

COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in Religion, Theology and Related Fields (RTRF)

August 2013



*Applying scientific thinking
in the service of society*



COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING IN SOUTH AFRICA

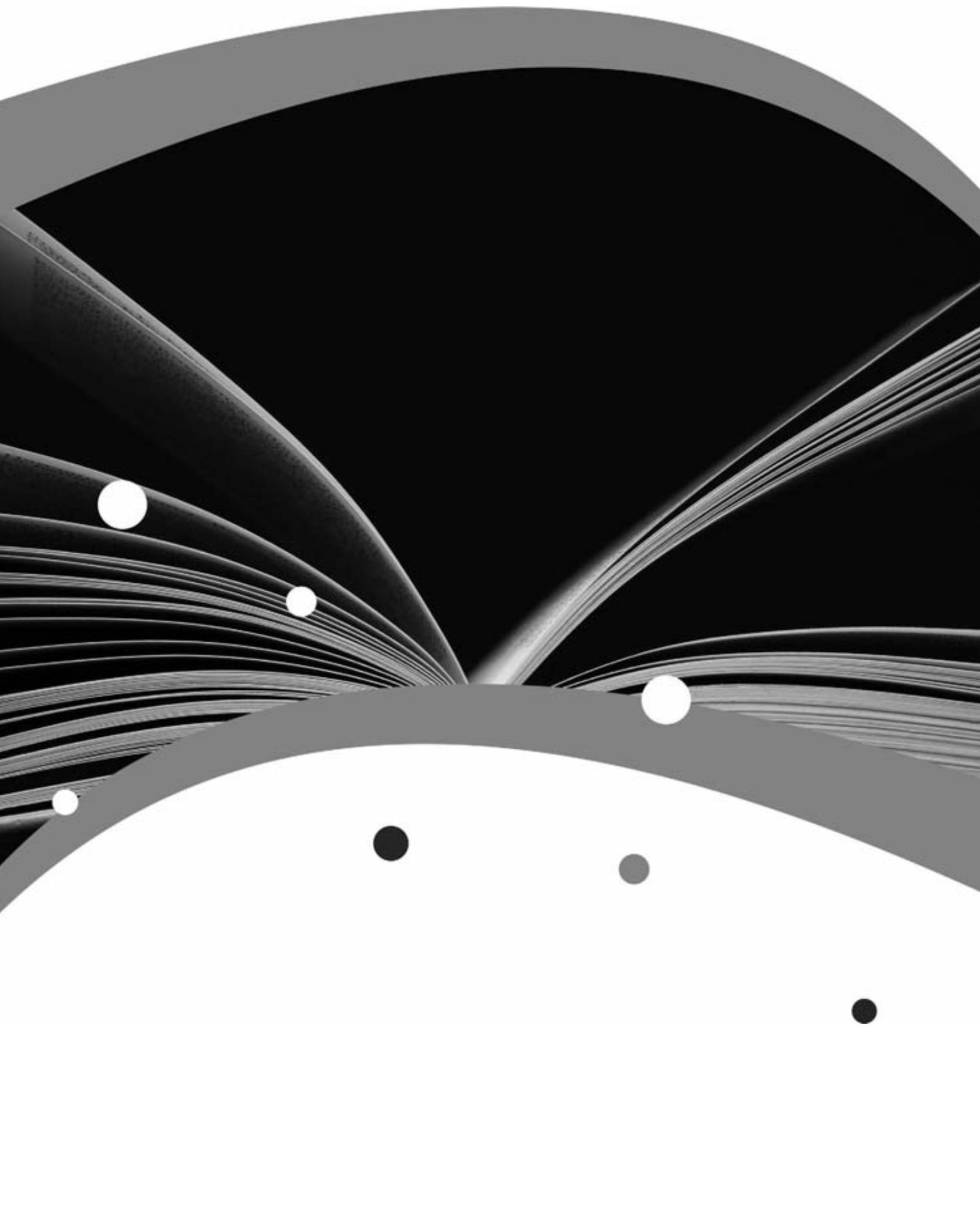
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CONTENTS

Acronyms/Abbreviations	5
Preface.....	7
Foreword	9
1 Periodic Peer Review of South African Scholarly Journals: Approved Process Guidelines and Criteria	11
1.1 <i>Background</i>	11
1.2 <i>ASSAf Peer-review Panels (PRPs)</i>	11
1.3 <i>Initial Criteria</i>	12
1.4 <i>Process Guidelines</i>	13
1.4.1 <i>Setting up Panels</i>	13
1.4.2 <i>Setting up and Organising the Panels</i>	14
1.4.3 <i>Panel Meetings and Procedures</i>	15
1.4.4 <i>Post-meeting Procedures and Panel Reports</i>	16
2 Special Considerations Concerning South African Religion, Theology and Related Fields Journals (RTRF)	17
3 Panel Members.....	19
4 Consensus Reviews of Journals in the Group.....	20
4.1 <i>Antiquity</i>	20
4.1.1 <i>Acta Patristica et Byzantina (New Title: Journal of Early Christian History (JESH))</i>	20
4.1.2 <i>Old Testament Essays (New Series)</i>	24
4.1.3 <i>Neotestamentica – Journal of the New Testament Society of South Africa (NTSSA)</i>	27
4.1.4 <i>Journal for Semitics/Tydskrif vir Semitistiek</i>	30
4.1.5 <i>Ekklesiastikos Pharos</i>	33
4.2 <i>Mainstream Theology</i>	37
4.2.1 <i>Acta Theologica</i>	37
4.2.2 <i>Journal of Theology for Southern Africa</i>	39
4.2.3 <i>Verbum et Ecclesia</i>	41
4.2.4 <i>Scriptura</i>	44

4.3	Specific Theological Traditions	46
4.3.1	<i>In Die Skriflig (New Title: In Luce Verbi)</i>	46
4.3.2	<i>Nederduits-Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif (NGTT)</i>	48
4.3.3	<i>South African Baptist Journal of Theology</i>	51
4.3.4	<i>HTS Teologiese Studies – Theological Studies (Incorporating Practical Theology)</i>	53
4.4	Science/Scholarship in Theology	56
4.4.1	<i>Koers: Bulletin for Christian Scholarship</i>	56
4.4.2	<i>Tydskrif vir Christelike Wetenskap/ Journal for Christian Scholarship.....</i>	59
4.5	Religious Studies.....	62
4.5.1	<i>Theologia Viatorum: Journal of Theology and Religion In Africa.....</i>	62
4.5.2	<i>Journal for the Study of Religion</i>	64
4.5.3	<i>Journal of Constructive Theology: Gender, Religion and Theology in Africa (Name changed to Journal of Gender and Religion in Africa).....</i>	66
4.5.4	<i>Missionalia: Journal of the Southern African Missiological Society</i>	69
4.5.5	<i>Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae.....</i>	72
4.6	Specific Religious Traditions	75
4.6.1	<i>Journal for Islamic Studies.....</i>	75
4.6.2	<i>Nidan: International Journal for the Study of Hinduism.....</i>	77
4.6.3	<i>International Journal for Religious Freedom.....</i>	80
 Appendix A:		
	Questionnaire sent to Each Editor of Journals being Peer Reviewed	84
 Appendix B:		
	Requests to Independent Peer Reviewers.....	86
 Appendix C:		
	Bibliometric Profile of South African Religious Study Journals (Crest Report)	86

ACRONYMS

/ ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Advising board
AGM	Annual general meeting
AJOL	African Journals Online
ASSAf	Academy of Science of South Africa
ATLA	American Theological Library Association
BUSA	Baptist Union of South Africa
CHE	Council on Higher Education
CHSSA	Church History Society of Southern Africa
CREST	Centre for Research on Science and Technology
CSPiSA	Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DST	Department of Science and Technology
FHU	Fort Hare University
HESA	Higher Education South Africa
HEQC	Higher Education Quality Committee
IAB	International advisory board
IAHS	Institute for Afro-Hellenic Studies
IRF	Institute for Religious Freedom
IIRF	International Institute for Religious Freedom
<i>IJRF</i>	<i>International Journal for Religious Freedom</i>
<i>JTSA</i>	<i>Journal of Theology for Southern Africa</i>
MRC	Medical Research Council
NGTT	<i>Nederduits-Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif</i>
NMMU	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
NRF	National Research Foundation
NSBPF	National Scholarly Book Publishers' Forum
NSEF	National Scholarly Editors' Forum
NTSSA	New Testament Society of South Africa
NWU	North-West University
OTSSA	Old Testament Society of South Africa
PRPs	Peer-review panels
RU	Rhodes University
<i>SABJT</i>	<i>South African Baptist Journal of Theology</i>
SAMS	Southern African Missiological Society
SciELO	Scientific Electronic Library Online
SciELO-SA	Scientific Electronic Library Online - South Africa
SASNES	Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies
<i>SHE</i>	<i>Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae</i>
SU	Stellenbosch University
UCT	University of Cape Town
UFS	University of the Free State
UJ	University of Johannesburg
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
UL	University of Limpopo
UNISA	University of South Africa
UP	University of Pretoria
UWC	University of the Western Cape

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PREFACE



This report marks the third in the series of discipline-grouped evaluations of South African scholarly journals. Ultimately, it is intended that all scholarly journals in the country will have been subjected to independent, multiple peer review as part of a quality assurance process initiated by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). The quality assurance process is a precursor to the identification of journal titles to be loaded on to the open access platform, Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO)-South Africa. Only journals of a sufficiently high quality will be included in this fully indexed, free online, multinational platform, now also to be directly featured on the Thomson-Reuters Web of Knowledge portal.

