



*International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*  
*Volume 19 Issue 1, 2016*

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Dear Colleagues,

The IFAMR was mentioned in a recent *Chicago Tribune* story about its progressive Open Access (OA) model of publishing. [[full article](#)]

So what is OA?

Open Access makes research freely available online without having to go through a paid subscription service or library. The IFAMR (every article published since 1998) is free to anyone with Internet access, and new issues are available immediately upon publication. We hold no material back. We initiated OA in 2009 and moved from about 350 individual subscribers and twelve fee-paying libraries, to complete access through our website, numerous search services, and a global mailing to over 12,000 scholars, managers, and policymakers. An OA publication model was necessary if we wanted to broaden our scholar network and research scope to include the fast growing emerging markets. Open Access is one reason we have seen a 24% compound annual growth rate in submissions since 2008.

In one sense OA can be done by anyone, since anyone can publish and distribute on the Internet. One challenge or concern is whether a publisher can simultaneously provide OA and achieve high quality. More specifically can it provide OA and have an Impact Factor? The IFAMR has achieved both. One of the largest journal publishers in the world—Springer, publishes over 200 OA journals, and less than 20% have an Impact Factor. Thus, one might conclude that OA limits a journal's ability to obtain an ISI Impact Factor. Vice President for Thomson-Reuters, James Pringle, says no. He stresses that nothing about being OA intrinsically limits the ISI impact of a journal, ([full article](#)). OA reflects the low barriers of entry to publish, whereas achieving the strict criteria of receiving an Impact Factor indicates the quality of the journal.

Finally, going back to the focus of the above *Chicago Tribune* article, another issue with the OA movement is the direct and highly adverse effects it has on the traditional publishing and library subscription model. Universities are tired of paying salaries of researchers and then having to pay publishers again for access to the scientific writing of their university employees. Consequently, there is a big movement underway towards OA publishing, and large publishing houses are very concerned. The IFAMR represents a new sustainable publishing model that melds OA with high quality.

Our strategy is to better serve emerging markets and this issue continues to deliver. We have five continents represented by the authors and research settings in this edition. The IFAMR family continues to grow. We are excited about the forthcoming September issue of the journal that focuses on papers coming through in conjunction with IFAMA's 2016 Best Paper Competition. This year, submissions to IFAMA's annual Symposium occurring in Aarhus, Denmark is off the charts with many authors looking to take advantage of an accelerated blind peer-review process, fast track publishing and—one of the few journals with an Impact Factor. That's value!

Enjoy the issue. Keep those submissions coming and thank you for helping to serve as a reviewer—it keeps us rolling.

**Peter Goldsmith, Executive Editor, IFAMR**

