info/epicks.php?find=ijstl>) to the following highly cited *IJSTL* articles:

- Roe (2009) provides discussion of how governance in the maritime sector may hold the key to the failures that have been identified and how it may need to adapt to meet the demands of a new postmodernist environment.
- Lun and Quaddus (2009) investigate four shipping markets and explain how these markets affect one another by empirically testing the relationships among the key variables in shipping (i.e., prices of ships, fleet size, freight rate, and seaborne trade).
- Laulajainen (2009) discusses the physical setting, traffic potential, route options, and political issues of the Arctic Sea Route.
- Lun and Browne (2009) provide empirical evidence to address the issues of scale operations and service scope in the container shipping industry, and introduce the 'SCOPE' framework, which consists of the dimensions concerning service frequency.
- Wong et al. (2009) attempt to examine the complementarities in the philosophical emphases of information systems management and supply chain management, investigate how they could complement each other, and provide illustrative case examples on the performance implications of alignment and misalignment in their implementation.
- Lun and Cariou (2009) empirically develop a reference for terminal operators to evaluate their operational performance and propose the 'PROFIT' framework, which is useful for container terminals to manage their terminal operations and development.
- Saranen et al. (2010) enhance knowledge on the transportation strategies employed in international lean oriented supply chains involving developing economies.
- Lun et al. (2010) examine how the factor and product markets are related to organisational capacity and firm performance in the container shipping industry.

The submission rate to *IJSTL* has been increasing continually. We are especially pleased to see that the quality of the submissions has also improved significantly. Due to the

journal's listing on the JCR, the number of submissions is expected to multiply in the time ahead. Hence, more focused and intense work will be required for the sustained development and growth of the journal. In this connection, we present the following messages from our editors:

- **Shipping:** The shipping section of *IJSTL* looks for research papers that combine methodological rigour with practical value aimed at improving the practice and management of shipping business and operations. In the shipping literature, there has been growing interest in exploring efficiency enhancement and service betterment over the last decade. For example, topics such as the use of technology to enhance shipping security, the deployment of new and bigger vessels, and strategic alliance of liner shipping companies have received enormous research attention. Associated with the globalisation trend is burgeoning international trade volume, which calls for the deployment of larger ships, which need to source for more cargoes to fill. The emergence of intermodal transport and the growing environmental awareness of the international community have also led to immense changes in the management and operation of the shipping industry. Papers addressing the following issues are particularly welcome and encouraged for the shipping section of *IJSTL*: technological adoption for shipping management; environmental issues in shipping; shipping and intermodal transport; strategic alliance and relationship management in shipping operations; container positioning in liner shipping; transshipment and the development of the hub-and-spoke structure in shipping; risk analysis of shipping operations and infrastructure; analysis of scale economy in shipping operations; international trade and shipping; shipping market analysis; shipping security; shipping service quality and measurement; and strategy for managing shipping operations.
- **Transport logistics (empirical):** The goal of the transport logistics section of *IJSTL* is to publish original empirical research that builds and advances theory, and contributes to transport logistics practice. We appreciate empirical research concerned with all the aspects of transport logistics, including such major topics as container terminal and port development, security management, sustainability, logistics and supply chain management, and others. While *IJSTL* disseminates theoretical and managerial insights to serve a broad readership comprising academics and practicing managers in the fields of shipping and transport logistics, we look for empirical research that is conducted with rigour in research design and methods. All empirical research methodologies, including surveys and case studies, are welcomed.
- **Transport logistics (modelling):** This section of *IJSTL* aims at promoting original research in the quantitative modelling of important and relevant transport logistics issues and publishing significant findings that advance the knowledge frontier and practice of transport logistics. We invite all kinds of methodological contributions to transport logistics and their applications. Papers on strategy, network design, algorithmic design, modelling, data analysis, complexity analysis, simulation, and implementation focusing on the key issues of transport logistics are welcome. Papers that are interdisciplinary in nature in terms of content or in terms of research methodology are particularly encouraged. Originality, significance, and clarity of logic and application are the main criteria for selecting papers for publication.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the referees and editorial board members for their time and efforts, which have helped uphold the standard and raise the quality of the published papers. We also thank the contributing authors for making available their valuable works for publication in *IJSTL*.

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