The traditional focus of peer review is on a single journal article, book chapter or book. It is less common to subject journals to independent, multiple peer review, as these are usually evaluated in qualitative, reputational terms, or, bibliometrically, by means of impact factors.

Peer review of South African scholarly journal titles thus required the development of a new methodology that was piloted successfully with the first two discipline-grouped peer-review reports, published in 2010 on the Social Sciences and Related Fields, and the Agricultural and Related Basic Life Sciences. This has not been achieved without difficulty, as the process is unfamiliar to reviewers accustomed to reviewing single articles.

ASSAf has confidence in this ambitious programme aimed at assuring that the bulk of South African scholarly journals is of a high quality. The process goes beyond the above-mentioned familiar journal assessment approaches by providing concrete recommendations to enable the editor(s) of journals not deemed to be of a sufficient standard to take corrective action and to reapply for evaluation.

In summary, the process was centred on multi-perspective, discipline-based evaluation panels appointed by the Academy Council on the recommendation of the Academy's Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa (CSPiSA); journal editors were requested to complete specially designed questionnaires, and peer reviewers were selected from a spectrum of scholars in the fields concerned. Each was asked to provide answers to a set of questions, which addressed the quality, scope and focus of the peer-reviewed articles in the journals under review, the authorship generally, and the presence or absence of enrichment features, such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews and news and views articles. (The editors' questionnaire and peer reviewers' set of questions are provided as appendices to this report.)

Each discipline-based evaluation panel met to discuss the individual peer reviews and questionnaires and consolidated them into a consensus review for each journal. Final formulations and recommendations were prepared, including suggestions for improvement from both the peer reviewers and the panel. The responsible editors were given an opportunity to check the accuracy of the information in each individual journal report, and the final version of the report was submitted for approval to the ASSAf Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa and the Council of the Academy of Science of South Africa.

As the third in the series of reports, it is evident that much has been learned from the two pilot discipline groups and that going forward; the process will become more streamlined such that subsequent reports will follow in rapid succession.

I would like to thank the members of the evaluation panel, particularly Professor Wieland Gevers, Chair of the Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa, for his leadership in this quality-assurance process. I acknowledge the important role played by the staff of the Academy in supporting the process; Mrs Susan Veldsman, Director of the Scholarly Publishing Unit, and the many Project Officers who worked under her direction over the years, namely, Mr Thabo Radebe, Mr Zwelibanzi Ndayi and Ms Gugulethu Mtsweni. Ms Patricia Scholtz is thanked for copy editing. Finally, I acknowledge the contribution of the many individual peer reviewers who have each contributed towards strengthening the quality of South African scholarly journals.

Prof Roseanne Diab

Executive Officer: Academy of Science of South Africa



FOREWORD



On 1 February 2013, the Department of Higher Education and Training published a call for public comments on the proposed improvements to the Policy and Procedures for Measurement of Research Output of Public Higher Education Institutions, 2003, in the *Government Gazette*. This formed part of a consultative process with the higher education sector. The Department welcomes inputs and comments made on the proposed improvements to the policy which aim to increase research productivity and reward high-quality research published in accredited journals, books and published conference proceedings. There can be no doubt that the policy has propelled the performance of the sector on research outputs and that momentum has to be sustained and improved further. Thus, the proposed improvements are meant to propel the sector further in this regard.

In terms of the proposed improvements, the policy seeks to include additional journal lists and/or indices for purposes of subsidy allocations. Moreover, all indices or lists will be communicated separately and well in advance, rather than included in the actual policy. The Department will determine, in consultation with the sector, which journal lists and indices will be approved each year. As it is the current practice, the Department will issue the indices and the approved List of South African Journals on or before 31 January of every year. In an attempt to improve quality of local journals, the policy seeks to encourage all journals in the Approved List of South African Journals to develop to international standards, in order to apply for listing on accredited international lists or indices.

Addressing the decline in scholarly book publications and a subsequent report on *Scholarly Books: Their Production, Use and Evaluation in South Africa Today* in 2009 by the Academy of Science of South Africa, the policy proposes that a book be subsidised to a maximum of ten units or a portion thereof, based on the number of pages being claimed relative to the total number of pages of the book. The policy further suggests the improvement in the number of units for book publications in order to encourage production of, and publications, in books. The assumption is that academic books are important.

The Department seeks to develop a list of reputable publishers as it is difficult for academics or researchers to obtain evidence of peer review from the publishers, both locally and internationally.

The Department has improved the processes and procedure by which published conference proceedings are subsidised. More improvements in this regard are addressed in the policy. All the approved indices carry a large number of published conference proceedings which undergo quality scrutiny.

The Department welcomes suggestions on the improvement of its work and that of this policy, in particular.

The overall objective has to be that of constantly improving the performance and measurement of the sector. Most importantly, the quality of research outputs needs to be improved.

It is anticipated that the quality of research outputs, in order to enhance and reward where measurable, will be emphasised over the next few years.

The policy will be focused on quality research output measurements and reward to the institutions. It is important that universities recognise all outputs, including those not addressed by this policy.

Additions to the policy regarding the recognition of creative outputs are currently undertaken. While textbooks and other outputs are important, universities are urged to put systems in place in order to include these.

Mahlubi Mabizela

Chief Director: University Education Policy and Development

Walter Ntuli

Senior Administrative Clerk: University Education Policy and Development





Periodic Peer Review of South African Scholarly Journals: Approved Process Guidelines and Criteria

1.1 Background

At the launch of the ASSAf-led National Scholarly Editors' Forum (NSEF) held on 25 July 2007, 112 participants supported ASSAf and its Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa (CSPiSA) took the lead in implementing of Recommendation 5 of the 2006 ASSAf *Report on A Strategic Approach to Research Publishing in South Africa*. This recommendation dealt specifically with the need for a system of quality assurance for the more than 260 scholarly journals that are accredited by the Department of Education:

Recommendation 5: that ASSAf be mandated jointly by the Departments of Education and Science and Technology to carry out external peer review and associated quality audit of all South African research journals in five-year cycles, probably best done in relation to groups of titles sharing a particular broad disciplinary focus, in order to make recommendations for improved functioning of each journal in the national and international system.

1.2 ASSAf Peer-review Panels (PRPs)

The quality-assurance system for journals is conducted primarily through discipline-grouped peer reviews carried out by a series of purpose-appointed peer-review panels (PRPs) drawn from the ranks of researchers and other experienced scholars in and around the fields concerned in each case, as well as persons with practical (technical) publishing experience. The proposed ASSAf PRPs are overseen by the CSPiSA, but appointed by the Academy Council. Their draft reports are sent to relevant stakeholders for comment and relevant inputs, before finalisation by the PRP concerned, and final consideration sequentially by the CSPiSA and the ASSAf Council.

The following quote from the ASSAf report clarifies the approach to be followed in the review of the journals and some aspects of the approach proposed:

“The periodic, grouped quality assurance-directed peer review of South African research periodicals would function analogously to the quality audits of the Council on Higher Education/ Higher Education Quality Committee (CHE/ HEQC), would be developed as an outcome of the Editors’ Forum, and would focus on: the quality of editorial and review process; fitness of, and for purpose; positioning in the global cycle of new and old journals listed and indexed in databases; financial sustainability; and scope and size issues. The ASSAf panels carrying out the reviews would each comprise six to eight experts, some of whom would not be directly drawn from the areas concerned, and would require data-gathering, interviews, and international comparisons, before reports with recommendations are prepared, approved, and released to stakeholders such as national associations, the Departments of Science and Technology and of Education, the CHE/HEQC, the NRF and HESA.”

It must be emphasised that the main purpose of the ASSAf review process of journals is to improve the quality of scholarly publication in the country in a manner that is consonant with traditional scholarly practices, primarily voluntary peer review; it is not an attempt to control these publications in any way. ASSAf respects the independence and freedom of researchers and of

the research process itself as important preconditions for the critical and innovative production of new knowledge. At the same time, the work of South African researchers has to be assessed, both qualitatively and quantitatively, as part of the global community of scholars and scientists, and in this respect ASSAf has an obligation to contribute to the improvement of quality of such work where possible.

