

# Organizational Research Methods

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## **Organizational Research Methods: Yearly Update**

Robert J. Vandenberg

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# *Organizational Research Methods*

## Yearly Update

I cannot believe that my second year as the editor of *Organizational Research Methods* (ORM) is over. A number of incredible benchmarks have been reached with respect to the journal, which will be addressed in the paragraphs below. First, however, I would like to thank my associate editors Don Bergh, José Cortina, Bob Gephart, Tim Hinkin, Charles Lance, and Terri Scandura for their continued hard work and devotion to ORM. Of the nearly 200 action letters written by them, I have received only 3 complaints and approximately 20 compliments, which speak volumes for the quality and care they use to craft those letters. Of course, they can do so because of the quality of the reviews provided by the 45 editorial board members (see masthead) and the 155 ad hoc reviewers (see the October 2009 issue) I called upon during the year. Thus, I thank each and every reviewer for taking time from their schedules to write such strong reviews. I also thank SAGE for their continued support and publication of ORM. Finally, I thank the executive committee of the Research Methods Division (RMD) of the Academy of Management for their continued sponsorship of ORM.

Speaking of the RMD executive committee, they graciously invited ORM to use their free session during the 2009 Academy of Management Meeting in Chicago to develop a session in which participants could meet the ORM editorial board and learn how to write and post manuscripts for submission to ORM. In addition to the board members, 45 academy members participated in the session. I was told by many afterward that the session was a great success. I personally thank the officers of RMD for hosting this important event, and thank all of you who attended.

I was delighted to see many of you at the 2009 Academy of Management Conference in Chicago and to have the opportunity to thank you in person for all the support you provide to ORM as authors, reviewers, and readers. Those of you who attended the RMD business meeting on Monday evening received updated information regarding ORM's operation and recent successes. Let me take a moment to highlight many of those outcomes. First, it gave me great joy to announce that SAGE has selected José Cortina (George Mason University) as ORM's next editor-in-chief. My term ends on June 30, 2010, which means that I will stop receiving new manuscripts at that point but continue to process those remaining in my queue. José will receive all new manuscripts starting July 1, 2010, and will remain as editor until June 30, 2013. If you have a moment, please drop José a congratulatory note.

Second, it was a pleasure to recognize the recipients of the ORM editorial review board's selection of the 2008 Best Paper and Best Reviewer awards. We had two recipients for each award this year. The 2008 Best Reviewer awards went to Daniel Newman (University of Illinois, Urbana—Champaign) and Robert Wright (Hong Kong Polytechnic University). One of the 2008 Best Paper award went to Gordon W. Cheung (Chinese University of Hong Kong) for his article titled, *Testing Equivalence in the Structure, Means, and Variances of Higher Order Constructs With Structural Equation Modeling* (ORM, Vol. 11, No. 3., pp. 593–613, <http://orm.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/11/3/593>). The second 2008 Best Paper award went

to James L. LeBreton (Purdue University) and Jenell Lynn-Senter Wittmer (University of Toledo) for their article titled, *Answers to 20 Questions About Interrater Reliability and Interrater Agreement* (ORM, Vol. 11, No. 4, pp. 815–852, <http://orm.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/11/4/815>). I thank SAGE for providing the plaques for these awards.

Third, I reported on some of the important statistics during my second year as editor (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009). They are as follows. First, we processed 188 new submissions. This includes 22 submissions to the methods resources section (i.e., book/software reviews, tutorials, etc.) and 166 manuscripts as either regular feature or feature topic submissions. Of the latter 166 submissions, 26 are still pending a decision (either the first time or as a revise and resubmit), and thus, final decisions have been made for 140 manuscripts. ORM accepted 21 of those manuscripts for publication (a 15% acceptance rate). The remaining 119 manuscripts were not accepted. Although ORM experienced a 57% increase in regular feature and feature topic submissions relative to last year at this point (109), the current acceptance rate is nearly identical to that of the past 5 years. It is also worth mentioning that our average time to first decision is less than 50 days.

Fourth, we have several feature topics that have been completed or will be complete by the time this editorial appears in print. One example is the feature topic in this issue on methodological and statistical issues in entrepreneurship research guest edited by James Combs, Duane Ireland, David Ketchen, and Jeremy Short. Upcoming feature topics include (a) ethnography (Ann Cunliffe, guest editor); (b) the interface between theory and research (Jeff Edwards, guest editor); (c) latent class procedures (Paul Hanges and Mo Wang, guest editors); (d) common method issues (Paul Spector and Michael Brannick, guest editors); and (e) methodological and statistical myths and urban legends, part 2 (Charles Lance, guest editor).

