

Book review

CONCEIVING, WRITING AND PUBLISHING A SCIENTIFIC PAPER **An approach in the context of economic research** **Second Edition**

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I consider that the second edition of the book “Conceiving, Writing and Publishing a Scientific Paper. An approach in the context of economic research” is a work of high scientific standing, excellently documented, addressed to knowledgeable readers but also to the new generations of PhD students and researchers interested in attaining the highest academic and scientific performances in the field of Economics.

From my point of view, both editions of the book are highly useful for the academic environment. I especially appreciate the authors’ efforts to improve and expand the second edition. This fact is due to the changes occurred in the evolution of scientometric indicators, to the feedback received from readers, but also as the result of the desire to include multiple networks and platforms that take into account professional and institutional profiles, such as to facilitate the researchers’ dissemination of their results obtained in the scientific research activity. The authors benefit on an unanimous recognition and are highly appreciated., fact proven for example by the ten existing reviews of the book’s first edition, published in journals indexed in Web of Science, Scopus and other international databases. I am mostly impressed by the authors’ permanent concern to improve their book’s scientific content. The first edition was awarded the distinction “The Best Book in the Field of Economics” published in 2016 in Romania by the Association of Romanian Economic Faculties, but also by The Association of Cultural-Educational Cooperation from Suceava (ACCES prize in 2016).



I also acknowledge and appreciate the three authors’ efforts to disseminate the content of the first edition of the book during certain workshops, book fairs, international conferences and especially within PhD schools of several Romanian universities in Bucharest, Brasov, Craiova, Suceava. Therefore, young researchers (members of the teaching staff, post-doctoral scholars, PhD candidates, students) could get a better understanding of the mandatory aspects in conceiving and writing a manuscript, but also identify the scientific journals in which to publish the results of their creative research work. They have to take

into account also the scientific performance criteria considered, the databases in which the journals are indexed in, and other possible representative criteria respectively.

The lectures were received with high enthusiasm by the participants, who, following the discussions and debates initiated, have confirmed the great utility of the book “*Conceiving, writing and publishing a scientific paper*”.

By its both editions, the book represents a real best practice guide in scientific research, professionally highlighting the very useful methodological guidelines in conceiving and publishing in the field of economics scientific content. Especially important in increasing the chances to obtain acceptance of the papers written by young researchers, and not only is the use of the most appropriate scientific research methodology along with the observance of the structural elements related to the manuscript’s content, editing and punctuation rules, the mode of reference insertion into the text and preparing the reference list, and especially the deontology and ethics rules and aspects an author have to follow, understand and observe in the process of writing the scientific article. The book promotes a holistic, systematic and integrative approach of the complex process of conceiving, writing and publishing a scientific article, with an obvious concern on the approach specific to multi-, pluri, trans, cross-, and interdisciplinary scientific perspectives.

The second edition of the book drew my attention especially due to the following very important aspects related to the methodological preparation of a scientific paper:

- The highlighting of modern scientific research as a cyclic model particularities which reunites four cycles: the primary – the research input and output; the secondary – the advised strategy to be followed by author/group of authors; the tertiary – the inference and control of scientific content; the fourth cycle -focusing on the dissemination of economic research results.
- The systematization of the main ways of communicating the scientific research results in both written form and oral presentations during scientific events (papers included in collective volumes, scientific communications, posters).
- The detailed and well-grounded illustration of the structural elements of a scientific article (pre-text, text and post-text) according to the editing requirements accepted or required by most scientific journals in the mainstream of publications.
- The explanations and the highlighting of some of the ways in which citation in the text of papers consulted and the compilation of the references list, following the Harvard system.
- Highlighting the importance of elements and rules of the editing style for an economic scientific article, but also of the research deontology and ethics norms (avoiding some undesirable practices such as plagiarism, intellectual property theft, etc.) stipulated by the regulations and legislation in force, as well as by illustrating some good practice examples in the field of economic sciences and business administration.
- Providing additional solid arguments for writing qualitative research papers according to the criteria of scientific performance assessment in the national university environment, but also of representative universities and faculties in the field of economic sciences and business administration.

- The inventory and presentation of main journals indexed in international databases, international registers, libraries and virtual catalogues, as well as some of the prestigious publishing houses and editorial groups in the field of economic sciences. The representative scientific journals in the field of Economics are presented according to various relevant scientometric indicators.

- The presentation of relevant criteria in choosing the scientific journal in the economic field, for the dissemination of results of their own researches carried out, as well as highlighting the various aspects and costs the publication of a manuscript can involve.

The main novelty elements the second edition brings refer especially to:

- Within the first chapter, titled “*Economic Research and the Communication of its Results in the General Framework of Scientific Research*”, Professor Gheorghe SĂVOIU has added in the new edition more elements on the importance and meaning of creating a poster. Whereas the exemplifications in the first edition were mainly photographic, in this edition they are replaced by a series of figures and elements logically and adequately structured. For the young researcher, the poster constitutes an instrument recommended for the presentation of his first scientific research, favouring the relaxed interaction with interlocutors, and allowing them to familiarize with scientific manifestations, as well as with the specificity of high-level scientific research. Furthermore, the chapter includes a series of synthetic exemplifications of various indicator systems, such as the magic quadrilateral that contributes to the good understanding of research cycles, facilitating the clarification of their structural logic for the researcher.