1.3 Initial Criteria

A number of criteria were explored in the section (Chapter 4) of the ASSAf report that dealt with the survey of over 200 then-current editors of accredited South African scholarly journals. Other possible criteria were proposed in other sections of the report, or have since been suggested by members of the CSPiSA or the National Scholarly Editors' Forum. These are grouped and listed below (they have been consolidated in the questionnaire presented in Appendix A):

1.3.1 Editorial Process-related Criteria: Generally based on the *Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review* developed by ASSAf

- Longevity of the journal (continuous or discontinuous), in years?
- Number of original peer-reviewed papers published per year during the last five years, plus number of manuscripts submitted, plus number rejected out-of-hand or after peer review? Average length of published papers? 'Author demography' of papers submitted and published?
- Number and nature of peer reviewers used per manuscript and the overall number per year, including institutional and national/international spread, plus quality (as per *Code of Best Practice*) and average length of peer-review reports?
- Average delay before publication of submitted manuscripts? Frequency of publication?
- Professional stature and experience of the editor? How selected? How long in service? Success or otherwise in addressing the major issues in the field, through commissioning of reviews/articles, editorial comment, etc.?
- Number and professional stature/experience of editorial board members, plus selection processes, turnover, and nature of involvement in handling of manuscripts or in other functions? If international members serve on the board (desirable), are they a mix from developed or developing countries?
- Existence and nature of editorial policy/guidelines, plus how often revised/updated? Conflict of interest policy (e.g. how manuscripts are assessed when submitted by an editor or board member as author/co-author?)
- *Errata* published – how many per year?
- Value-adding features, such as editorials, new and views, correspondence on papers, reviews, policy/topical fora, etc. – how many, and how generated? What proportion of total pages in journal issues?
- Any peer-review process of journal already in place (e.g. by professional association)?

1.3.2 Business-related Criteria

- Frequency and regularity ('on time') of publication?
- Print runs? (Redundant stock? Direct versus indirect distribution to readers?)
- Production model and service provider(s)?
- Paid and unpaid advertising?
- Sponsorship? What *quid pro quos*?
- Paid and unpaid subscription base? How marketed? Cost level of print and (if applicable) e-subscriptions?
- E-publication? If so, what website/portal, and access possibilities for users? What evaluation is done, especially in respect of tagging and searchability?

- Are there html/xml and PDF versions, or only PDF? Are multimedia used?
- What portals for open access, if provided? If not e-published, is this being considered, and how?
- Total income and expenditure per annum?
- Distribution to international destinations?
- Indexed in Thomson ISI and/or IBSS, or any other international database? If so, for how long and how continuous?
- Offers to purchase from multinational publishers?
- Copyright arrangements?

1.3.3 Bibliometric Assessments

- Citation practice – how many authors listed?
- If applicable, ISI-type impact factors (and various derivatives) over last five years?
- Are reviews a regular/increasing feature?
- If articles are not in English, are English abstracts mandatory?

1.4 Process Guidelines for Setting up the Panels, Peer Reviewers, Panel Meetings and Reports for the Subject Peer Review of Journals

Background to ASSAf Peer-review Panels (PRPs)

The quality assurance system for journals is conducted primarily through discipline-grouped peer reviews carried out by a series of purpose-appointed peer-review panels (PRPs) drawn from the ranks of researchers and other experienced scholars in and around the fields concerned in each case, as well as persons with practical (technical) publishing experience. The proposed ASSAf PRPs are overseen by the CSPiSA, but appointed by the Academy Council. Their draft reports are sent to relevant stakeholders for comment and relevant inputs, before finalisation by the PRP concerned, and final consideration sequentially by the CSPiSA and the ASSAf Council.

Role of the Scholarly Publishing Unit

An ASSAf project officer of the Scholarly Publications Unit is assigned to support each panel chair, but reports to the Director of the Scholarly Publishing Unit in terms of review logistics and the production of draft and final review reports. The project officer is responsible for the following issues and activities:

- selection and appointment of the panel members;
- obtaining completed questionnaires from editors;
- organising panel activities, including meetings; selecting independent peer reviewers for each journal or groups of titles;
- drafting consolidated version one (v1) reports;
- obtaining CSPiSA and ASSAf Council approval for final, publishable panel reports.

1.4.1 Setting up Panels

The proposed PRPs is chaired by an ASSAf Member, appointed by the Council, who assumes accountability for the panel's work in helping to developing a credible quality-assurance mechanism for South African scholarly journals.

Selecting Panel Members

- The appointment process of PRPs members is managed by the Chair of the Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa (CSPiSA) until the panel and its chair have been appointed.

- CSPiSA members are asked to assist in preparing a list of at least 12-13 names, of whom the last four to five shall be considered to be potential alternates to the first seven to eight.
- A typical PRP consists of six to eight members.
- Each name must be accompanied by critical personal and career detail, as well as a brief motivation, to enable the CSPiSA, and later the ASSAf Council, to apply its mind to the question of constituting a best-possible, most-competent PRP.
- The draft list of potential members is published on the ASSAf website, and also circulated for comment to members of the National Scholarly Editors Forum, at least two weeks before the Council meeting where the appointments are to be made.
- All comments received will be noted in making the final decision.
- All provisionally listed persons are required to complete and submit conflict of interest forms prior to the Council's consideration of the list in question.

Criteria for Panel Membership

- The individuals selected to serve on a panel should have experience and credibility in the disciplines under review, or in related disciplines, or must be senior scholars who may be from a completely different discipline. Generally, the composition should be a mix of disciplinary specialists, specialists in areas cognate to the broad disciplinary area concerned, and 'wise people' who are steeped in scholarly practices and are drawn from any broad disciplinary area (respectively in an approximate ratio of 3:3:2).
- The panel members should have demonstrable expertise and experience in both the editing and peer-review aspects of research journals.
- It is not necessary that all panel members be experts in both editing and peer-review aspects – a mix of senior academics and a few active editors (of journals not under review) is appropriate – but all should have some appreciation of both editing and peer review.
- At least one member should have direct practical (technical) experience of publishing.

Persons selected as panel participants will typically be drawn from ASSAf Members, academic institutions, science councils and consultants.

Conflict of Interest

- It will be necessary to take care to avoid real or perceived conflicts.
- Committee expertise, balance and conflict of interest are discussed at the first meeting (and may again be discussed at any later meeting) of PRPs, and recommendations to resolve problematic issues brought through the SPU (Secretariat) to the ASSAf Council for possible amendment of the composition of PRPs.
- Panel members are requested to submit written conflict of interest statements, and are bound to report any new potential sources of conflict of interest during the quality review process.

1.4.2 Setting up and Organising the Panels

Organisation of the panel is conducted by its chair, supported by the assigned project officer. The activities related to organisation typically include:

- Planning and costing the review and panel activities.
- Obtaining completed questionnaires from each editor/equivalent (publishing logistics focus).

- Identifying suitable peer reviewers for each journal or group of titles (content quality focus).
- Assembling hard copies of journals for use by the panel.
- Establishing panel meeting dates, assigning tasks, and collating materials.
- Preparing and distributing pre and post-meeting materials (draft Version 1 Reports, i.e. assembled peer reviews and editor's questionnaires, in template form).
- Taking responsibility for post-meeting activities, including draft Version 2 report preparation, circulation for comment to panelists and editors, and preparation and processing of final reports.
- Evaluation of panel processes.

Selection of Peer Reviewers (See above)

- At least two, but preferably three, independent peer reviewers, as well as alternative reviewers, must be agreed upon by the panel for each title or group of similar titles.
- Members of the CSPiSA and the ASSAf Membership in general will be given an opportunity to volunteer through a specific written call.
- Other candidates will be sought from lists of NRF and MRC grant-holders and/or science council research-active staff.
- The process of selection is overseen by the panel chair. The final agreed appointments of willing volunteer reviewers are made by the panel itself.
- Conflicts of interest must be avoided – thus current or former editors cannot become peer reviewers of the journals concerned; this also applies to current members of editorial boards.
- The project officer must arrange access to hard or e-copies of the journals under review by independent experts.
- The core questions to be answered in each case must be provided to peer reviewers, who should be asked to ensure that these questions are all addressed in their reviews.

1.4.3 Panel Meetings and Procedures

Preparations

- The ASSAf project officer is responsible to draw up the Version 1 (V1) report of each journal. Each reviewer's answers should be consolidated under the standard headings of the draft; each input as a separate paragraph. The editor's questionnaire should also be inserted as a single item under 'business aspects'.
- The documentation (editors' questionnaires, peer-review reports) should be sent out by email to all panelists at least two weeks prior to the panel meeting.
- Conveners of sub-sets of journals should be alerted at this time to their role at the forthcoming panel meeting – to present the journals in the set, and to make recommendations for discussion and elaboration. If unable to attend, they should be asked to submit written notes for presentation to the panel by the convener.
- Ideally, hard copies of issues of journals to be considered should be available at the meeting, but if logistically impossible, this can be dispensed with.
- A quorum of at least two-thirds of the members of PRPs must be guaranteed at any meeting, otherwise a new date must be sought.
- Panelists should be informed at the same time that hard copies of all documentation will be available at the meeting, in bundles containing the completed editor's questionnaire and reviewers' reports for each journal title, for collection at the start of the meeting.

- The responsible project officer should ensure that at least two peer reviews, and preferably three, are in hand for each title by the time of the initial dissemination of materials, or, by default, by the date of the meeting, for tabling on the day.

