

## How to Promote the *Korean Journal of Child Studies* to an International Journal

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**Objective:** It aimed at proposing the *Korean Journal of Child Studies*' strategy to be promoted to international journal based on the style and format of scholarly journals and journal metrics.

**Methods:** The review of the journal in not only print version, but also an online version was done from the perspective of style and format. The total citation and impact factor were manually calculated from Web of Science Core Collection.

**Results:** More professional level manuscript editing is required for maintaining the consistency of the style and format. The verso page and back matters should be improved to international level. Journal homepage should be reconstructed by adopting digital standards for the journal, including journal article tag suite, CrossMark, FundRef, ORCID, and text and data mining. To become an international journal, transformation into English journal and deposition to PubMed Central is mandatory.

**Conclusion:** Since the editor's and society members' performance is top-notch, it will be possible to promote the journal up to international level soon. Society should guarantee the term of editor for enough time and support her with full cost and complete consent.

**Keywords:** Databases, Journal impact factor, Publications, PubMed, Societies

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### Introduction

Korean Journal of Child Studies is an official journal of the Korean Association of Child Studies that launched in 1980. It published Volume 36 Number 6 in 2015. In this article, I would like to describe why this journal should be internationalized at first. After that I suggested a variety of strategies for the journal after reviewing style and format for not only print copies but also online issues and analyzing journal metrics. I hope this article to be helpful for the journal to be promoted to international one.

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### Methods

#### 1. Study design

This article is a cross-sectional descriptive study based on the style and format of the journal and journal metrics.

#### 2. Materials

The general concept of the international journal is described for

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common sense. I checked the style and format of the journal's recent issue based on the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE, <http://icmje.org>) and Scientific Style and Format 8<sup>th</sup> format published by Council of Science Editors (<http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/>). Journal metrics were calculated manually from Web of Science Core Collection database.

### 3. Analysis method

Descriptive analysis was done. Impact factor was calculated by checking the citation in Web of Science Core Collection. Total citation and countries of citing authors were counted. Results were presented in Table 1 and Figure 1.

### 4. Ethical consideration

This article is not intended to deal with the human or human-derived materials, so that it is not subject of institutional review board's activity.

## Results

### 1. What is the international journal?

It is difficult to find the definition of international journal in the literature. It can be defined as follows: first, it can be read and used by international readers; second, international researchers can submit the manuscripts; third, journal editing should be international level according to its style and format; and, fourth, it should be indexed in international indexing databases. In Korea, an international journal by the National Research Foundation of Korea meant that it was indexed in SCIE, SSCI, A&HCI, or SCOPUS. In addition to those databases, PsychoInfo, Medline, and PubMed Central/PubMed were other international databases in which this journal can be included.

### 2. Why should it be listed in the international indexing databases?

There are merits of recognition as the international journal of the

National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) and the better rewards from the author's institution. If the journal is counted as an international one, there are advantages of authors to get the research fund from the NRF. In addition to those merits, the journal metrics, including journal network can be provided easily by those databases. Therefore, the position of the journal, journal access info, relationship with other journals, recent research trends, and trends of funding were easily caught up. Being indexed in those databases is essential for journal development (Huh, 2011).

### 3. Review of style and format of recent issue

#### 1) Verso page

(1) **Journal title:** It can be more specifically presented as "Child development, parenting, and psychology." This more specific title name may be more persuasive for researchers to read articles and submit the manuscripts.

(2) **Aims and scope:** Present aims and scope were simple as "submission is limited to manuscripts related with child studies." Furthermore, there should be more specific aims and scope that can be differentiated with other child studies journals in the world. Word count of the aims and scope should be at least 300. Scope is recommended to include child development, parenting, and psychology.

(3) **Official abbreviated title:** It is Korean J. Child Stud or Korean J Child Stud based on ISO journal title abbreviation (<http://www.issn.org/services/online-services/access-to-the-ltwa/?letter=a>).

