

Editorial Philosophy

MISSION

The mission of the *Journal of Operations Management (JOM)* is to publish original, high-quality research in the field of operations management. To be recognized as the leading journal in its field, *JOM* seeks: (1) to further the understanding of operations management by researchers and practitioners; (2) to advance the knowledge for improving operations management; and (3) to clarify and advance the role of operations management in the total organization.

BACKGROUND

The field of operations management has expanded and matured considerably during the past two decades. It now encompasses a broader array of job titles and is more prominent in business and government than ever before. Operations management has become a top priority of manufacturing and service industries as they compete domestically and internationally for survival and success. Research in operations management, to ultimately have an impact in practice, must be managerially significant. Rigorous analysis and scientific methodology, where possible, are necessary but insufficient for quality research contributions; the results of original research must also be meaningful and useful to organizations. In this era of rapid change, our profession continues its critical need for new knowledge in traditional as well as nontraditional topics communicated through a highly-visible journal known for the high quality of the articles it publishes.

JOM OBJECTIVES

JOM adopts a distinctive emphasis on the management of operations. Accordingly, its objectives encourage our collective research efforts to be directed at the identification, analysis, and resolution of meaningful operations management problems. To this end, *JOM* has the following objectives:

- to publish new theories, concepts, and models which will significantly advance current thought and practice and offer promising new directions for research in operations management;
- to publish new methods for the analysis and solution of realistic problems and issues in operations management;
- to publish generalizable findings that enhance the understanding and resolution of operations management problems and issues;
- to publish empirical studies that support or refute existing theories and concepts, and that can foster development of new theories and concepts in operations management;
- to publish comprehensive reviews and creative syntheses of pertinent literature;
- to publish case studies of novel and significant applications of operations management theory and methodology.

Studies suitable for *JOM* may range from strategic issues to theories and concepts for tactical issues in operations management. *JOM* encourages studies that integrate several operations management topic areas or that integrate operations management with other organizational disciplines. *JOM* also encourages research that develops the conceptual base for exploring ideas and issues in operations management. High priority is also given to empirical studies which evaluate new operations theories or generalizable models of managerial significance. Second priority is assigned to manuscripts which apply existing constructs to real problem settings, provided new and significant research insights are revealed. Lowest priority applies to articles which focus primarily on techniques without evidence of generalizability and managerial significance.

Sound research design, methodology, and analysis is always a necessary condition for acceptance. For some studies, mathematical expressions may be necessary; however, unnecessary mathematical notation should be avoided. Purely quantitative research that develops or improves algorithms or develops new mathematical models is suitable for other journals established for that purpose.

JOM publishes tutorial articles that synthesize pertinent literature on a current topic of keen interest in operations management. Annotated bibliographies which draw together literature to support or stimulate current research are also welcome. *JOM* also publishes abbreviated case studies of novel and significant applications of operations management

theory and methodology. Short notes and comments are published, provided they can generate useful dialogue that fosters *JOM's* research objectives. *JOM* also publishes special issues focusing on important themes in operations management research.

JOM uses a blind-review process. Every manuscript is reviewed by at least two members of the Editorial Review Board. To provide good service to authors, *JOM* endeavors to maintain submission turnarounds of six weeks after the manuscript is received at *JOM*.

RELATIONSHIP OF *JOM* TO APICS

JOM is one of the vehicles for the educational advancement of the members of the American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS). In comparison to other APICS publications, *JOM* is the leading-edge research journal. The primary audience for *JOM* includes researchers who are interested in advancing the field and practitioners who have a concern for keeping abreast of the state of the art in operations management. *JOM* presents to this audience the concepts, theories, and research methods that address currently unresolved issues in operations management.

Many APICS publications are educational, designed to help those who are entering the field learn about operations management and become certified in the field. *P&IMJ*, the primary practitioner journal, focuses on current practice in operations management. It publishes articles that demonstrate new applications of systems and technologies that can be implemented now with proven results in practice. Aimed more at tactical implementation, *P&IMJ* articles report the results of new developments that have been tested in practice so that other practitioners with similar problems can benefit from the findings.

By contrast, *JOM* is aimed at all levels of operations, including the strategic level of the organization. It focuses on new knowledge that advances the field and shows promise of providing new solutions to previously unsolved problems. *JOM* will publish articles on current practice, but only if it is supported with critical analysis and comparative evaluation that adds new knowledge and insights. Empirical studies of real operations problems should address issues that go beyond current practice and offer generalizations that advance the entire field of operations management.

TOPIC AREAS SUITABLE FOR *JOM*

The following lists, while not all-inclusive, provide some guidance for the areas of greatest interest to *JOM* readers. The first list covers general topic areas, while the second list includes a sample of more specific techniques and approaches.

GENERAL TOPIC AREAS

- Operations management in process, manufacturing, and service organizations
- Operations strategy and policy
- Product and service design and development
- Manufacturing and service systems design
- Technology management for operations
- Multi-site operations management
- Capacity planning and analysis
- Operations planning, scheduling, and control
- Project management
- Human resource management for operations
- Work design, measurement, and improvement
- Performance measurement and productivity
- Quality management
- Purchasing/sourcing systems
- Materials and inventory management
- Logistics, transportation, distribution, and materials handling
- International and comparative operations
- Operations information management
- Regulatory and environmental issues in operations

SPECIFIC TECHNIQUES AND APPROACHES

- JIT
- TQC, SPC, SQC
- Flexible manufacturing systems
- Group technology
- Computer integrated manufacturing (CIM)
- CAD/CAM
- Forecasting
- MRP and DRP
- Cost accounting for operations management

Note: Lists are suggestive, not comprehensive. The order of the listings does not imply priorities.