Meeting

- Journal titles should be considered in sub-sets, as per the above.
- Consensus answers to each of the criteria should be agreed *seriatim* as per a convener's spoken summary, and noted by the project officer in attendance.
- Particular attention should be paid to reaching agreement on recommendations in respect of:
 - (a) an invitation to the publisher/editor to join the SciELO platform (note the special criteria on frequency of publication and annual number of original peer-reviewed articles);
 - (b) a recommendation to the DHET on accreditation in its list of SA journals in which any article is considered as a valid research output;
 - (c) if not recommended, suggestions for improvement that would make it possible to make an invitation and/or recommendation under 2 (iii) (a) or (b);
 - (d) suggestions for improvement or enhanced function, generally.

1.4.4 Post-meeting Procedures and Panel Reports

- When producing a Version 2 report the three paragraphs in each item have to be consolidated to produce a consensus version.
- A detailed and motivated draft Version 2 report of each peer-review panel's findings and recommendations is prepared by the assigned project officer, working closely with the panel chair.
- The project officer and convener should reach agreement on the record of the meeting in respect of all outcomes, within no more than two weeks.
- The meeting record should be sent for comment and ratification to all panellists (including those who were not able to attend the meeting) and ask for replies within one week.
- The convener should prepare a final version of the meeting record, and submit a copy of each journal-specific item as a privileged communication to the editor concerned, for written comment within no more than two weeks in which to respond.
- The convener should identify any editor's comment that might materially change the recommendations in the record, and submit these to the panel for consideration and decision.
- The finally agreed-upon record should be submitted to the CSPISA for approval, before submission in turn to the ASSAf Council, and public release.

Special Considerations concerning South African Religion, Theology and Related Fields Journals (RTRF)

Religion, religious texts and the study of these have existed for a long time. So has the struggle for the academic study of religion to be recognised as a human and/or social science. This is part of a larger epistemological contestation about what constitutes knowledge and the role of the Enlightenment rationalist foundation in determining this. These debates are not only located in the humanities or social sciences (e.g. theology *versus* religion studies, or religion studies *versus* anthropology) but are also evident in the natural science debates on the greater authenticity of, for example, chemistry over physics or psychiatry over psychology. While these debates on the hierarchy of disciplines do not loom large in the South Africa academic community, they are nonetheless not without consequences for fields such as religion and theology.

Attempts continually to improve the quality of their work as academics in these fields involve striving for excellence, and making ceaseless attempts to quantify and work towards effective quality assurance. This is an inherent dimension and the basic aspiration of the work of scholars in these fields. It is in this spirit, that the periodic peer review of South African scholarly journals was first proposed by the ASSAf-led National Scholarly Editors Forum (NSEF) in July 2007.

The task of evaluating over 250 national journals accredited by the Department of Higher Education and Training is an immense one, and to ensure that this be made manageable, the NSEF endorsed the recommendation of the 2006 ASSAf *Report on A Strategic Approach to Research Publishing in South Africa*:

Recommendation 5: that ASSAf be mandated jointly by the Departments of Education and Science and Technology to carry out external peer review and associated quality audit of all South African research journals in five-year cycles, probably best done in relation to groups of titles sharing a particular broad disciplinary focus, in order to make recommendations for improved functioning of each journal in the national and international system.

This report deals specifically with the cluster of titles dealing with religion and theology and related fields. As is the case within virtually all academic disciplines, the task of demarcating fields of enquiry or focus are quite complex, ever-unfolding and invariably imperfect. ASSAf has, however, benefitted from the extensive input that went into this process from its conception.

This report is exhaustive. The rigorous process that was followed in constituting the purpose-appointed peer-review panels, the gathering, collating and deliberating of the data, and the formulating of consensus opinions by the PRP is detailed. In addition, individual editors were given an opportunity to preview our conclusions, correct errors of fact.

The cooperation from the editors of the journals reviewed was exceptional, and is deeply appreciated. While the conclusions reached may not be received with unanimous acclaim, we urge that they be accepted in the spirit with which they are made.

It goes without saying that our mandate in this exercise was limited to examining the scholarly quality of the publications and not their substantial content, tenor, faith or ideological leanings

and/or premises. The report emphasises respect for the independence and freedom of researchers and of the research process itself, as important preconditions for the critical and innovative production of new knowledge, conceptual frameworks and insights. When, however, the tone of a journal or its contents clearly departed from some of the basic tenets of scholarship, such as the careful citation of sources and the balanced weighing of evidence, or when authors were apparently permitted to use emotive, assertive and/or sectarian approaches rather than reasoned discourse, or where there was a relatively frequent inclusion of 'popular' rather than scholarly articles, we have not failed to draw attention to such matters as inadequacies that need to be addressed. In four cases, this regrettably led to recommendations that DHET accreditation for these journals be withdrawn.

The question of the legitimacy of religious studies, theology and the related fields of enquiry and their place in the hierarchy of knowledge will still persist for a long while. Our task is to ensure that standards of rigour and excellence that can hold their own, both on their own terms and those of peers from other disciplines, as well as the global community of scholars.

Other than the editors who responded we wish to record our gratitude to the following people:

- The following reviewers for their input:

Prof Tobias Nicklas: Dean – Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Regensburg, Germany

Prof John Kloppenborg: Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, Canada

Prof Paul Decock: University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

- The Director: Scholarly Publishing Unit: Mrs Susan Veldsman. The servicing Project Officers, Scholarly Publishing Unit: Mr Thabo Radebe, Mr Zwelibanzi Ndayi and Ms Gugulethu Mtsweni.

Panel Members

- Prof Wieland Gevers (Chairperson), Member of ASSAf, Medical Biochemist, retired Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of University of Cape Town, Chairman of the CSPiSA.
- Prof Tinyiko Maluleke, Member of ASSAf, Theologian, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Internationalisation, Advancement and Student Affairs of the University of Johannesburg and ex-member of CSPiSA.
- Prof Farid Esack, Religion Studies, Professor in the Study of Islam and Head of the Department of Religion Studies, University of Johannesburg.
- Prof Rudolph Marthinus Britz, Theologian, Director of the Jonathan Edwards Centre at the University of the Free State.
- Prof Nico Vorster, Systematic Theologian, Research Professor, North-West University's Faculty of Theology.

Consensus Reviews of Journals in the Group

4.1 Antiquity

4.1.1 *ACTA PATRISTICA ET BYZANTINA* – (New Title: *JOURNAL OF EARLY CHRISTIAN HISTORY*)

Focus and Scope: This journal is published by the Department of New Testament and Early Christian Studies at UNISA, and was also an organ of the South African Association for Patristic and Byzantine Studies. Its aim is to promote Patristic and Byzantine studies. Since the New Testament forms part of the Patristic era, articles on the New Testament are also published.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The current managing editor is a relatively young scholar, also associated with the publishing department, who took over in 2008-9 from an editor who had occupied the position for 20 years, and who was rated by the NRF as an established researcher. The new editor is considered to be “a respected colleague in the South African context and regularly reads papers at conferences and publishes articles related to this field”. The supervising editor, a well-established senior scholar in the field, is also from UNISA. The editorial board until recently comprised nine senior academics from South African institutions situated mainly in the northern half of the country (9) and a further nine scholars from foreign institutions (USA 4; Germany 2; Australia 1; Belgium 1); the numbers have now changed to seven local and 17 international scholars. Apart from South Africa, no other country on the African continent is represented. The South African-based members of the editorial board regularly publish articles in the journal.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 20 years without significant interruptions. In the period of three years under review, the number of manuscripts received was 78, while the number of published peer-reviewed original papers was 52 articles and 11 reviews. None of the manuscripts was rejected without peer review; two peer reviewers were usually approached for each submitted manuscript, and 42 peer reviewers were used in 2008. Approximately one-third of the published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address, and seven peer reviewers had non-South African addresses. Peer review reports are retained in the records.

The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is two months, and on the web, four months. The journal initially published one volume per annum and in 2011, it was increased to two issues annually.

The editor was appointed competitively for three years through a selection process. Editorial committee members need each to review at least one article every two years, and are informed of the progress of the journal in an annual report. They are not appointed competitively, but their appointment period is limited to three to four years. They are appointed from inside the country apparently to pro-

vide specific topical expertise (See below, for comments on the absence of local focus in the content).

Editorial policy guidelines are published, and a conflict of interest policy is in place. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. Errata are published when the need arises.

The journal infrequently contains value-adding features, such as editorials, but does publish many book reviews (See below); more rarely, correspondence is published on published articles. Peer-reviewed original material represents 95% of the pages in each issue.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: A reasonable number of articles are published, between 10-15 per annum, published in one issue, until 2010, after which two issues have been published every year. It could be said that these numbers reflect reasonable support by a particular scholarly community which also supports two other local journals. This journal probably reflects some of the best work done in South Africa in the fields it covers, while also incorporating a developmental focus in that some recent doctoral graduates have published results from their studies, usually with their supervisors as co-authors.

The scope of the journal is declared to be New Testament, Patristic and Late Ancient, and Byzantine studies; studies on the Old Testament and Septuagint, Classics and Religion are also invited. The articles are generally written in a sound scholarly style, and are well edited, properly formatted, extensively foot-noted, and fully referenced. Few authors are from outside SA.

