
Review

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The *International Journal of Shipping and Transport Logistics (IJSTL)*, established in 2009, is an international peer-reviewed journal with the focus on shipping and transport logistics research. Since 2010, the *IJSTL* has recorded in the *Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)* and listed with an impact factor in the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* from the *ISI Web of Knowledge*.

The aim of the *IJSTL* is to publish research outputs that have managerial and policy relevance on shipping and transport logistics, in particular, those that require empirical or mathematical analysis with managerial implications. As of the end of 2015, over 200 papers authored by academics worldwide have been published in the *IJSTL* in totally 34 published issues. Various issues related to shipping and transport logistics have been covered, including shipping and logistics operations, intermodal transport, port and terminal management, green shipping, innovative technologies for shipping management, and regional planning and maritime policies, etc.

Among all these topics, *IJSTL* published 16 special issues between 2009 and 2015 with the purpose of providing a forum for researchers to address specific topics in the field of shipping and transport logistics in greater breadth and depth. The following list summarises all the special issues published from 2009 to 2015.

- 1 Sustainable shipping and transport logistics in developing economies edited by Charbel José Chiappetta Jabbour, Ana Beatriz Lopes de Sousa Jabbour, Geng Yong, and Manoj Kumar Tiwari (Jabbour et al., 2015)
- 2 Managerial complexity in shipping and port markets edited by Francesco Parola and Pierre Cariou (Parola and Cariou, 2015)
- 3 Advances in low-carbon logistics management edited by T.C. Edwin Cheng, Feng Chen, Shouyang Wang, and Guowei Hua (Cheng et al., 2015)
- 4 Shipping, intermodalism, and ports edited by Athanasios A. Pallis and Ioannis Theotokas (Pallis and Theotokas, 2014)
- 5 Shipping, ports, and airports edited by Xiaowen Fu and Chung-Lun Li (Fu and Li, 2014)
- 6 Security of transport and intermodal supply chains edited by Khalid Bichou and Michael G.H. Bel (Bichou and Bell, 2014)

- 7 Forecasting, capacity, pricing and sustainability issues edited by Thierry Vanelander and Trevor Heaver (Vanelander and Heaver, 2014)
- 8 Towards dynamic capabilities in shipping operation edited by Paul Tae-Woo Lee, Chun Hsiung Liao, and Chin-Shan Lu (Lee et al., 2013)
- 9 Advancing shipping and seaports in a changing global economic landscape edited by Theo Notteboom, Kevin Cullinane, Ricardo Sanchez, and Gordon Wilmsmeier (Notteboom et al., 2013)
- 10 Efficient and sustainable transport logistics on supply chain edited by Chin-Shan Lu and Pei-Chun Lin (Lu and Lin, 2012)
- 11 Container security and supply chain visibility edited by Frank Arendt and Nils Meyer-Larson (Arendt and Meyer-Larson, 2012)
- 12 Shipping and transport logistics in a changing economy edited by Ana Cristina Paixao Casaca, Luis Filipe Duarte, and Y.H. Venus Lun (Casaca et al., 2011)
- 13 Future of Eurasian logistics edited by Olli-Pekka Hilmola, Eugene Korovyakovskiy, and Girish Gujar (Hilmola et al., 2011)
- 14 Air-cargo logistics and airport economics edited by Lawrence C. Leung, Yer Van Hui, and Michael Ka Yiu Fung (Leung et al., 2010)
- 15 Managing container operations effectively edited by Dong-Ping Song and Michael Roe (Song and Roe, 2010)
- 16 Competitive benchmarking analysis of seaports at international level edited by Carlos Pestana Barros, Rui Cunha Marques, and Hercules Haralambides (Barros et al., 2009).

According to the *Web of Science*, the number of citations are listed as follows:

<i>Year</i>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number	96	97	123	109	195

List of these papers (see Appendix) and a summary of the research topics presented by these papers, which have received substantial research interests, are discussed below. Between 2009 and 2015, the topics that prompted interest include supply chain management and logistics operations (Wong, 2009; Wong et al., 2012; Jazdzewska-Gutta, 2014; Lu and Koufteros, 2014), international shipping (e.g. container shipping and bulk shipping) (Lun and Browne, 2009; Lun and Quaddus, 2009; Lun et al., 2010; Wu and Lin, 2014; Parola et al., 2014), and port and terminal management (Lun and Cariou, 2009; Stahlbock and Voss, 2010; Bichou, 2011; Yin et al., 2013; Fageda and Gonzalez-Aregall, 2014). In addition, increasing attention has been drawn to the emerging importance of green shipping (Van den Berg and De Langen, 2014; Skovgaard, 2014; Doudnikoff et al., 2014), and port hinterland and intermodal transport (Lam and Gu, 2013; Hsu and Huang, 2014; Van den Berg and De Langen, 2014; Riessen et al., 2015). Along with the objective of the *IJSTL* to encourage the application of various empirical or mathematical analysis, both empirical and modelling methods have been widely used in the *IJSTL*'s publications, including statistical analysis and other decision-making tools.

