



Transport Problems: the Regional Scientific Journal Contributing to Global Information



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Instead of the abstract: Brief presentation of Transport Problems scientific journal.

Published since 2006, minimal number of issues per year: 4.

Average annual number of articles: 65.

Publisher: Silesian University of Technology, Poland.

p-ISSN: 1896-0596; e-ISSN 2300-861X.

Topics of articles:

- road transport, railway transport, air and space transport, sea and river transport;
- industrial transport;
- urban communication, transport issues for smart cities;
- transport management in megacities, modeling of transport systems, traffic control;
- bicycles, scooters and motorcycles, as means of transport;
- preparing cargo, cargo forwarding and delivery, coordination of cargo handling operations;
- logistics centers, integrated transport systems;
- intermodal, multimodal and combined transport;
- computer systems for design of vehicles;
- mechanical engineering, rolling stock and vehicles' manufacture;

- technical troubleshooting of vehicles;
- active and passive safety features, safety of transport systems;
- traffic forecasting and regional requirements, transport statistics;
- impact of safety legislation on transport;
- transport automation;
- transport economics;
- transport and environmental problems;
- impact of transport on health problems and ergonomics;
- transport infrastructure;
- education for transport industry;
- more specific issues of transport (by agreement with the editors).

The journal is included in most international reference databases, including Scopus (since 2012) and WoS (since 2016).

The journal has the status of Open Access and is included in the database DOAJ. All articles are available for download in PDF format.

Web-page of the journal: <http://transportproblems.polsl.pl/en/default.aspx> contains information on publication requirements, editorial and licensing policies, as well as the adopted review procedure are published there.

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For the original Russian text of the article please see p. 290.

Currently, in the world there are many journals in the field of transport and transportation. They reflect various aspects related to development of transport systems, ranging from design and technology issues to development of law or education in the transport industry. 14 years ago a scientific journal was born at the Faculty of Transport of the Silesian Technical University, and the publishing house of that university started publishing it. Was this an urgent need? The past years and the experience gained allow us to respond positively to the question posed.

The main idea of creating a journal is contained in its title. Doctors say that the correct diagnosis is half of the treatment. The founders of the journal also claim that a properly formulated transport problem is already a big step towards its subsequent resolution. It is also quite obvious that the post-socialist region had enormous problems in the transport industry, which were often either uninteresting for economically developed countries, or even simply incomprehensible for scientists and specialists who work in relevant scientific organizations, universities or companies. Thus, the main task of founders of the journal was to create a platform for discussing the existing problems of the industry, an opportunity to share best practices for regional transport science, and to draw the attention of the scientific community to the potential opportunities of the region and its achievements. It should be emphasized that the latter is often possible under the conditions of substantial financial constraints, which make it possible to solve a particular transport problem by the most rational, lean methods, primarily from a financial point of view.

The journal in question was not created from scratch, since the collection of scientific works (*Zeszyty naukowe Politechniki Śląskiej/Transport*) had been published at the Silesian Technical University for many years. Its disadvantage was that, firstly, it was published irregularly. Secondly, most of the articles were published in Polish. Thirdly, it was available only in print form. There were other, less significant disadvantages. Accordingly, it was decided that the publication will be published regularly as a quarterly journal. The main (and currently single) language of the journal is English. And, finally, and that coincided with the global trend, it would be a journal with Open Access status, i.e. all its articles will be available for open access in the form of PDF-files.

Obviously, such a publication requires financial investments. At the first stage, financing was carried out at the expense of the university, but later, after the corresponding order of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland, the editorial staff had to shift the burden of financing the publication onto the shoulders of the authors. The journal has become commercial, but the editors are trying to keep the amount of funding at the minimum necessary level, realizing that it might be difficult for scholars and experts from the region in question to bear associated costs.

Currently, payment for the publication of an article, regardless of the number of pages (maximum volume of an article is 14 pages), is 250 euros. This amount is paid only for those articles that have already been accepted for publication. The journal is published both electronically and in print, both editions are identical. This payment allows to ensure good print quality, including color printing of pictures. Authors of articles and members of the program committee of the journal receive free copies.