The topics covered by articles are diverse and interesting, although New Testament studies predominate and reflect a local scholarly community in touch with each other. An interesting new development is the publication of papers related to Septuagint studies, but the relevant papers have tended to go beyond the scope of the journal in that the published articles treat the Septuagint more in the context of Judaism than in that of early Christianity. A special group of articles on the Septuagint was included in the 2009 issue of this journal, together with many other free-standing articles. The new explicit focus of the journal on early Christian history is not apparent from most of the articles published thus far; the articles that do reflect a distinct historical approach to the text (in most cases that of the New Testament), relate to the early Christian context; they represent some of the best work done in the South African context.

It should be noted that two other local journals, *Neotestamenta* and *Ekklesiastikos Pharos*, partially overlap in their interests with this journal, and cooperation between them may strengthen South Africa's scholarly position/reputation in the international arena, in fields where it is difficult to present a local focus; an even more successful journal could be established if they were to merge.

The scope of the journal does not allow for a focus on local materials, as it is focused exclusively on ancient texts and non-South African contexts. Some articles do, however, explicitly set out to present African perspectives.

The journal attracts only a few articles from scholars outside the country, including scholars from elsewhere in Africa who have institutional, personal or educational links with South African universities. It must be noted, however, that the 19 publications with non-South African addresses consist of at least ten book reviews written

by the same author. The South African authors are drawn from several institutions, but most of them are within the groups which were formerly Afrikaans-medium universities, with no papers coming from other local universities with English-language teaching traditions, and only a few authors are drawn from non-university settings. The journal should be able to encourage submission of papers from these sources.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The book reviews are plentiful but, puzzlingly, they have all but one been in German, as a result of which their value is much reduced. In one instance during the period under review, a high number of reviews (10) written by one author were published in the same issue. There are, however, no editorials, no correspondence or any other value-adding features – this is a pity.

All articles have proper English abstracts. For the period under review, no *errata* were published; the editor has indicated that this practice is followed when necessary. The citation practice concurs with international standards. Technically the journal is of a good standard, and the layout is excellent.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: On the whole it is mostly seasoned scholars who publish in the journal, and strategies are needed to attract younger researchers.

The journal appears to provide some good material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as exemplars and sources.

Most regional scholarly journals in the field are probably much like this. The spread of articles across chronological periods covered may, however, be wider than would be found with most such journals. A greater number of international papers would also increase the global impact of the journal.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: The editorial board should be broadened to include scholars from institutions in South Africa not yet involved in this journal, and from scholars resident elsewhere in Africa. Contributors should also reflect a much broader representation than is currently the case. There seems to be uncertainty as to whether the Association for Patristic and Byzantine Studies, mentioned in the editor's report, has in fact been revived; if this can indeed be achieved, the journal could act as a scholarly organ of this society. 'In-breeding' must, however, be avoided, where a small number of scholars read and publish each other's work, without the contributions having any impact in the broader scholarly community.

This journal is edited and produced with care, and contains interesting and significant articles. The partial overlap in focus with *Neotestamenta* and *Ekklesiastikos Pharos* needs to be addressed by cooperation, or even consolidation, between them in order to strengthen South Africa's position internationally. (It is not clear whether the imminent name change to *Journal of Early Christian History* will distinguish the journal more from these close analogues.) It is very important that articles are solicited from the universities in South Africa which despite having good scholars in the field have not yet contributed to the journal. Deliberate attempts should also be made to involve a wider group of international contributors, so as also to attract authors who do not have direct institutional, personal or educational links with South African universities.

The editorial board should function more closely in accordance with the ASSAf guidelines, specifically in respect of the periodic competitive appointment of

editors and members of the editorial board. The journal would gain greatly from presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), correspondence and other features; the book reviews should be in a South African language, and preferably written by local academics. The contact details addresses of all corresponding authors must be provided, plus the dates of submission and of acceptance of individual articles.

The number and diversity of book reviews should be increased, and opinion editorials and correspondence introduced.

This journal needs to be accessible free online to all potential users, as its concerns and contributions are of wide interest in the nation. Subject to improvements along the above lines, it should be in the newly established SciELO-South Africa collection, and accredited by the Department of Higher Education and Training in terms of its research outputs policy.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is only 80 copies per issue, distributed to 34 subscribers of whom 14 are institutional. The publisher is UNISA Press, which holds copyright. Both production and distribution are outsourced. The journal carries unpaid advertising effectively subsidised by UNISA Press. No financial sponsorship appears to be received. The journal is part of SABINET's commercial e-publication service, and also part of SA e-Publications, a non-commercial e-publication mechanism. The journal's total income ranges between R25 000-R30 000 per annum, and total expenditure ranges between R15 000-R20 000 per annum.

The journal has not received offers of purchase from multinational publishers.

The journal has been reviewed as part of an external departmental review.

The editor would in principle (subject to negotiation with UNISA Press) be interested in being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access journal platform.

The journal has since come under new editorship and will undergo a number of changes as decided by the publisher and the editorial board. The title of the journal will change to the *Journal of Early Christian History* in order to keep up with the changing trends in the field the journal covers. From 2010, two volumes per annum will be published. Leading figures associated with the journal are in the process of reviving the now-dormant Association for Patristic and Byzantine Studies as a scholarly society supporting the journal. In 2011, there are plans for initiating a *Journal of Christian History Monograph Series* (still in negotiations with UNISA Press) to stimulate and develop scholarship in this field, especially in Southern Africa and the rest of Africa.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The partial overlap in focus with *Neotestamenta* and *Ekklesiastikos Pharos* needs to be addressed by cooperation, or even consolidation, between them in order to strengthen South Africa's position internationally. (It is not clear whether the imminent name change to *Journal of Early Christian History* will distinguish the journal more from these close analogues.)
- IV. The editor/publisher should seriously consider the consensus recommendations for improvement of the journal mentioned above, and in particular

- expand the involvement (both as editors and authors) of a larger fraction of the South African community working in the field, and of international scholars.
- V. In addition, the Panel believes that the overlap with several other local journals should be addressed, in order to achieve greater overall impact and enhanced international recognition.

4.1.2 OLD TESTAMENT ESSAYS (NEW SERIES)

Focus and Scope: The journal publishes articles on all aspects of Old Testament literature, theology, archaeology and society.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor is internationally well-regarded and is from UNISA, and the associate editors from UNISA, UJ, and NWU. The editorial board, comprising four persons, two more from UNISA, and one each from UP and UKZN, is in fact an oversight body which is the management committee of the Old Testament Society of South Africa (OTSSA). An editorial board, a little confusingly called the advisory board (AB), is drawn by invitation from the OTSSA from senior academics in many countries; two of the members are from Tanzania and Nigeria. The size of the board was increased in 2009 to link the journal to a wider pool of expertise. The sparse information provided makes it difficult to assess the academic status or distinction of the South African editors, although it has been stated that the editorial board members are top South African Old Testament scholars. The AB members carry out peer reviews and adjudicate when other peer reviewers differ markedly in opinion on a particular article (See below). Whilst there are clearly too many editors from one institution, UNISA, this university does have the largest department in this subject in the world.

Questionnaire: *Old Testament Essays* started in 1983 within the Department of Old Testament at UNISA. In 1988, ownership was transferred to the Old Testament Society of South Africa, and the journal was given its present name of *Old Testament Essays (New Series)*, which has now appeared for the past 22 years. During the period from 2006-2008, the number of published original items was 159 articles (selected from about 180 manuscripts submitted), and no fewer than 62 book reviews. No manuscript was rejected without peer review; 10-15% of manuscripts are rejected after review, with 80% being referred back for revision and re-working. Thus only 5-10% manuscripts are accepted without any changes.

About 33% of published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Usually two peer reviewers are approached per submitted manuscript but, in some cases, a third will become involved for purposes of arbitration. In 2008, 50 people peer-reviewed about 55 articles, most reading two articles and in some instances, three articles. About 10% of the peer reviewers had non-South African addresses.

Peer-review reports are accessibly retained in records (it took a while to create a workable administrative system, including a peer adjudication form that works). *Old Testament Essays* does not have an administrative officer working permanently or an office located at a university; the administration is accordingly done by the editor and associate editors, with someone else doing the accounts and posting.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is variable, usually over three months, because very few articles are accepted without any change.

The journal is not yet available on the web.

The journal is published three times a year. There once were supplement series, but their production was too costly and it was stopped. The journal issues are not prescheduled to appear on given dates, but the first issue usually appears in May/June, the second issue in October/November after the annual meeting of the OTSSA in August/September, and the third issue is put together in December for publication at the end of the following January. No issue has ever been skipped.

The present editor, who has been editing the journal for only one year, was appointed non-competitively for three years at the annual general meeting (AGM) for a three-year period as per the constitution. The selection process consisted of a vote by the association members on the names submitted of willing candidates.

As already stated above, the members of the editorial board are the executive of the OTSSA, the owner of the journal. They need to give permission for any major changes in the journal. The peer-reviewing process is handled as follows by an associate editor: The editor receives and records the submissions, which are then sent to the associate editor, who distributes the submissions for blind peer-reviewing and handles the review reports before making recommendations on acceptance or rejection to the editor.

