

NEW EDITORIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Two significant editorial accomplishments have been recently achieved by this journal, a section of the *Atti della Accademia Peloritana dei Pericolanti* (AAPP) that is specifically devoted to scholarly communication in the physical, mathematical, and natural sciences.

As of July 2009 the journal has been awarded the “SPARC Europe Seal for Open Access Journals”, a certification scheme that was jointly launched in April 2008 by the *Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition* (SPARC) Europe and the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ) [1].

SPARC Europe is an alliance of European research libraries, library organisations and research institutions, affiliated with SPARC – an organization based in Washington, D.C. (USA) – whose mission is to develop and promote new models of scholarly communication that may increase the access to and utility of research literature [2]. DOAJ is a service provided by the Head Office of the Lund University Libraries in Sweden [3]. It was launched in 2003 with the aim of promoting the diffusion and visibility of open access (OA) scientific and scholarly journals and has soon become an authoritative source of information on OA journals (4358 titles from 102 countries as of 21 September 2009) *that exercise peer review or editorial quality control to guarantee their content* [4]. The DOAJ team is also working to set standards in copyright, metadata, and preservation issues. This journal was added to DOAJ, after review, on October 13, 2005.

In order to qualify for the SPARC Europe Seal, a journal that has been already indexed in the DOAJ must publish its content under a Creative Commons (CC) attribution (BY) license [5] and provide DOAJ with metadata on article level from the start year of the journal in DOAJ until the present [4, 6]. As for this journal, the change in the licensing protocol has been effective with the first issue of Vol. LXXXVII (2009). We have already commented [7] on the editorial significance of such a choice that, according to SPARC and DOAJ, corresponds more closely to the ethos of the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) according to which the user should be allowed to “read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full text” of OA complying articles [8]. As a result, the Seal sets a standard in that it clarifies what users are allowed to do with papers published in a journal which, through the same Seal, has the opportunity to qualify as a high-quality journal based on state-of-the-art dissemination technologies.

Out of a total of 93 OA journals that are being published in Italy *and* are currently included in the DOAJ [9], only this journal appears to have earned, as of today, the Seal.

The second novel circumstance is an agreement just entered into with EBSCO Publishing (EP), the Provider of EBSCOhost[®], the leading search platform for full-text online research databases in institutions worldwide [10]. EP is headquartered in Ipswich, Massachusetts (USA). Their database products are reported to be installed in close to 90% of the public, college and university libraries in the United States and Canada, with an excellent penetration in Western Europe as well. The outcome of this agreement is the inclusion of the content from this journal in their information products. In particular, AAPP will be available – starting from Vol. LXXXVII – on “Academic Search Complete”, a database which currently includes 11180 academic journals and magazines (either indexed and abstracted or in full text), most of which (9736) are peer-reviewed [11].

The current “exposure” of this electronic journal can be estimated through the number of article download requests. In the course of the last year more than ten thousand IP accesses were logged on the journal’s web server, more than 50% originated from Internet country-code top-level domains *other than* “.it” or, in any case, not ascribable to or registered in Italy. Preliminary data on accesses logged in the current year show that the relative quota from foreign countries has further grown. It is not unrealistic to foresee that, as a result of the agreement signed with EP, this publication will gain an even larger visibility within the international academic and research communities, with an increase – both in absolute and percent units – of readers who may otherwise not have known of this journal before.

References

- [1] Press release available from <http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=loadTempl&templ=080423>
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- [3] More information available from <http://www.doaj.org/>
- [4] A.-L. Johansson and I. Wahlgren, “The one stop shop to open access journals”, *ScieCom Info* **4**, No. 4 (2008); <http://www.sciecom.org/ojs/index.php/sciecominfo/article/view/1449>
- [5] More details on the license available from <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>
- [6] Information available from <http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=loadTempl&templ=faq#seal>
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- [10] More information available from <http://www.ebscohost.com>
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Published online: 21 September 2009

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Atti Accad. Pelorit. Pericol. Cl. Sci. Fis. Mat. Nat., Vol. LXXXVII, No. 2, C1E0902001 (2009)