

Guidelines for the assessment of applications to the RMS

Faculty Committee of Research Organisation and Library Issues

1. Motivation

In the recent years the Faculty has managed several rounds of applications to the publication tender of the Research Motivation System (RMS). During these rounds a number of – sometimes recurring – issues have emerged at the assessment of the publications that justifies the definition and sharing of the existing, but partially tacit evaluation practice of the Faculty Committee of Research Organisation and Library Issues (FCROL). These guidelines also support the future work of the FCROL, defining some cornerstones, and also the orientation of the staff of the Faculty by the increase of the transparency of the aspects of decision-making behind the applications to the RMS.

The lead principle of the practice summarised below is given by the concept of the RMS that says “... the aim of the incentive system is not the undifferentiated increase of the research products but the as complete as possible creation of the individual researcher/academic capital, and thereby the appearance at forums high class and as broad as possible, increasing the real visibility of the achievements made.” (The concept was approved by the Faculty Council on its meeting on 26 February 2013.)

2. Clear cases

At the classification of applications, the FCROL basically takes into consideration the current list of periodicals approved by Section 9 of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS). The periodicals that are featured in these lists are given the ranking indicated there, with the completions as follows:

- If the ranking of any periodical changes, for a transitory period of two years calculated since the change the ranking more favourable for the applicants must be considered.
- If a periodical is not featured in the above list but other academic information allowing the measurement of the value of the publication is available (typically H-index, impact factor etc.), the FCROL gives the application a listing coherent with the list of the HAS.
- As regards the acceptance of forums outside the fields of economic/business sciences, the principles stated in the guidelines of the RMS concept apply.

3. Scientific publications and coursebooks, manuals

The primary objective of the RMS is to strengthen the research potential of the Faculty through the recognition of the scientific achievements. It is fundamental how the tendering system relates to the differences among publications documenting academic research activity and publishing new results, and coursebooks and manuals that synthesise and offer an overview of a broader field. The practice of the FCROL typically did not list the coursebooks into a category, it is clear though that these works also contain meaningful and independent research findings in many cases and also support and

maintain the increase of the recognition of the Faculty in a broad circle. Taking these dilemmas into consideration we made the category of special publication award, designed for the evaluation of excellent coursebooks and manuals featuring other genres than the scientific outputs. Aspects taken into consideration when categorising in this case are as follows:

- Publisher (also see the issue of book chapters)
- Access, size of market
- Academic record of proofreaders (publications and citations)

4. Books and book chapters

A constant dilemma in the work of the FCROL is how to evaluate different books and book chapters. The main reason for this is the extremely broad range of these publications both as regards visibility and quality (aspects of proofreading process, circle of proofreaders involved). To assess this kind of diversity and evaluate it on objective grounds is rather difficult with the resources of the FCROL, so we had to find indicators that are suitable for a more general indication of quality. During its work, the FCROL primarily takes into consideration the aspects of the publishers when assessing books/book chapters, which is a kind of (by far not perfect) indicator of existing quality assurance standards and the field of access. It is to be emphasised that the respective cases are *assessed individually*. The list below contains those publishers the books and book chapters published by which can be categorised in accordance with the existing practice of the RMS applications. We must stress that the *list is incomplete*, still it is a good indication of the circle of publishers (and the level of quality assurance) that can consistently be listed in the RMS by the practice so far.

- Akadémiai Kiadó (Publishing House of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
- Edward Elgar
- Emerald
- Macmillan
- McGraw Hill
- North Holland
- Oldenbourg Verlag
- Pearson
- Routledge
- Sage
- Springer
- Taylor & Francis
- W.W. Norton
- Wiley-Blackwell

5. Conference books

In the practice of the FCROL, studies published in conference volumes are not seen as works to be categorised. The main reason for this is the diversity of these similar to that of the book chapters, the full and objective evaluation of which is beyond the means of the FCROL. This also means, on the

other hand, that transformed versions of these works, if published at academic forums mentioned in Chapter 2, can be taken into consideration in the RMS.

6. Follow-up

All this reveals that the FCROL follows a rigorous procedure concerning the categorisation principles of the RMS, which safeguards a sort of stability at the bottom end of the system, on the one hand (Hungarian C category), and also acknowledges, on the other hand, that it cannot always fully take into consideration the hardly quantifiable aspects of scientific quality, and so rigidity may also lead to the fact that valuable works do not get listed. As scientific quality is quite well measurable with the number of later citations to the respective publication, the FCROL opens up the possibility of the follow-up of publications. This means that after the collection of a certain number of citations the application can be submitted again and be categorised on the basis of the number of citations, following the following principles:

- 3 independent citations in listed periodical, or a study equivalent to that – category C
- 5 independent citations in listed periodical, or a study equivalent to that – category B
- 10 independent citations in listed periodical, or a study equivalent to that – category A
- If the majority of citations appears in international forums, the listing is international, in the opposite case it is Hungarian
- Citations are evaluated by the FCROL on the basis of data uploaded to the MTMT system (Hungarian National Scientific Bibliography)
- Follow-up must be requested by the author in the framework of the RMS application

Follow-up is possible for those applications that were not listed formerly in the framework of the RMS.