(4) **Editorial board members:** At now all board members are Koreans. There should be invitation of board members from more than 30 countries. Association board members and editorial board members should do their best to recruit them. Pediatric psychiatrist, pediatric nurse, or pediatric psychologist also recommended to be invited to the editorial board so that the journal can be reviewed by a variety of professionals.

(5) **Open access declaration:** It was already free access journal so that it is easy to be transformed to open access journal by declaring the open access policy according to Creative Commons license (<https://creativecommons.org/>). Open access is better than free access for open access permits the use of data after clarifying the source of data. This journal is not a commercial one, but non-

profit academic journal. Therefore, the publisher can declare the Creative Commons Attribution license (CC-BY) by adding the following sentence on the first page of each article: "This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited."

(6) **Acid-free paper:** If print version is published continuously, following sentence should be printed at the bottom of the verso page: 'It is printed on acid-free paper.'

## 2) Article

(1) **Layout:** Professional designer's layout format is required. After that, layout editor can work consistently with that format. Layout editor should understand what is necessary in journal editing. For example, in this journal, bibliographic information should be written in English. In English writing, there should be a space before the parenthesis. Type of font and font size, paragraph form, figures, and tables should be improved to international level. In the table, numerals should be aligned up to the right side. If there is a decimal place, decimal points should be a basis of alignment. In table legends, there should be no period; however, in the figure legends, there should be a period. In the table items, phrase or sentence should be aligned to the left side. Tables or figure should be prepared in full color for online version. For easy layout, professional layout program is recommended to be used. Excellent layout might be a professional layout editor's product. It can increase the readability of the article.

(2) **Affiliation:** In English affiliation, all co-author's department, institute, city, and country should be added.

(3) **Length of main text:** The limitation of the word count of main text up to 4,000 is recommended. The researcher is very busy so that short article is better for them. Number of references should be also limited up to 30. Introduction part was too long due to the precise description of background. Therefore, word count of introduction part should be reduced to a maximum 500. The aims of the study, specific objectives, hypothesis and most recent background were enough. In discussion and conclusion section, there should be a concise description of the results, the difference with other recent literature, limitation of the study,

further recommended studies, and a short conclusion. To make article briefly, the easiest method is to think that if any sentences are essential to the conclusion process or not. Remove any text if an author convinces that it is no problem to reach the conclusion without this sentence. This method may be able to save only the backbone of the article's logical flow.

(4) **Measuring tool in the methods section:** If any measuring tools from journals published by commercial companies, author should get the permission from Copyright Clearance Center (<http://www.copyright.com/>). Sometimes, payment is required for use of data from those journals. In the articles of recent issue, it is not certain if authors got the permission by Copyright Clearance Center or not.

(5) **Manuscript editing:** Because there were some errors in the text, the professional manuscript editing is required. Also, under the help of manuscript editor, editor can maintain the style and format of the journal consistently.

(6) **Reference style:** Present APA (American Psychological Association) style is recommended to be changed to AMA (American Medical Association) style (<http://www.amamanualofstyle.com/>) so that reference errors can be reduced minimally. Example of AMA style reference is as follows:

" 1. Huh S. How much is Journal of Educational Evaluation for Health Professions promoted based on journal metrics? J Educ Eval Health Prof 2015; 12:57. "

The reason of better results by adopting AMA style was as follows: first, number of punctuation decreases dramatically; second, PubMed data can be moved without change; and third, readability is better because reference in the text is written as Arabic character in the square bracket ([ ]). If authors use reference management software, it is not difficult to adopt every reference style. Since not all researchers use that software, it is better to minimize the errors of references by adopting the AMA style.

(7) **Publication date of references:** Please cite only recently published articles less than ten years before, at author's best. If any articles were published more than ten years before, those were already included in the text book or discarded from the text book. It is not necessary to repeat the contents in the textbook.

### 3) Back matters

(1) **Instructions to authors:** It should be described more precisely. A variety of publication types such as editorial, review, brief report, book review, obituary, letter to the editor, and continuing education may be helpful for the journal to be more interesting one. If there is article template, it will be easy for authors to write the manuscript.

