Journals: Publications Office Report

October 2023–March 2024

Prepared by Nick Potts and Ken Camiling for the International Academic Board (IAB)

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Nick Potts, Publications Manager
Ken Camiling, Publications Assistant

In the past six months, the IAFOR Publications Office has published four issues across its five journals, signifying what the Office regards as a period of success. A total of 528 article submissions were received from authors in 73 countries. A graph containing the number of received and published submissions can be found in the Appendices of this report.

Citation counts have been increasing consistently across the board, a positive sign for upcoming publications. While certain challenges and limitations emerge, the IAFOR Publications Office continues to keep up with the international standards within the academy. Several steps have been taken to maintain adherence to such standards, including an application for indexing in additional databases (i.e. Clarivate's Web of Science) and increasing stringency in the screening of submissions, in pursuit of maintaining internationality and diversity among accepted contributions. The Office has also updated journal homepages to align policies and guidelines, and to meet the recent and evolving ethical challenges that artificial intelligence and plagiarism bring. For example, the maximum plagiarism score accepted was decreased to 15%. In addition, all submissions will be run through an AI-Generation Checker, setting 15% as the maximum allowable percentage of AI-generated content. Also posted on the journal homepage is the IAFOR's Statement on AI Tools and Authorship, as referred from the Position Statement of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Documents containing the guidelines can also be downloaded from the journal homepages.

The following section provides a detailed review of each IAFOR journal's performance and trajectory over the past six months. It also includes data from the CrossRef Resolution Report. A resolution refers to a successful redirection of an Internet user to a clicked DOI link of a journal article. In general, the IAFOR Journals registered a good and steady number of resolutions within the scope of this report. A consolidated resolution report can be found in the Appendices.
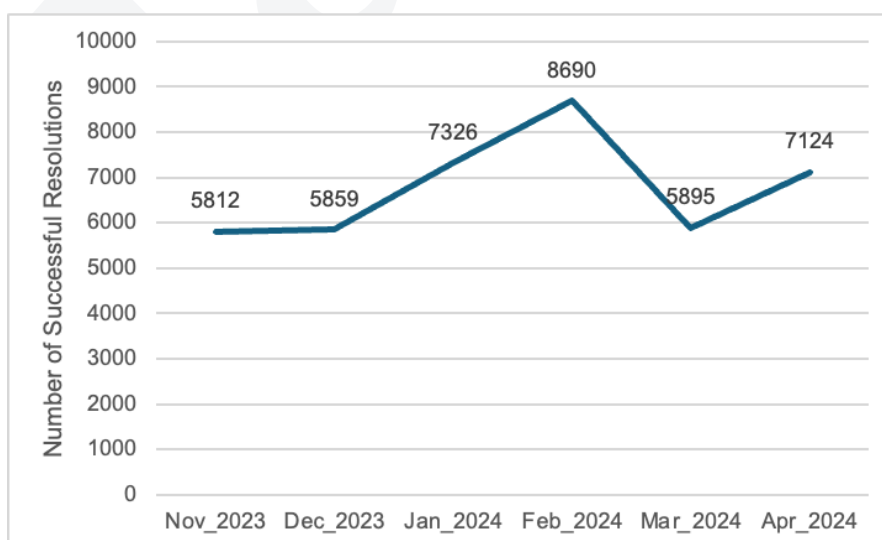

Diagram 1. *IAFOR Journals Resolution Report*

The IAFOR Journal of Education

Within the scope of this report, the *IAFOR Journal of Education* published one issue – 'Studies in Education' (Volume 11 Issue 3) in December 2023. The issue received 107 article submissions resulting in a 9.3% acceptance rate. Dr Pearl Subban from Monash University, Journal Editor, assembled a diverse group of articles that share the common theme of inclusive education, an emerging advocacy in the field. Selected authors hail from various countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the North American continent; their inclusion offers a diverse range of perspectives on interesting subjects as well as case studies with varying demographics.