Most articles need to be reworked. Members of the advisory board are tasked to assist with the peer-reviewing of articles submitted for publication, to adjudicate an article when the initial peer-reviewing results in contrasting evaluations, to review each volume in terms of academic quality and scientific nature of published articles, and to assist in building the international profile of the journal.

Members of the editorial board also give advice on editorial policies and practices, but the entire OTSSA at its AGM must consent to significant changes, such as style, membership of the advisory board, and mode of publication (web, print or both). The advisory board is tasked to oversee the quality of the journal.

Editorial policy guidelines are published on the first pages of each issue; they have not formally been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*.

Errata are published when the need arises.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles are generally written in a sound scholarly style, and are properly formatted, extensively foot-noted, and fully referenced. This reflects the rigour employed in peer review. A few authors are from outside South Africa, and a few articles are written in an African language. The Old Testament topics covered are diverse and challenging, and reflect a local scholarly community in touch with each other.

There are over 40 articles per annum, published in three issues. The large number of articles is understandable in terms of the extensive scholarly community organised as the Old Testament Society in Southern Africa embracing no fewer than three major faiths, and the traditional prominence of theological faculties in the country catering for the diverse denominations concerned.

The focus of the journal and the large scholarly community of local authors (and presumably readers) mean that the published work represents a significant part of what could be produced in the country.

A focus on local or regional kinds of materials is not really applicable, but a few articles do display such a focus. The local authors are drawn from a spread of

institutions, with a clear predominance of the institutions formerly associated with Afrikaans-medium instruction; there are no papers from the University of Cape Town (UCT), the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) or Rhodes University (RU), only a very few from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), and few or nothing from historically black universities. A reasonable proportion of authors is drawn from outside the country, perhaps as much as one-third.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: There are a few book reviews in most issues, some in German, and they add value to the journal's pages. There are, however, no 'opinion editorials', and a limited correspondence, and no other value-adding features – this is a pity.

Good and suitable English abstracts for each article are provided. Several publications of *errata* were noted. There is a sound, consistent, and appropriate citation practice throughout. The layout is good and readable.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The journal provides some good material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as exemplars and sources. A special interest in South Africa/Africa is not displayed. The journal compares well with *Vetus Testamentum*, and the *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: This journal is edited and produced with care, and contains interesting and significant articles. The spread of contributing universities needs to be widened considerably, and efforts must be made to widen participation in the editing and peer-reviewing functions also. The dates of submission and acceptance should be indicated for each article.

It is very important that the editorial board functions according to the ASSAf guidelines, specifically with respect to the periodic competitive appointment of editors and members of the editorial board. The advisory board should be called the editorial board and the present body of that name renamed.

The journal would gain greatly from presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), correspondence and other features.

This journal needs to be accessible free online to all potential users, as its concerns and contributions are of some interest in the nation.

Business Aspects

The regular print run of the journal is 375 copies; it is published by the Old Testament Society of South Africa. Printing is outsourced. The rest of the work is done by the editor, the associate editors and the administrative assistant. The journal carries neither paid nor unpaid advertising. It also does not receive any financial sponsorship.

The total number of subscribers is: members: 179 (35 honorary and 144 paying); libraries: 109 outside South Africa and 21 inside South Africa. Despite its wish to become free online, the journal for reasons of necessary income uses the services of SABINET Online as part of the latter's commercial e-publication service. The journal's total income per annum is R194 000, while the total expenditure is R120 000.

The journal is indexed in American Theological Library Association (ATLA) and Old Testament Abstracts. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Copyright resides with the authors. English abstracts and front details are published for all articles. A decision is imminent on whether an invitation to join the ASSAf SciELO-South Africa open access platform will be accepted.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.**
- II. **The publisher/editor should be invited to join the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.**
- III. **The editor should seriously consider the comments and recommendations made in this review, particularly those aimed at the improvement of an already strong journal.**

4.1.3 NEOTESTAMENTICA: JOURNAL OF THE NEW TESTAMENT SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (NTSSA)

Focus and Scope: *Neotestamentica* publishes articles on all aspects of the New Testament, ranging from historical to hermeneutical and methodological studies.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor, who was rated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) as an internationally acclaimed researcher, is a highly respected academic from UKZN, and the review editor is from the University of Pretoria (UP). The institutional addresses of the eight members of the editorial board are not provided, nor are those of the similar number of members of the international advisory board (IAB); this makes it difficult to assess their institutional affiliations, academic status or distinction. It is believed that the editorial board reflects persons from institutions around the country, and that the IAB comprises mostly scholars internationally well-known in the field, but few or none seem to be from the rest of Africa or Asia. The role of the AIB members in running the journal is not explained. It further appears that both boards underwent changes during the period under review, which is positive as it assures that the journal represents a broad scholarly community.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 42 years, without significant interruptions. For the three-year period 2006-2008, the number of published original articles was 47 and book reviews 71; In the same period 81 article manuscripts were received (acceptance rate of just under 60%). No manuscript was rejected without peer review. Eighteen out of 47 articles, and five out of 71 reviews had at least one author with a non-South African address. Two to three peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. In 2008, 48 peer reviewers were used, of whom nine had non-South African addresses. All peer-review reports are retained in the records.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is three to four months. The publication frequency of the journal is two issues per year; these are not pre-scheduled to appear on given dates.

The present editor, who has been running the journal for six years, was not appointed competitively but was through election for a four-year fixed term (renewable) at the annual general meeting of the academic society concerned (New Testament Society of South Africa(NTSSA)). Members of the editorial board are also not appointed competitively, since it consists of the elected office-bearers of the executive of the NTSSA, together with former editors. Their period of appointment is not specified. Some editorial board members do handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and advise on editorial policies and practices.

The editorial board consists of members from inside the country, but there is an international advisory board chosen by the editorial board consisting of scholars from outside South Africa. The members of the IAB are chosen for their specific topical expertise.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, and the journal has a conflict of interest policy although it has not been captured in writing. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. When it is necessary, *errata* are published. The journal contains editorials, and, when pertinent, topical reviews; many book reviews (See above) but not, as a rule, correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents original peer-reviewed material is 100%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles are generally written in a sound scholarly style, and are properly formatted, extensively foot-noted, and fully referenced. Since the field of New Testament studies is quite broad, contributions cover a wide range of topics related to the field. About half the authors are from outside South Africa, mainly from North America and Europe, and not from Africa: in most cases the international contributors are in some way also linked to a South African tertiary institution. The articles from inside the country are contributed mainly by tertiary institutions with faculties or schools of theology from all over the country, with institutions with larger faculties or schools of theology necessarily better represented. New Testament topics covered are diverse and challenging, and reflect a local scholarly community in touch with each other. It should be noted that two other local journals, *Acta Patristica et Byzantina* (shortly to be re-named *Journal of Early Christian History*) and *Ekklesiastikos Pharos* partially overlap in their interests with *Neotestamentica*, and cooperation, or even consolidation between them, may strengthen South Africa's scholarly position/reputation in the international arena, in fields where it is difficult to present a local focus.

There are between 13 and 15 articles per annum, published in two issues. One of the issues was a special, guest-edited centenary volume for the University of Pretoria. The small number of articles is understandable in terms of a small scholarly community organised as the New Testament Society of South Africa, but it must be remembered that two other local journals also cater for articles in this general field.

The focus of the journal and the small scholarly community of local authors (and presumably readers) make it likely that the published work represents a significant part of what could be produced in the country. The journal under review commendably attracts an appreciable part of its material from foreign authors. It could be said that the journal is the flagship for New Testament research in South Africa, both in terms of the spectrum of articles across the discipline, as well as the quality of articles published. Although most articles deal with issues that New Testament scholars all over the world are interested in, on average of at least one to two articles per annum focuses on local issues; these articles usually come from the subfield of hermeneutics.

The small number of SA authors is drawn from several institutions, with several authors drawn from outside the country.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The book reviews are plentiful and excellent (about 15-20 per annum) and add much value to the journal's pages. There are, however, no

editorials (excepting in special volumes), no correspondence or any other value-adding features – this is a pity.

All articles have proper English abstracts. No *errata* were noted. There is good, consistent, complete and appropriate citation practice throughout. The layout is adequate to good.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: Although the journal attracts articles from some leading scholars it also publishes articles from a younger generation of (local) scholars, in this way stimulating on-going research in the field. The journal provides some good material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as exemplars and sources.

It is difficult to compare local journals, such as this one, to leading international journals which have become internationally acclaimed over many decades. These receive so many manuscripts for publication that they can be extremely selective as to what gets published. At least two to four articles per annum published in *Neotestamentica* rate on a par with articles published in leading international journals in the field. It provides a good overview of a wide spectrum of approaches in New Testament research, and is not committed to any provincial or local approach or trend.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: This journal is edited and produced with care, and contains interesting and significant articles. The partial overlap in focus with *Acta Patristica et Byzantina* (shortly to become the *Journal of Early Christian History*) and *Ekklesiastikos Pharos* needs to be addressed by cooperation, or even consolidation, between them in order to strengthen South Africa's position internationally. The editorial board could consider attracting more scholars from the African continent to publish their results in this journal. If at least one of the international contributors per number can be from elsewhere in Africa the journal will render an even better service to the scholarly community on the continent. The learned society that publishes this journal comprises a number of leading New Testament scholars and NRF-rated researchers, who could be requested to support this journal by means of regular contributions (some leading South African scholars in the field did not publish in this journal during the period under review).