Fifth, one of the more important pieces of information that I shared with people is some of the reasons why ORM is no longer a fledgling journal and is considered among many institutions in the United States, Europe, and the Pacific regions as a Class A, top-tiered journal. The top 10 reasons are

- ORM's June 2009 impact factor is 3.02, which is the 93rd percentile in the management category (i.e., 6th out of 89) and the 94th percentile in the applied psychology category (i.e., 4th out of 69). This impact factor is higher than the impact factor received by several other top journals such as *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, *Organization Science*, *Management Science*, and *Journal of International Business Studies*. ORM's impact factor is also higher than that of many top journals in other business fields including marketing (e.g., *Journal of Consumer Research*), entrepreneurship (e.g., *Journal of Business Venturing*), finance (e.g., *Review of Financial Studies*), operations management (e.g., *Journal of Operations Management*), information systems (e.g., *Journal of Management Information Systems*), and accounting (e.g., *Journal of Accounting Research*).
- ORM is the only publication outlet for methodological work in management research under the auspices of the Academy of Management through its approval of the RMD's sponsorship of the journal. Thus, ORM is to methodology what AMR is to theory development and AMJ is to empirical research. Universities not including ORM in their "A" journal category risk losing their faculty teaching doctoral statistics and methods courses to other institutions because ORM is the primary outlet for their methodological research.
- ORM is truly global. Subscriptions by institutions have risen from 1,021 (2006) to 5,066 (2008) and the worldwide subscription base includes 42% in the United States and 41%

in Europe. In 2008, ORM received 81,015 full-text pdf downloads and 213,091 total article views.

- ORM publishes methodologically rigorous articles that are accessible to most organizational science researchers with good doctoral-level methodological training. As such, ORM is widely read and ORM articles are included regularly in doctoral-level statistics and methods courses.
- Work published in ORM serves as a catalyst to enhance the quality of empirical research published in other top journals. In this manner, ORM plays an integral role in promoting the quality of research published in management and related fields.
- ORM publishes methods papers on quantitative and qualitative methods and their interface. Thus, ORM contributes to the continued growth and acceptance of both methods.
- ORM is included in all major abstracting services including biology, health, humanities, safety, and sociology, among others.
- ORM is consistently invited to the majority of the “meet the editor” panels at the Academy of Management meetings including those organized by divisions such as Organizational Behavior, Human Resources, Business Policy and Strategy, and Gender and Diversity in Organizations.
- ORM’s editorial board includes the most influential and preeminent methodologists in the organizational sciences and, hence, it is truly a “peer reviewed” journal, meaning that papers submitted for review are reviewed by eminent scholars with distinguished records of scientific achievement.
- The average time to first decision for a manuscript is less than 50 days and the acceptance rate is 15%.

I remind our readership of the addition of ORM to SAGE’s OnlineFirst feature. You get to this feature through ORM’s homepage (<http://orm.sagepub.com>) and it is the first link in the middle. This feature gives access to forthcoming articles in ORM that are “in press.” I would encourage you to visit this link as you can read the forthcoming articles in advance and begin to use them for your own research purposes. Furthermore, if you have not done so already, you can sign up to receive ORM’s table of contents electronically approximately 1 month prior to the publication of an upcoming issue. It is free and you can do so at <http://orm.sagepub.com/cgi/alerts>. If your library does not subscribe to ORM, you may download a library recommendation form at the link found near the bottom of the page. In addition, I am always in need of reviewers and if you would like to review from time-to-time for ORM, please contact me at [orm@terry.uga.edu](mailto:orm@terry.uga.edu) or go to the following site and complete the form: [http://www.sagepub.com/orm\\_survey](http://www.sagepub.com/orm_survey). Indeed, I hope to hear from many of you in this capacity.

In closing, ORM continues to thrive, and it is doing so because of the hard work of the associate editors, the editorial review board, the ad hoc reviewers, the feature topic guest editors, and the authors who willingly make ORM their journal of choice for their methodologically oriented manuscripts. I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart. Finally, I thank my Dean of the Terry College of Business, Robert Sumichrast, and my management department chair, Allen Amason, for their continuous and generous support of my editorship. Their support allows me the flexibility to give ORM the attention it deserves.

Robert J. Vandenberg  
*Editor*