The current issue will no doubt contribute to the continuing positive performance of the Journal in world databases, particularly, Scopus. As of this report, the title has now received 338 Scopus citations, up from the 278 reported last year. It will significantly climb the CiteScore rankings when these are calculated in the summer of 2024, likely advancing well into the top half of the 1469 Education journals in the Scopus database. The journal also performed impressively on the ERIC Education Database in 2023, with 44,000 views and more than 22,000 paper downloads. Additionally, the title is currently under evaluation for the Web of Science Core Collection.

The Journal also returned excellent successful resolutions in the past five months.
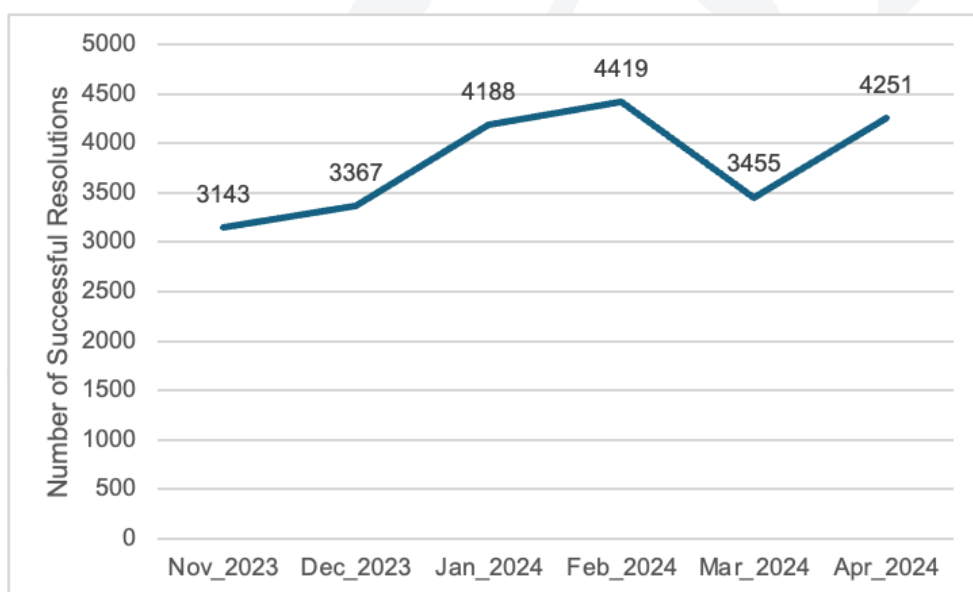

Diagram 2. *Journal of Education Resolution Report*

Three issues are scheduled to be published in 2024: the first, 'Language Learning in Education' (Volume 12 Issue 1) in May; the second, 'Technology in Education' (Volume 12 Issue 2) in August; and the third, 'Studies in Education' (Volume 12 Issue 3) in December. Journal Editors Dr Melinda Cowart from Texas Woman's University ('Language Learning in Education'), Dr Michael Menchaca from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa ('Technology in Education'), and Dr Pearl Subban ('Studies in Education') will continue to lead the editorial board along with existing and newly recruited reviewers from across the globe

The IAFOR Journal of Cultural Studies

The *IAFOR Journal of Cultural Studies* published one issue, Volume 8 Issue 2, in December 2023. 175 articles were submitted, one of the highest in the Journal's history. Editor-in-Chief

Dr Holger Briel from Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University United International College selected five articles, contributing to a 2.9% acceptance rate. Hailing from diverse geographical backgrounds, as Dr Briel described, the authors share a common theme of expounding on the crises humanity has been experiencing in the new age and how the seemingly lost ideological liberties are being revived through the empowerment of self-expression. This current issue contributed to the Journal's 47 papers indexed on Scopus. As of this report, the Journal's citation count continues to climb. Like the *IAFOR Journal of Education,* this title is also under evaluation for the Web of Science Core Collection.

