

Accounting Department P&T meeting to document top journals list process

Thursday, July 30, 2020 10:00 AM

In response to the recommendations in the Report of the Top-Tier Journals Task Force, the Accounting Department P&T committee met to discuss the top-tier journals list, and to describe the process our department is using to determine the list, for use in future P&T cases.

The journals included on the list (listed alphabetically):

Contemporary Accounting Research (FT, SJR)
Journal of Accounting and Economics (FT, SJR)
Journal of Accounting Research (FT, SJR)
Management Science (FT, SJR)
Review of Accounting Studies (FT, SJR)
The Accounting Review (FT, SJR)

FT = included in Financial Times Research Rankings

SJR = included in Scimago Journal Rankings

In addition, the P&T committee agreed that top non-Accounting journals on other Stern departments' top-tier lists should also be considered as top-tier for our P&T processes.

The rationale for inclusion was a combination of journal rankings and our department faculty's knowledge of the field.¹ For journal rankings, we consulted Scimago Journal Rankings (SJR) and the Financial Times (FT) Research Rankings. Their links are included, below. All 6 of our top journals are on the FT top 50 journals list, and the 5 specialty accounting journals are the top 5 accounting journals on the SJR list. All except *Management Science* are specialty Accounting journals, and *Management Science* has an accounting section. Rajgopal (2019, pg. 15) lists our 5 accounting journals as "The top five specialist journals in accounting".

In the accounting P&T meeting, the support for the list was unanimous. There was a discussion whether to further extend the list, in particular whether to include the journal *Accounting, Organizations and Society* (AOS) – which covers sociological research related to accounting and which some schools consider to be a top journal – but at the end of the discussion there was unanimous support not to include AOS or any other journal. We also discussed shortening the list – but since all six journals in the list are very influential journals in accounting research, and they are all general accounting journals (rather than a sub-field journal), there was a consensus to include all six journals in the list.

This Chair's memo was circulated to all P&T members for feedback, and was edited for their comments. The P&T committee agreed to review the list in the future, as circumstances dictate.

¹ We also informally polled other top accounting departments (Wharton, Chicago, Stanford, MIT) to learn what they consider to be top journals (for peer comparisons). To the best of our knowledge, these schools don't have top journal lists.

Links to SJR and FT top journals lists

<https://www.ft.com/content/3405a512-5cbb-11e1-8f1f-00144feabdc0>

<https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=1402>

Reference

Rajgopal, Shiva, 2019 “Integrating Practice into Accounting Research”, working paper,
Columbia University