

## Editorial

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This editorial is a follow-up to the one that appeared in *Names* 58(1) (pp. 3–4) in which I discussed the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. This issue addresses the Council of Editors of Linguistic Journals and the future of learned journals.

### The Future of Learned Journals

The Committee of Editors of Linguistic Journals, initialized as CELxJ to distinguish it from the CELJ (The Council of Editors of Learned Journals: <http://celj.org/>) is a professional organization that deserves mention. Its website is <http://celxj.org/>. Once you reach this site, you will find a number of interesting topics including the following from the January 2009 symposium on the impact of linguistics journals rankings and citations:

1. LSA Symposium Intro — Salmons (Editor, *Diachronica*) PPT file (Joe Salmons, Editor, *Diachronica*)
2. LSA Symposium — Joseph PDF (Journal Rankings: An Editor's Perspective. Brian Joseph, *Language*)
3. LSA Symposium — Hollingsworth PDF (Linguistics Journals: Inside a Citation Data Base, Marian Hollingsworth. Thomson Reuters).
4. LSA Symposium — Cullars PDF (Percentages of Citations by Type of Sources Cited, John Cullars, University of Illinois, Chicago).

The 2009 symposium held at the 2009 Linguistic Society of America meeting in San Francisco addressed issues about journal rankings and citations that will have an ever-increasing impact on all journals including *Names*. The international movement to rank journals in terms of quality measured by the implementation of systematic anonymous review of all submissions, rejection rate, and the citation rate are just a few of the factors involved. Reading the materials (items 1–4) cited above from the Linguistic Society of America Symposium on the ranking of journals will provide the reader with a more detailed and complete specification of the various components that go into the ranking of scholarly journals. Ranking is an issue that we must deal with both now and in the future.

The first pdf (# 1 above) from the 2009 Linguistic Society of America symposium on journal rankings raises the following questions related to the ranking of academic journals, which I reproduce here:

1. **Philosophical**
  - Why is “objective” ranking of journals considered important?

- Why have organizations like Thomson ISI and Google Scholar become important within academia?
  - What are the arguments for and against rankings and impact factors?
2. **Practical**
    - Can measurement of journal impact and rank be done objectively?
    - Is this being done within linguistics in ways that are valuable?
    - Is this being done within linguistics in ways that might threaten the vitality of research and of journals?
  3. **Professional**
    - What role does the assessment of journal impact and rank actually play in grantsmanship, promotion, tenure and hiring decisions, library acquisitions, etc.?

An additional useful item on this website is the following one from a graduate student panel held on January 8 2010 at the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America meeting in Baltimore.

1. Handout from the Graduate Student Panel, “From Qualifying Paper to Published Paper” PDF (<http://celxj.org/downloads/Handout.pdf>)

## Note

Dr Thomas J. Gasque (University of South Dakota, Emeritus), a former Editor of *Names: A Journal of Onomastics* (1988–1992), and a former President of the American Name Society (2001–2002) suggested the following alterations in the editorial published in *Names* 58(2), p. 63) enumerated here.

1. *Names* 58(2) contains a note entitled “Presidents and Editors of the American Name Society, 1953–2010” (pp. 111–112) authored by Dr Gasque. It should be noted that this note was a handout given at the annual meeting of the American Name Society held in Baltimore, MD, January 9, 2010, at his invited presentation entitled “Six Decades of the American Name Society”. This note is not a history, but rather an enumeration of the past presidents of the American Name Society and of the editors of *Names: A Journal of Onomastics*. Readers may go the American Name Society web site (<http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/ANS/>) to see the complete and slightly revised version of this paper with the title “A History of the American Name Society by Thomas Gasque”. Readers will also find much additional valuable information about our organization at this site.
2. In the note “Presidents and Editors of the American Name Society, 1953–2010” (pp. 111–112), on p. 111, the first name of the seventh president is Jaroslav.
3. The reference to the special issue of *Names* 33(3) 1985 failed to mention J. Fisher Solomon’s article “Speaking of No One: The Logical Status of Fictional Proper Names” (pp. 145–157). Furthermore, the proper spelling of Professor Dalberg’s first name is Vibeke. Finally, the title of Bengt Pamp’s article is “Ten Theses on Proper Names”.