Earlier this year, the Journal set a high record of resolutions. It is hoped that the numbers will increase with the addition of new titles in upcoming publications.
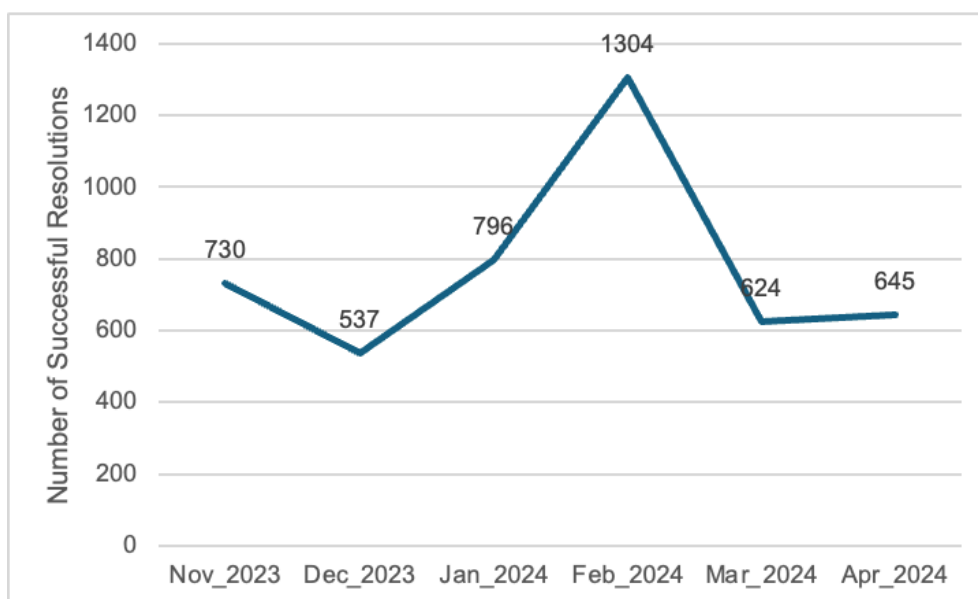

Diagram 3. *Journal of Cultural Studies Resolution Report*

This year, the Journal will publish two issues: the first, Volume 9 Issue 1 (July), and the second, Volume 9 Issue 2 (December). Dr Briel will continue to serve as the Head of the editorial board, alongside Andy Lihua Chen from Hong Kong Baptist University as the Associate Editor.

The IAFOR Journal of Arts & Humanities

In the scope of this report, the *IAFOR Journal of Arts & Humanities* has yet to publish an issue. The last publication, Volume 10 Issue 1, was published in August 2023. Editor-in-Chief Dr Alfonso J. García-Osuna from Hofstra University and the City University of New York curated 12 articles for the issue, covering a wide variety of topics that explore new directions and perspectives in the arts and humanities, with a particular focus on the emergence of new technologies. Dr García-Osuna revealed that the articles convey in-depth analyses of past and present humanistic endeavours, in pursuit of envisaging the contours of the future. The issue received 142 submissions and returned an 8.5% acceptance rate.

While the resolutions for the Journal decreased in the past month, the numbers significantly increased in the succeeding.
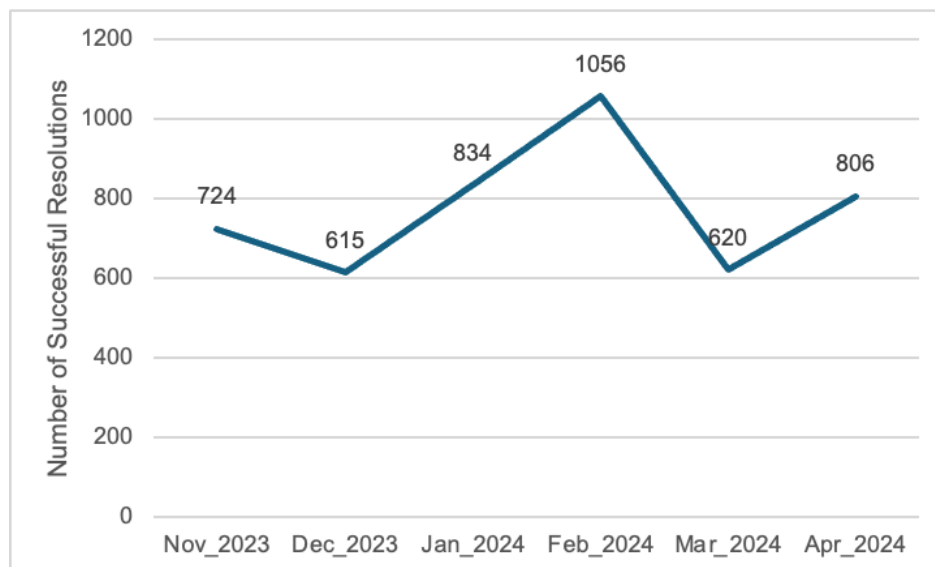
Diagram 4. *Journal of Arts & Humanities Resolution Report*