(2) **Research and publication ethics:** It should be complemented according to ICMJE recommendation and Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE, <http://publicationethics.org/>) flow chart. Description of research and publication ethics is an essential item to be indexed to the above-mentioned databases. There should be permission from the Institutional Review Board of an author's institute with number if there were survey results. I recommend the association to register the journal to COPE or to participate as a member institute of COPE. It means that the journal keeps policy on the research and publication ethics according to COPE's guideline. Already 53 journals and one institute from Korea were registered to COPE as member journal or participating publisher up to February 2016.

### 4) Online version

(1) **Online journalis digital standards:** Journal article tag suite (JATS) XML, digital object identifier (DOI), CrossMark, FundRef, Text and data mining, open researchers and contributors ID (ORCID), Reference hyperlink, Cited-by, QR code, and audio-video file are examples of journal's digital standards. All of them should be adapted to journal publication to be competitive to other international journals. The online version has been read more frequently than the print version by researchers, according to the spread of the internet to the world. Most researchers meet the article in the online at first. They usually do not visit libraries to read the print version of journal at first.

(2) **JATS XML:** It is the standard XML for scholarly literature developed by the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM). NLM has made PMC XML since 2000. It was improved to JATS XML and became the National Information Standards Organization (NISO)'s and ISO's standard of journal XML in 2012. NISO is a United States-based organization, whereas ISO

is the International Standard Organization (Huh, 2014). Full text JATS XML production of the Korean text article is possible since JATS XML accepts all character languages in the world. If JATS XML is produced, it can be deposited to ScienceCentral (<http://e-ScienceCentral.org>) maintained by the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies. Journal deposited to ScienceCentral is searchable via Google Scholar and its full text is translated into 80 character languages in the world. Other merits of JATS XML are automatic conversion to other types of XMLs or user-interfaces: DOI/CrossRef XML, CrossMark XML, FundRef XML, ORCID XML, Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ) XML, PubReader format, and ePub 3.0 formats.

(3) **DOI:** It is the unique ID system of literature that provides continuous and perpetual direction of the full text of online articles, although there was a change of URL address of the journal. The DOI was already provided in this journal through Korea Science (<http://koreascience.or.kr/>) maintained by the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information. Other merits of DOI system are reference hyperlink function which directs the full text of reference via DOI and cited-by function which makes it possible to know who cited that article.

(4) **PubReader:** It is the user-interface format to be visible in the online with consistent format and font size regardless of types of browsing machines such as laptop, tablet, smart phone, television, or smart watch. Automatic conversion to PubReader format from JATS XML is possible.

(5) **Pub 3.0:** It is the international standard of digital book. Similar to PubReader, content can read from any browsing machines.

(6) **CrossMark:** It is the system of informing recent version of article provided by CrossRef because there may be errata, corrigendum, or retraction after publication (Lammey, 2014).

(7) **FundRef:** It is the ID of funding agencies provided by CrossRef. Through FundRef, it is easy to trace articles supported by the specific funding agency. Funding agencies are searchable from <http://e-sciencecentral.org/funder/>.

(8) **Text and data mining:** It is the full text access system for researchers provided by CrossRef. If publishers participate in this system, full text from those publishers can be accessed as free although there may be some limitations. Therefore, it made easy researchers to do meta-analysis (Lammey, 2015). I recommend the association to participate in this system from: <http://www.crossref.org>.

org/tdm/contact\_form.html.

(9) **ORCID** (<http://orcid.org>): It is the unique ID of researchers and contributors. It is easy to find the author's biography and research works if author opens the data to public. It is recommended to request authors to add their ORCIDs. Especially it is useful for journals from Korea, since there are frequent appearances of different people of the same name. It is also useful to recruit the reviewers. Of course, there was already a researcher ID system not only in Korea, but also Researcher ID and SCOPUS Author ID in the world. However, ORCID is the general standard of author ID at present.