- In the second chapter, elaborated by Professor Vasile DINU, titled “*The Structure and Optimization of Referencing a Scientific Article*”, I appreciate the efforts made for ensuring a better understanding of structural elements of the scientific article, by the increase of exemplifying text boxes, but also the more detailed explanation of various key words. For the optimization of scientific paper referencing mode, Professor DINU used the detailed explanation of the mode and advantages of promoting the paper on the Internet, in classical media communication networks, as well as through the academic platforms of dissemination of scientific research results. In a very detailed and harmonious manner, a whole series of scientific profiles of different researchers are presented, highlighting the impact of articles and books they publish. The typology of institutional scientific, professional-scientific profiles, as well as those from the dedicated academic platforms is fully extended and explained. These details are very useful especially for increasing the national and global visibility of papers published by the authors, by reporting to scientometric indicators that are usual in the practice of scientific research.

- The third chapter of the book, also written by Professor Vasile DINU, titled “*Writing a Scientific Article*” brings, as compared to the previous edition, more novelty elements on the exemplification of references in the text of scientific papers of researchers. A distinct paragraph is fully dedicated to software systems, which are useful in the management of bibliographic references.

- In the fourth chapter, Professor Gheorghe SĂVOIU deals with “*Plagiarism, anti-plagiarism Regulations and Research Ethics*”, supplementing it explicitly, as compared to the previous edition, with the typology of plagiarism detected by various specialized software systems. The exemplifications brought by the author on the use of Plagiarism

Detector, which seems to be one of the most advantageous systems from the perspective of additional costs related to its operation, are very useful. Lacking some coherent educational policies steered for the diminution and even the removal of this undesirable phenomenon since the pre-university education system, the use of some systems for the detection of similarities represents a very important aim for Romanian scientific research.

- As compared to the first edition of the book, Professor Dan-Cristian DABIJA, in the fifth chapter, deals with “*Evaluating Scientific Performance in Economics Higher Education*”. The chapter includes the academic performance assessment criteria in economic scientific research, which can be carried out according to quantitative criteria (presented in sub-chapter 5.2), as well as according to qualitative ones (highlighted in sub-chapter 5.3). A novelty, compared to the first edition, is given by highlighting the dynamics of evolution of university promotion criteria in the field of economic scientific field and business management field, which are divided in precise time intervals according to the occurred changes: between 2011 and 2013; between 2013 and 2017; starting with 2017. The author included exemplifications of specific promotion criteria adopted by the most important economic higher education institutions of Romania: Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca and Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi.

- The sixth chapter, dealing with “*International Databases in Economics*”, is newly introduced in the seventh edition, which is also authored by Professor Dan-Cristian DABIJA. Within it, the author tackles in detail the international scientific databases indexing journals in the economic field, starting with collections of journals within Web of Science, of the recently launched platform Emerging Sources Citation Index, as well as of functionalities available for users. The author further presents Scopus, ScienceDirect, Ebsco, ProQuest databases, highlighting for the each of them the most important economic scientific journals they index. A distinct sub-chapter is dedicated to international registers, some of them, such as OpenAir, having recently appeared. Actual information is also on virtual libraries and catalogues, such as Econis and Econbiz of ZBW Deutsche Zentralbibliothek für Wirtschaftswissenschaften, World Catalogue of Scientific Journals, etc.

- The book’s newly introduced sixth was written by Professor Dan-Cristian DAJIBA and refers to “*International Databases in Economics*”. The author addresses in detail the international scientific databases indexing Economics journals, starting with the Web of Science collection, the recently launched Emerging Sources Citation Index and its functionalities. Further on, the author presents Scopus, ScienceDirect, Ebsco, Proquest, highlighting the most important journals indexed by each of these. A different sub-section is dedicated to international registers, such as the recently launched OpenAir. Current information is also included on several virtual libraries and catalogues such as Econis and Econbiz of ZBW *Deutsche Zentralbibliothek für Wirtschaftswissenschaften* and *the World Catalogue of Scientific Journals*.

- The new edition of the book benefits from a new last chapter, also elaborated by Professor Dan-Cristian DABIJA, titled “*Relevant Criteria for Choosing Scientific Journals in the Field of Economics*”. This seventh chapter comprises multiple international hierarchies on the classification of journals in the field of economic sciences, as well as some scientometric indicators calculated by Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, Index Coepnicus, Ideas/Repec and, by UEFISCDI, respectively. International prestigious

publishing houses and editorial groups in the field of economic sciences are further presented, as well as some predatory journals, the author drawing the attention of young researchers not to walk into the trap of paid rapid publication, without appropriate reviews. The chapter concludes by pointing out more than ten criteria that are relevant in choosing the economic scientific journals, a young researcher can and must take into consideration in the dissemination of the results of their research work.

I consider that, through the way the book's second edition was written by Professors Vasile Dinu, Gheorghe Săvoiu and Dan-Cristian Dabija reflects the rich experience and professionalism acquired by them as professors, researchers, reviewers, coordinators (PhD, Post-doctoral, MA and BA theses), evaluators of projects launched in various competitions and especially as editors and referees of national and international scientific journals, indexed in prestigious databases such as: *Clarivate Analytics*, *Web of Science* and *Scopus*, etc.. This enhanced expertise has enabled the authors with a profound understanding of the process challenges and complexities in designing, writing and publishing a quality scientific article, which can reach the highest methodological rigours and international standards in the field.

In conclusion, I consider that the second edition of the book highlights the essential aspects related to the elaboration of an economic scientific article, which can prove to be interesting by content and attractive by its presentation form, thus increasing the chances of being accepted and published in a prestigious journal from the mainstream of publications. In this way, the authors prove professional responsibility, by which they contribute to the increase of the visibility of the original Economics scientific research results of Romania at an international level. I very much welcome with enthusiasm the authors' decision to publish the second edition, reviewed and supplemented. I warmly recommend this book to the readers.