The title failed in its recent evaluation for the Web of Science Core Collection and will reapply at a future date. The failure is attributed to not meeting the following criteria:

1. On Timeliness and/or Publication Volume: The journal must conform to the stated schedule. The volume of scholarly works published annually is expected to be within ranges appropriate to the subject area.
2. On Publication Volume: The publication volume is not in line with similar journals covering this subject area.

To address these concerns, the Publications Office is coordinating with the Journal's editorial board to ensure that forthcoming issues include an acceptable volume and will be published on schedule.

This year, two issues are in order: the first, Volume 11 Issue 1 (August), and the second, Volume 11 Issue 2 (November). Dr García-Osuna will continue to lead the editorial board, collaborating with esteemed academics in the Journal's list of reviewers.

The IAFOR Journal of Literature & Librarianship

In the past six months, the *IAFOR Journal of Literature & Librarianship* has published one issue, Volume 12 Issue 2, in November 2023. Editor-in-Chief Dr Bernard Montoneri, an independent researcher from Taiwan, assembled eight articles from authors coming from diverse geographical backgrounds, offering comprehensive and critical reviews and analyses of interesting literature. A total of 64 submissions were received for this issue, returning an acceptance rate of 12.5%. The citation count for the Journal in the Scopus database has tripled in the last three years, with a total count of 16 as of this report.

Until early this year, the Journal's resolution numbers constantly increased. It is hoped that the dip shown in March will be improved once the new issue is published.
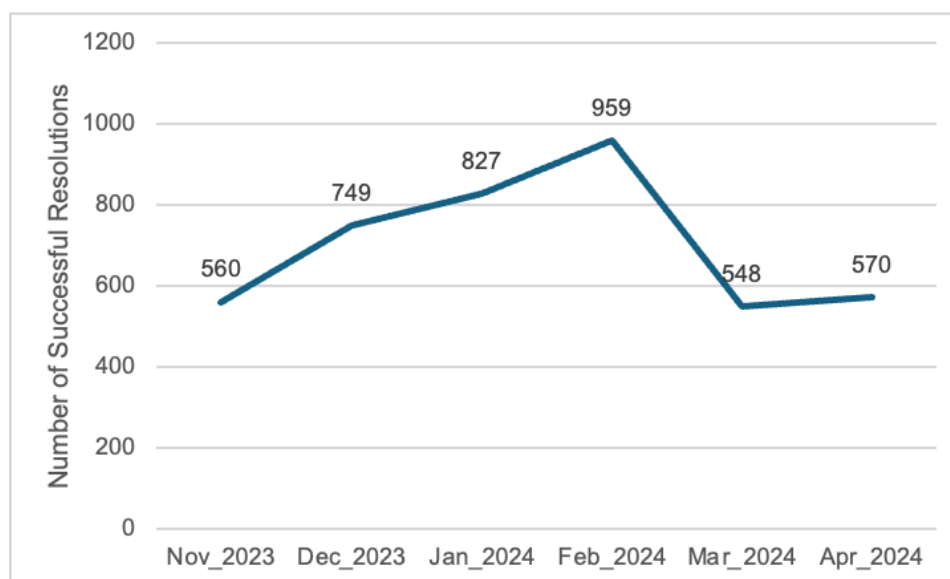
Diagram 5. *Journal of Literature & Librarianship Resolution Report*

The title failed in its recent evaluation for the Web of Science Core Collection and will reapply at a future date. The failure is attributed to not meeting the following criteria:

1. On Timeliness and/or Publication Volume: The journal must conform to the stated schedule. The volume of scholarly works published annually is expected to be within ranges appropriate to the subject area.
2. On Presence of Ethics Statements: The journal must be transparent about its ethical requirements for authors and published works.
3. On Timeliness: The journal claims to publish one issue per year, but two issues have been published in 2023. The publication frequency must be clearly stated on the journal website, and the journal must follow the stated publication schedule. The journal states that it started publishing in 2021 (as stated on the submission portal), however, from the archive it seems that it started in 2017.
4. On Presence of Ethics Statements: Specific policies regarding authorship, retractions, corrections, and publishing malpractices are also expected to be present on the journal website. If the journal supports and uses one or more third-party organisations' principles (WAME, COPE, Declaration of Helsinki, etc.), either the full text of the guidelines should be presented and appropriately credited to the source, or a functioning link to the full text of the guideline should be provided.

To address these concerns, the Publications Office is in coordination with the Journal's editorial board for the review and revision of the Journal's ethics statements and other information posted on the website (e.g. publication frequency and history). In addition, the Office aims to publish the forthcoming issues on schedule with a volume within the ranges appropriate in the field.

The Journal is set to publish two issues this year: the first, Volume 13 Issue 1 (August), and the second, Volume 13 Issue 2 (November). Dr Montoneri will continue to serve as the Editor-in-Chief, alongside Co-Editor Dr Michaela Keck from Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg and Associate Editors Dr Murielle El Hajj from Lusail University and Dr Fernando Darío González Grueso from Tamkang University.

The IAFOR Journal of Psychology & the Behavioral Sciences

Albeit delayed for three months due to circumstances such as health issues and schedule

constraints of a few members of the editorial board, the *IAFOR Journal of Psychology & the Behavioral Sciences* published one issue, Volume 9 Issue 2, in March 2024. Editors Dr Deborah Gay Wooldridge from Bowling Green State University, Dr Laura Landry Meyer from Bowling Green State University, and Dr Shahrokh Shafaie from Southeast Missouri State University curated four articles that present in-depth investigations and applications of psychological theories on education and mental health contexts. The issue returned an acceptance rate of 10.3% from a total of 39 submissions.

The Journal's resolution numbers increased significantly earlier this year. While the numbers dipped last month, the Journal picked up and recorded a high number of resolutions.
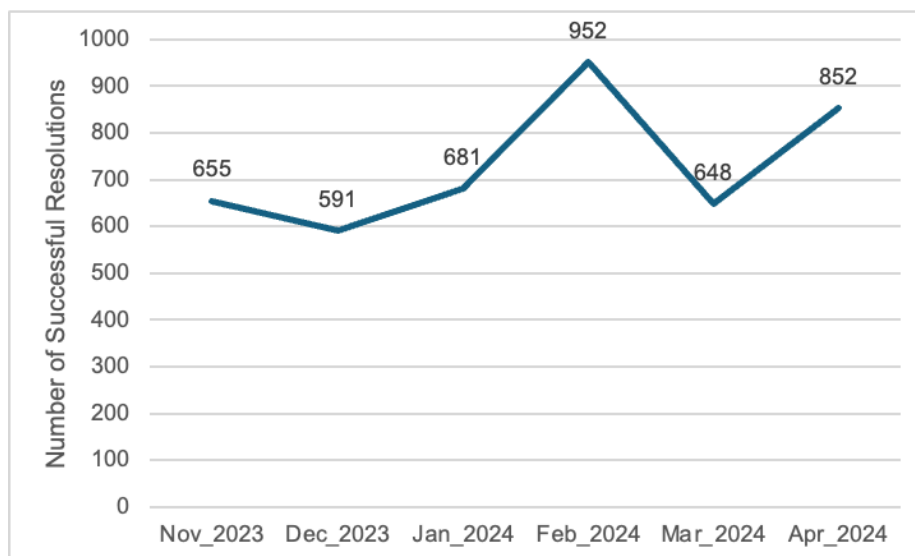