(10) **QR code**: It is the unique code to be possible to provide the information about specific objects by constructing the bar code into two dimensions. It can read by scanner or digital camera. Recently, if QR code was scanned with smart phone, the URL address of the object is directed to at the same time. Therefore, it is recommended to adopt a QR code of journal or each article (Chang, 2014).

(11) **Audio-video file**: Providing audio or video files is a new trend of online journal. Full text or summary can be provided. Owing to the increased use of smart phone, listening and watching video become more convenient (Huh, 2013).

(12) **Manuscript management system**: Present system is only for Korean authors; therefore, the system in English should be constructed to recruit the manuscript from all over the world.

#### 4. Journal metrics

Up to February 18, 2016, eight articles of the journal were cited from Web of Science Core Collection (Table 1). Sixteen articles have cited those eight articles. Frequency of citation according to year was presented in Figure 1.

Out of 17 citing articles, countries of authors and frequencies are as follows: Korea, 16; USA, 6; and Australia, 1.

#### Impact factor of year 2015

It can be calculated as below:

Number of citable articles of the journal in 2013: 56

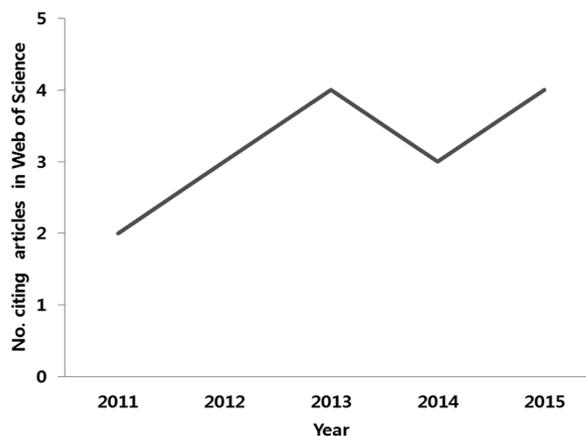
Number of citable articles of the journal in 2014: 60

Total: 116

**Table 1**

*Cited articles of the Korean Journal of Child Studies in Web of Science Core Collection [cited 2016 Feb 18]*

Cited Author	Year	Volume	Page	Citing articles
Chun, HY	2003	24	151	1
Chung, MJ	1993	14	5	1
Jae, KS	1984	5	53	1
Jang, Mikyung	2005	26	47	1
Kim, MJ	2001	22	149	4
Moon, Dae Geun	2013	34	93	1
Shin, SJ	1998	19	27	7
Sohn, HH	2003	24	123	1



**Figure 1.** Number of citing articles in Web of Science Core Collection to the Korean Journal of Child Studies according to year.

Number of citations to the journal articles published in 2013 and 2014 from Web of Science Core Collection (SCIE, SSCI, and A&HCI) articles published in 2015: 1.

$$2015 \text{ impact factor} = 1 / (56+60) = 1/116 = 0.009$$

#### 5. Development strategy

##### 1) Why is the impact factor of the journal not so high?

Why is the journal not exposed to world researchers in the field of child studies? It is not due to low quality of articles, but lack of platform such as PubMed or PsychoInfo to be exposed to the international researchers. To overcome this situation, the journal

should be indexed in PubMed or PsychoInfo.

## 2) Is it eligible to be indexed in PubMed?

It may be eligible because the Journal's scope included child development, parenting and psychology. Development and psychology is the scope of consideration by NLM that has maintained PubMed. For example, *Child Development* published by the University of Chicago Press in cooperation with the Society for Research in Child Development has been included in PubMed. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, published by Academic Press has been also indexed in PubMed.

## 3) How to be indexed in PubMed?

There are two ways: One is applying to be Medline journal; the other is to provide the full text JATS XML (formerly PMC XML) after conversion of a journal language into English only to be listed in PMC. If the journal is indexed in PMC, PubMed XML file can be automatically dispatched to PubMed by PMC. To become Medline journal is very difficult due to strict criteria to be accepted. Only about 10% of applying journals can be accepted annually. It is the reason why more than 100 medical health journals from Korea have been indexed in PMC after changing text language only in English. Academic societies in Korea began to deposit PMC XML since 2008. PMC journal number from Korea reached at 117 on February 23, 2016. It is the third ranking according to country: England 501, USA 499, and India 111. If the journal is indexed in PubMed, there may be manuscript submission from all over the world. Also the journal can be a leading journal in Asia in the child studies field, since there is no PubMed journal from Asia in this field.