These inspirational topics discussed in the frequently cited papers of the *IJSTL* provide insights on the directions of future shipping and transport logistics research. The following questions are interesting and worthwhile being considered for the purpose of stimulating shipping and transport logistics research from both strategic and operational perspectives:

- How to enhance the shipping firms' performance and how to deal with strategic issues in shipping? The continuous improvement of shipping-related firms has always been one of prevalent research topics in shipping and transport logistics. *IJSTL* provides a platform for exploring relevant specific questions including, but not limited to, what are the relationships between shipping operations and firm performance? How to improve firm performance? What are the effective ways to evaluate efficiency in shipping operations? What are the impact of internal factors (e.g., carrying capacity, company policy and procedures, information system, and human resources) and external factors (e.g., regulation, policy, and market) on the financial, operational, sustainable performance?
- How to address port operations and terminal management from both economic and operational perspectives? With the increasing importance of port hinterland connection and intermodal transport, there is the need for further study on the integration of ports as part of international shipping networks, which would be welcomed for publication in the *IJSTL*. The related topics can include: What is the direction of strategic port and terminal development? How to address the port service pricing? What are the operational research methods for terminals? How to deal with port competition and cooperation?
- How to enhance the strategic alliance in the multimodal transportation where different players are involved? The majority of customers expect integrated, just-in-time, efficient, and environmentally friendly door-to-door container transport services nowadays. Consequently, many logistics service providers have already extended their services from port-to-port to door-to-door operations. It is, then, vital to develop a well-connected network and a strategic alliance among different players and stakeholders in order to ensure the smooth operations. Interesting research questions, then, include, but are not limited to, how to improve intermodal transport operations? How to deal with strategic alliance in international shipping and intermodal transport? How to select partners in shipping and transport logistics related firms?
- How should shipping companies, port operators, and logistics service providers enhance their corporate social responsibility, in particularly, green performance? International shipping is recognised as increasingly adding to the carbon footprint in line with increases in world trade. Emission abatement methods based on design and technical measures, operational options, and policy and market-based measures for reducing emissions from international shipping have been widely discussed. However, the discussion on emissions from ports and hinterland transport are somehow scarce. Therefore, research related to green shipping by looking into port operations and hinterland transport, which will help addresses environmental issues in the shipping and logistics sectors in a comprehensive way, is welcome. In

addition, it is also important to investigate how green practices affect the overall performance of shipping companies, port operators, and logistics companies.

- What is innovation in shipping and transport logistics and what is its impact? Shipping and logistics transport is constantly evolving and striving for increased innovation due to the dynamic business environment. Shipping companies with innovative sense can enhance their competitive advantage and differentiate themselves from other competitors. However, innovation does not come easily, but relies on market conditions and the availability of finance, and political and societal support. Therefore, it is worthwhile to take into account the following questions for future research such as: What are the specific innovative measures that shipping-related firms can adopt? How can these innovative actions affect the firm performance? What are the attitudes of cargo owners and logistics service providers to innovation? How to encourage shipping and other logistics service providers to invest innovation? What can shipping and logistics companies achieve from the investment and whether innovation pays?

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Appendix

Top ten cited papers published between 2009 and 2013:

- 1 Complementarities and alignment of information systems management and supply chain management (Wong, 2009)
- 2 Fleet mix in container shipping operations (Lun and Browne, 2009)
- 3 An empirical model of the bulk shipping market (Lun and Quaddus, 2009)
- 4 A study on the antecedents of supplier commitment in support of logistics operations (Wong et al., 2012)
- 5 Port hinterland intermodal container flow optimisation with green concerns: a literature review and research agenda (Lam and Gu, 2013)
- 6 A two-stage supply chain DEA model for measuring container-terminal efficiency (Bichou, 2011)
- 7 An analytical framework for managing container terminals (Lun and Cariou, 2009)
- 8 Efficiency considerations for sequencing and scheduling of double-rail-mounted gantry cranes at maritime container terminals (Stahlbock and Voss, 2010)
- 9 Organisational growth and firm performance in the international container shipping industry (Lun et al., 2010)

- 10 Two-agent single-machine scheduling with release times and deadlines (Yin et al., 2013).

Top ten cited papers published between 2014 and 2015:

- 1 Evaluating the service requirements of Taiwanese international port distribution centres using IPA model based on fuzzy AHP (Hsu and Huang, 2014)
- 2 Service network design for an intermodal container network with flexible transit times and the possibility of using subcontracted transport (Riessen et al., 2015)
- 3 An exploratory analysis of the effects of modal split obligations in terminal concession contracts (Van den Berg and De Langen, 2014)
- 4 Technical change and bias in the container shipping industry in Taiwan (Wu and Lin, 2014)
- 5 European Union's policy on corporate social responsibility and opportunities for the maritime industry (Skovgaard, 2014)
- 6 Adopting security practices for transport logistics: institutional effects and performance drivers (Lu and Koufteros, 2014)
- 7 The reduction of ship-based emissions: aggregated impact on costs and emissions for North Europe-East Asia liner services (Doudnikoff et al., 2014)
- 8 Measuring the scope of inter-firm agreements in the container shipping industry: an empirical assessment (Parola et al., 2014)
- 9 Dealing with supply chain security – case of Poland in a global perspective (Jazdzewska-Gutta, 2014)
- 10 Port charges in Spain: the roles of regulation and market forces (Fageda and Gonzalez-Aregall, 2014).