It is very important that the editorial board functions more closely according to the ASSAf guidelines, specifically in respect of the periodic appointment of editors and members of the editorial board. The involvement of the IAB should be explained/extended.

The journal would gain greatly from presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), correspondence and other features. Some form of internal debate/scholarly discussion within the journal could improve its quality, like a discussion forum or critical review where dialogue takes place between scholars. Alternatively, there could be a critical review of a book where the latter's author has the opportunity to respond in the same volume.

The full addresses of all editors, editorial board members and authors must be provided, plus the dates of submission and of acceptance of individual articles. This journal needs to be accessible free online to all potential users, as its concerns and contributions are of wide interest in the nation.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 500 copies; it is published by *Neotestamentica*, part of the New Testament Society of Southern Africa. Production is outsourced but distribution is handled in-house. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising, nor does it receive financial sponsorship.

The number of subscribers is 153 NTSSA members and 222 additional paying subscribers; organisations are 193 of the latter.

The journal is not free online (open access). Some of the articles from each issue are available free online, however. The journal's total income per year is about R115 000 and the total expenditure is about R110 000. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Copyright belongs to the journal.

English abstracts are published for all articles. The journal has never been independently peer-reviewed before, although a full return was submitted to the Department of Education Accreditation Policy Study of 2005. The idea of the journal's possible inclusion in the ASSAf SciELO-South Africa platform is still under discussion by the editorial board.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the recommendations for improvement presented in this consensus review.
- IV. In addition, the Panel believes that the journal should discuss cooperation with two other local journals in this general field, *Acta Patristica et Byzantina* (shortly to be re-named *Journal of Early Christian History*) and *Ekklesiastikos Pharos*.

4.1.4 JOURNAL FOR SEMITICS/TYDSKRIF VIR SEMITISTIEK

Focus and Scope: The *Journal for Semitics* is published by the Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies (SASNES). (An observer may well question the relationship between 'semitic' and 'near Eastern' studies, without further qualification of the historical period concern – See below). The journal is published twice annually.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor is from UNISA's Department of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, while the institutional association of the assistant editor is not specified. While the journal's title, however, is bilingual, all six members of the editorial committee are senior academics from universities in SA that formerly used predominantly Afrikaans as their medium of instruction. It seems that no/few academics participate from universities also offering religious studies/theology courses but not falling into this group, which makes this a problem of editorial distribution and possibly, focus. The international advisory board comprises nine individual academics from other countries in Africa, the near East and elsewhere; its members are occasionally requested to act as referees, but their primary function is to comment on three questions every year after the completion of a volume:

- Were the contents of the volume, as far as articles in the requisite field of expertise are concerned, at a satisfactory standard?

- Can the journal be recommended for subscription to a colleague or library?
- Mention of any aspect of particular concern, positive or negative, for the attention of the editors.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 20 years. Publication fell behind between 1997 and 2001, but the journal eventually appeared as Volumes 9 (1&2) and 10 (1&2) – the latter during 2001. In the period under review (2006-2008), 97 original articles were published, from 107 manuscripts received, an acceptance rate of over 90%. None of the manuscripts received was rejected without peer review. Approximately 20% of published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address.

At least two peer reviewers are usually approached per submitted manuscript, and 55 reviewers were used in one year. Less than 10% had non-South African addresses. Peer-review reports are accessibly retained in records. The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is ten months, and the same for e-publication through SABINET. The journal publishes two issues per year, in June and November.

The editor, who has been editing the journal for six years, was appointed through elections at the annual meeting of the SASNES, but for an unspecified period. Members of the editorial board, who constitute the executive committee of the society, are also elected at the AGM, each for a three-year period. They handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and give advice on editorial policies and practices, as members of the society. They comprise members from inside and outside South Africa, in order “to be representative of Southern African universities and academics” (Constitution of SASNES). They are appointed to represent different fields of specialisation and different universities.

While editorial policy guidelines are published, there is no conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf’s *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* are published when errors have become apparent. The journal publishes editorials only when an issue is dedicated to a colleague. Correspondence on published articles is published as value-adding feature. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is nearly 100%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: Semitics is widely and logically defined as “the study of Semitic languages and culture”; this does not specify a pre-occupation with ancient times, the Bible or the *Qur’an*. Yet the editor claims that “semitics and near Eastern studies are traditionally linked with the ancient semitic languages and cultures”. It is also said that “modern issues related to Jewish, Christian and Muslim readings of the *Tenakh*, Bible and *Qur’an*, as well as issues of cultural value to these faith communities, are published in the journal”. Despite this, most of the articles in each issue of this obviously well-supported journal do have a pre-occupation with ancient times, and the exceptions immediately strike the reader with the feeling of many opportunities missed. It is likely that the primary professional training function of theological faculties in South African universities has contributed to departments supplying service courses and producing scholarship of a particular kind, appearing in a well edited and supported journal like this one. That means that the outside academic may well be puzzled why an area as potentially vibrant and contemporary as Semitics should retain its ‘old’ pre-occupations with matters that engaged scholars in past times but do not appear to address the serious contemporary issues in the field.

That said, the articles in this journal are variable in quality, mostly good, but some in the category of 'popular', and some whose pertinence to the journal is dubious. The articles are generally carefully edited and proofread, and readable in nature. A small number of the articles are rightly Africa-focused. Most are 'free-standing', and the editors are succeeding in attracting a flow of good articles that allows them to avoid having to resort to symposia or special issues in order to attract articles. There is much to be learnt from the topics covered, from reading the articles or their abstracts, but there is surely much more in the post-antiquity phases of the field that one would like to see rigorously explored, taking into account the importance of the near East in the post-ancient and modern world, and the many and deep issues raised by so many fascinating and significant historical epochs affecting, or brought about by, the Semitic peoples. In fact, reading most of the papers gives one the impression that time is somehow assumed to have stood still, or nearly so, in many contexts of society, political conflict, and insights into the human condition.

There are between 35-40 articles per annum, published in two issues. This is impressive in local-journal terms, and reflective of a community of scholarship that has reached critical mass, and can make their journal serve important roles in promoting ideas and collaborations.

The historical origins of the journal as associated with a largely Afrikaans-speaking community, plus the present narrow focus of the journal on Semitics in the ancient world, permits the conclusion that there is much that could be published in this journal that is not yet included, both in terms of historical epochs barely covered and local academics not participating. Widening the historical span and the distribution of scholarly endeavours will surely elicit many more articles from active authors in many fields.

The authors are drawn from several, but not all SA institutions, with a few from outside the country (See above for skewing effects).

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: There are no book reviews, no opinion editorials, no correspondence or any other value-adding features. This is a pity in such an apparently vigorously publishing community.

English abstracts for all articles are included. No *errata* were noted in the issues reviewed. The citation practice is good, consistent, and complete throughout. The layout is excellent.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: In many ways the journal provides good material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as exemplars and sources. Widening the scope of articles in terms of authorship and scope will enhance this, as discussed above.

Most regional scholarly journals in this field are probably much like this, but presumably those that embrace modernity are much more substantial. The volume of articles and their generally high quality makes this a significant national journal, although in a too narrow context. It does not compare with journals such the *Journal of Semitic Studies*, the *Review Semitique Vetus Testamentum*, and the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, which are all top-tier internationally.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: This journal is edited and produced with care, and contains interesting and significant articles within its present limited remit. It is very important

that (i) the spread of editorial board members and article authors be extended throughout the country's institutions and internationally; (ii) the disciplinary focus of the journal be widened, preferably to include more papers dealing with Semitics of post-ancient periods, including the present; (iii) all faith-based content is carefully analysed and excised or rejected if necessary; (iv) the editorial board also functions more closely according to the ASSAf guidelines, specifically in respect of the periodic appointment of editors and members of the editorial board; and (v) the peer-review mechanism is reviewed in order to ensure better quality control (the acceptance rate is far too high). The journal would gain greatly from presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), book reviews, correspondence and other features. The full contact details of corresponding authors must be provided, plus the dates of submission and of acceptance.

This journal needs to be accessible free online to all potential users, as its concerns and contributions are of wide interest.

Business Aspects

The regular print run of the journal is 200 copies, and it is published by the Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies (SASNES). Production is done by UNISA Press, while distribution is done internally. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising. The journal receives financial sponsorship; UNISA Press contributes substantially to the production and mailing costs.

The journal has 132 paying subscribers, of whom 32 are libraries as opposed to individuals. The journal appears online as part of SABINET's commercial (pay-to-view and/or pay-to-subscribe) e-publication service. The journal's total income is about R51 000 over three years, while total expenditure is about R36 000, also over three years.