## 4) How to recruit English manuscript?

If any members wrote the manuscript in English, they will submit them to SSCI journal at first. It may be difficult to recruit English manuscript from the faculty members. The solution can be found from the PhD or Master's degree theses. Graduate students are succession generation. If we can train them to write a paper in English, and recruit their manuscript in the journal, the difficulty

of submission number can be resolved. Workshop for writing English paper based on the thesis is recommended to be opened two or three times a year. Senior members of the Association can train them and professional writer who has experience of English translation also can be invited as facilitator. If they are well-trained, they can submit further research results in English to the journal without difficulties. Another tactic is to recruit the manuscript from all over the world by contacting acquaintances of editorial board members. Of course, it is difficult to recruit the manuscripts from international researchers; therefore, editorial board members should use their full network to ask submission. Also editorial board members should submit their manuscript to the journal at least once a year.

## 5) Which databases or catalog should the journal apply to or register in after conversion to English journal?

The editor should request the indexing to PMC, Medline, EBSCO, SCOPUS, and SSCI. EBSCO is one of the largest scholarly literature aggregates. If the journal is indexed in EBSCO, it is searchable from many libraries in the world. Registration to DOAJ is required if there is a declaration of open access policy. Thomson Reuters treats only DOAJ registered journals as open access. Before registering to DOAJ, registration to Sherpa/Romeo (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/>) is required, which discloses the policy on the deposit to institutional repository. The publisher can permit authors to deposit their manuscript before or after publication. Registration to NLM Catalog (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/>) is an urgent one to do right now. The Korean language journal also can be registered. To be registered to NLM Catalog, dispatch the print version to following address:

Serial Records Section, National Library of Medicine  
8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894, USA

Continuous delivery of the journal can be traced from NLM Catalog and NLM Holding Locator Plus.

## 6) How long should editor work?

The most important person in journal publishing is an editor. Therefore, it is recommended to guarantee editor's term at least five years up to ten years if possible. Furthermore, the full support by

association is mandatory so that editors can work without burnout for a long time because all editors in Korea are working not as a full-time job but as voluntary work. The consistency of editing can be realized by the long-term appointment of an editor.

### 7) How to increase impact factor?

The solution is to be indexed in PMC. If Korean journal was transformed into English journal and was indexed in PMC, the impact factor and total citation may increase dramatically since the low citation is not originated from low quality articles but from lack of platform (Jeong & Huh, 2014).

## Discussion and Conclusion

Since the research competency of the Association members is excellent, above mentioned goals can be achieved by investing to journal editing and publishing. When leaders of the Association once decided the vision and goals of the journal, their driving force should be concentrated to realize those visions. During reform and changing process, leaders may confront the obstacles in or out of the organization. It should be overcome by frequent communication and training. If the journal is not internationalized, the submission to the journal may diminish year by year because member's research competency will become upgraded rapidly so that they would like to submit their research results only to international journals.

Journal publishing is another professional category. The brand value of specific journal cannot be achieved immediately. It is the reason why the United States and England have initiatives in journal publishing, where famous commercial publishing companies and academic societies have published thousands journals. To be competitive to those international journals, there is no way but publishing in English. The reason of low citation is originated from the language hurdle. Therefore, conversion to English journal will be a starting point to be international journal and it can be leading journal in Asia.

Journal publishing is a cooperative work with manuscript editor, English proofreader, layout editor, and information technology engineers besides of editors' and members' devotion. Without their

professional help, journal cannot be published in an international level. Editors also should catch up the trends of journal publishing and editing by participating in the editors' workshop or seminar. If association guarantees the long-term editor's position and supports editor with full cost and consent, there will be no difficulty in reaching the goals of the journal in the near future.

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## Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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