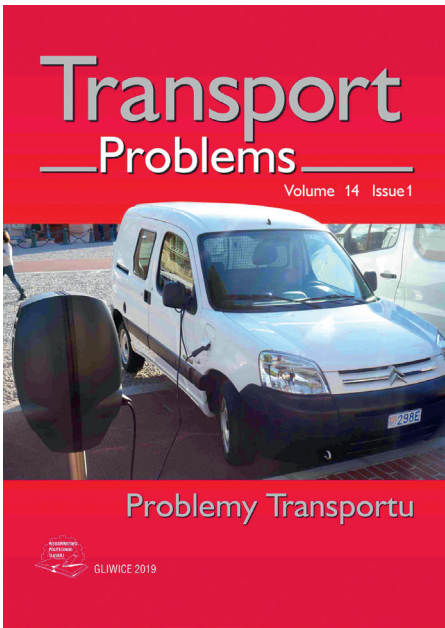
A significant part of the payment is used for linguistic correction, proof-reading of articles. The creators of the journal understood that for most authors, English is not native, and finding good translators (native speakers) who would be proficient in transport terminology and understand to a certain extent the subject in question, which is a prerequisite for an adequate translation, is very difficult. Therefore, at present, such a proof-reading is carried out in the United States using the services of Exeley Inc. Authors are required to prepare an article with a level of English translation sufficient for the reviewers to understand the essence of the proposed solutions.

All rules for design of articles, reviewing, licensing, etc. are published at the Internet page of the journal [1]. However, reviewing should be considered separately. According to the rules of the journal, each article should receive two positive reviews from leading world scientists. The editors do not have a permanent list of reviewers. For each article, potential peer reviewers are selected, who are well-known experts in the subject matter and have a Ph.D. degree (or professors). The reviewing process is anonymous, but a general list of reviewing process is published each year in the final issue of the journal. Reviewers are chosen so that they do not represent the same countries as the authors, which allows to exclude a conflict of interest.

The journal is greatly assisted in his mission through in his mission through its interaction with the scientific conference of the same name (symposium). The scientific committee of these events recommends selected reports for further refinement and possible publication in the journal. The recommendation of the scientific committee is deemed to be one of the positive reviews. Besides, articles of the conference participants are considered by the editors of the journal without queuing. The process of publication in the journal due to the large number of people willing to publish articles is quite long and currently is about 1,5 years. However, participation in the conference allows future authors to significantly speed up the publication of their articles. Thus, there is mutual interest: on the one hand, for potential authors to get the accelerated publication in the journal, which is included in the Scopus and WoS databases; on the other hand, it is important for the journal to have the widest possible choice of articles, which allows raising the general scientific level of publications, expanding citation of individual articles and, ultimately, increasing the journal's citation index in scientometric databases.

Currently, the journal «Transport Problems» is widespread. It is included into more than 250 databases in many countries. These are databases of public libraries, scientific institutes and universities, commercial databases. Among such databases, Scopus, WoS, Index Copernicus, RISC, and some others are best known. Despite the fact that the journal was initially positioned as a regional publication, at present it contains the works of scientists and specialists from 45 countries. It is obvious that quantitatively it is dominated by works from the countries of Central Europe and the former USSR, but authors from the USA, China, India, Western Europe and many other countries are published as well. The latest analysis of Scopus database data shows that in 2018 journal articles were quoted 214 times (without self-citing, the figure is 212 times). If we consider that, for example, in 2018 55 articles were published, we can estimate the citation rate of the journal, which is now among the most prominent industry scientific journals.

Besides, a few words should be said about editorial policy. The editors of the journal are trying to help the authors as much as possible to tune their articles to a scientific quality that would meet the highest requirements of leading scientific journals. Unfortunately, often authors from the countries of



the former USSR make significant mistakes in preparing articles that are sent to the editors of the journal. There are incorrect quotations of literature and absence of an appropriate references' analysis, absence of a description of scientific novelty, lack of appropriate structuring of an article, and a number of other very significant inaccuracies. A few years ago, at the request of Kazakh colleagues, the author of this material wrote an article [2] in which the most common mistakes were analyzed. Unfortunately, we have to admit that this article has not lost its relevance and can be recommended for reading to future authors of the journal «Transport Problems».

In conclusion, I would like to note that interaction of scientists from different countries is of great importance. Scientific journals have the mission not only to promote exchanges of information, but above all to unite the international scientific community in solving current problems. We believe that interaction of the journals «Transport Problems» and «World of Transport and Transportation» can contribute to development of mutual understanding between scientists from different countries.

REFERENCES

1. International scientific journal «Transport Problems». Silesian University of Technology, Poland. [Electronic resource]: <http://transportproblems.polsl.pl/en/default.aspx>. Last accessed 26.05.2019.
2. Śladkowski, A. On the issue of writing scientific articles for journals included in the scientometric database [K voprosu napisaniya nauchnykh statei dlya zhurnalov, vkhodyashchikh v naukometricheskie bazy dannykh]. *Novosti nauki Kazakhstana*, 2014, Iss. 4, pp. 9–17, ISSN 1560–5655. ●