Diagram 6. *Journal of Psychology & the Behavioral Sciences Resolution Report*

After careful evaluation of the Journal's performance in previous issues, the IAFOR Publications Committee, in consultation with the International Academic Board (IAB), decided to put this Journal on an indefinite hiatus. The Journal's suspension will allow the organisation to rethink future directions and initiatives on how to further strengthen the contribution of the Journal in the field.
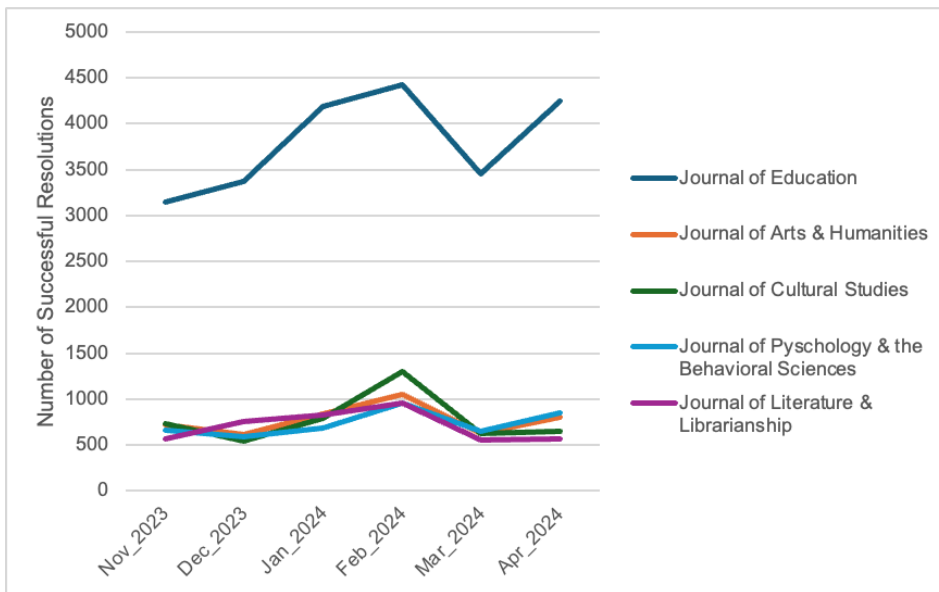
Appendices
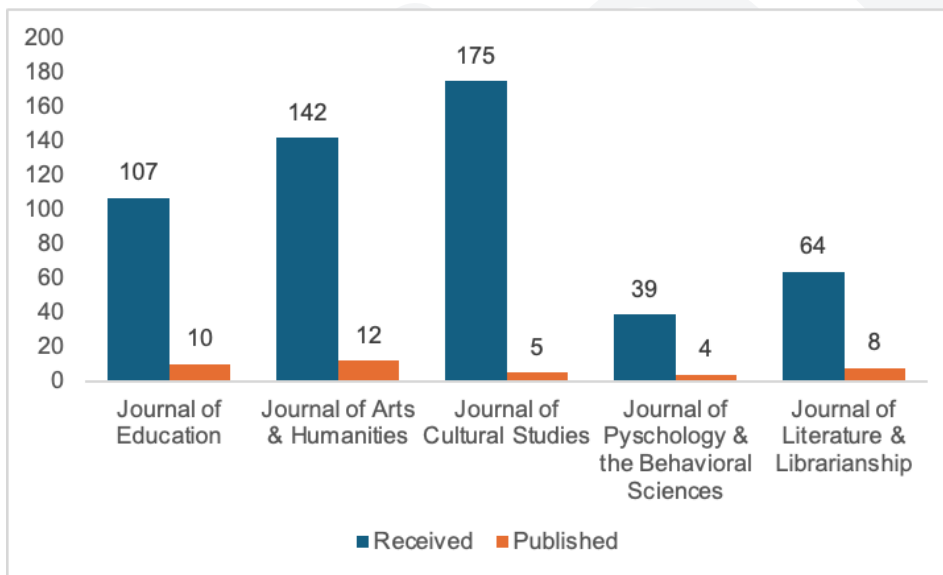

Diagram 7. *IAFOR Journals Consolidated Resolution Report*

Diagram 8. *IAFOR Journals Articles Received and Published*