The journal has in the past received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Copyright resides with the journal/society. The journal is indexed in Old Testament Abstracts. English abstracts and front details are published for all articles. The journal was previously independently peer-reviewed. In principle, the society is interested to join the ASSAf SciELO-South Africa open access platform.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should only be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform, when the implementation of the improvements recommended in the review has been completed.
- III. The editor should in any case seriously consider these improvements, in particular the widening of the scope and reach of the journal, the tightening of quality assurance through more rigorous peer review, better appointment procedures for the editor and editorial board, and the inclusion of value-adding features.

4.1.5. EKKLESIASTIKOS PHAROS

Focus and Scope: *Ekklesiastikos Pharos* was originally published in Alexandria (Egypt) directly by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate as a theological review at the beginning of the 20th Century. Consequently *E. Pharos* is one of the oldest scholarly periodicals in Africa. The periodical later moved to Athens, but since 1990 the African edition, now known as *Ekklesiastikos Pharos (New Series)* is edited again in Africa (Johannesburg/Alexandria) – under the auspices of the Orthodox Patriarch of Alexandria – by the Institute for Afro-Hellenic Studies (in Johannesburg), at present with the collaboration of the Department of Greek and Latin Studies of the University of Johannesburg. The new series of the periodical is a theological, as well as philological-humanistic journal, also publishing research on Modern Greece, *Byzantina* and *Afro-Byzantina*.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The journal is a theological and humanistic-philological review of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria (Egypt), and is published by the Institute for Afro-Hellenic Studies (IAHS) in collaboration with the Department of Greek and Latin Studies of the University of Johannesburg (UJ). It is edited by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Johannesburg and Pretoria, and by two NRF-rated academics in the latter UJ department, Prof B Hendrickx (rating B) and his wife, Dr Thekla Sansaridou-Hendrickx (rating C). The editorial board has 16 members, of whom eight are from South Africa (three more from UJ, two each from UP and TUT, and one from NWU); the other members are from Greece (6), Kenya and the DRC (one each). They are all professors and/have doctorates. From information provided by the editor, they appear to have substantial scholarly reputations in the wide span of areas included in the scope of the journal.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published without significant interruptions for over 90 years – one of the oldest scientific periodicals in Africa (and was as such recognised by an award of the Academy of Greece). In the period under review, 73 original articles and eight reviews were published, drawn from 110 manuscripts received. Approximately a tenth of the manuscripts received were rejected without peer review. About a quarter of the published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript; about 25 reviewers, two thirds with non-South African addresses, were used in one year. For the last three years, reports have been retained in records in both Johannesburg and Thessaloniki, with the Greek Patriarch also retaining his own. The IAHS and the Patriarchate consider these archives as confidential, but are prepared to open them for the benefit of scholarship in South Africa.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is between seven and 12 months. The journal is published only once per year, and appears on a pre-scheduled date.

The editor has occupied this position for 20 years, but was re-appointed on merit but non-competitively at least four times in that period by the Patriarch and his Council (subdivision: Science and Scholarship). The periodical belongs to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, Egypt.

The members of the editorial board, drawn from both inside and outside South Africa, are not appointed following a formal competitive selection process, but are invited to serve in respect of particular sub-fields for ten years at a time. They handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, especially the foreign ones, and give advice on editorial policies and practices.

Editorial policy guidelines are published. These have been partially aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*, more attention being given to European guidelines applied especially to this field. *Errata* are published where errors have become apparent. The journal sometimes publishes editorials; in the past, there have been occasional news and views, but in 2009 a section on 'Documents, Discussions and Notices' was introduced. Book reviews are also published as value-adding features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 80 to 90%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: A substantial fraction of the articles are written in Greek and could not be assessed by the reviewers. The others cover a wide range of matter

related to theological and religious-studies aspects of this church, with its long history and varied roles and fortunes, in Africa as well as other regions of interest to it. There is a vast preponderance (and repeated appearances) of authors from UJ, and, to a much lesser extent, UP and NWU. The articles are of highly variable quality, mostly rather poor, and often exhibit distinct features of “crawling with a hand-lens at the frontier of knowledge”. One needs to know the extent of the involvement of the editorial board as opposed to multiple independent reviewers, the statistics of outcomes of submissions to this journal, and other explanations as to how so many articles are published in/from South Africa in such a highly restricted field, in which partial overlaps also exist with at least two other quite substantial journals, *Neotestamentica* and *Acta Patristica et Byzantina* (the latter soon to be re-named *Journal of Early Christian History*). The fact that the journal is accredited for research-output subsidies by the DHET means that the publication generates a large annual income for its parent institution – this is a ‘red flag’ for further investigation.

There have been between 20-25 articles per annum, published in one volume. Many are in Greek, but the English/Afrikaans articles number about 10-15. This relatively large number of articles is remarkable, and seems to reflect good and continuing support by a particular scholarly community (See above). The number of book reviews is about two to five per volume.

The productivity of this journal, and that of the similar journals mentioned above, means that there is an unexpectedly large scholarly community of local authors (and presumably readers) in what is really a restricted field of scholarship in South African terms.

A few of the articles display a local and contemporary focus, but most are gazing through a more distantly focused mirror.

As stated above, the authors are repeatedly listed as coming from UJ, UP and NWU, if they are not from Greece. Very few articles are authored by scholars at UCT, Wits, UKZN, Rhodes, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), Fort Hare University (FHU), or other local institutions. Very few authors come from departments not located in theology/religious studies, although some do come from history departments. The large variety of other disciplines in many institutions with a potential interest in the field of focus of *Ekklesiastikos Pharos* are not (yet) participating in the life of this journal, which seems to be more of a ‘closed shop’ than an open forum of modern scholarship.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: There are a few book reviews, but no ‘opinion’ editorials, no correspondence, or any other value-adding features. This is a pity. The introductory sections of articles labelled ‘Abstract’ are too short to be proper abstracts in a literature subject to metadata formation and searching on the internet.

No publication of *errata* was noted. The citation practice is reasonable, and follows appropriate practice, apart from inconsistent use of footnotes and a lot of out-of-date references. The layout is adequate to good.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The generally ‘closed shop’ tone of the journal and the poor quality of many articles would preclude its usefulness in most academic settings. It would be important to know how much notice is taken of this journal in Greece.

The purported 'international' nature of the journal is contradicted by the fact that it is not very good by 'national standards'.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: This journal appears to be rather closed to scholars outside a particular community, apart from the matters about which other preliminary comments have been made in previous sections. The focus partially overlaps with those of two other SA journals, *Neotestamentica* and *Acta Patristica et Byzantina* (soon to be re-named *Journal of Early Christian History*). The field is generating an enormous number of articles every year, many of them authored by the same group of people from the same group of institutions. It is important that the editors of the three journals meet to discuss possible cooperation and rationalisation, plus agreeing to a set of audits to illuminate the effectiveness of peer review and quality assurance generally. The failure to connect with scholars working in related mainstream disciplines is to be deplored.

Apart from these organisational points, in the short term it would also be very important that articles are solicited from universities and departments which, despite having good scholars in the field, have not yet contributed to the journal. The editorial board should function more closely in accordance with the ASSAf guidelines, specifically in respect of the periodic appointment of editors and members of the editorial board. Peer review should be strengthened through a greater diversity of independent reviewers. The journal would gain greatly from presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), correspondence and other features. The dates of submission and of acceptance of individual articles should also be provided.

Recommendations on possible accession to SciELO-SA or accreditation by the DHET would need to follow further review of possible actions taken by the editors in connection with the kinds of rationalisation and quality improvement suggested above, before accession to the SciELO-South Africa collection could be considered, nor should accreditation yet be granted by the Department of Higher Education and Training in terms of its research outputs policy.

Business Aspects

The regular print of the journal is 250 copies per issue. The publisher is the AHS, based in Johannesburg and Thessaloniki, Greece (under patronage of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, Egypt) in collaboration with the Department of Greek and Latin Studies of the University of Johannesburg. Preparative work is done in RSA and partly in Greece, since the IAHS operates in South Africa, as well as in Greece, and has two headquarters. Both production and distribution are partly outsourced. The journal does not carry paid advertising, but sometimes publishes unpaid advertising related only to research. The journal receives partial financial sponsorship.

The paying subscribers are members of IAHS (in Greece or RSA) or organisations as opposed to individuals. All costs (total expenditure between R 17 000 - R23 000) are covered by subscriptions, page money and donations. Shortfalls are met from IAHS funds and a fund in the Department of Greek and Latin Studies at UJ.

The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers, but some Greek academic publishers are interested, and negotiations to this end are under way. Copyright is established via the UJ library.

English abstracts and front details are published for all articles. The journal was previously independently peer-reviewed overseas, in Belgium and Greece. An

invitation to join the ASSAf SciELO-South Africa open access platform would be considered and discussed.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The case for this journal being listed in the list of journals accredited by the DHET is not strong; we recommend that it not be included in the list for the time being.
- II. The publisher/editor should also not yet be invited to join the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform, as the current journal is not considered to be of high quality and there are serious questions about its scholarly operation.
- III. The editor should accordingly seriously consider the criticisms and recommendations listed above, which each require detailed responses and remedial action.
- IV. In addition, the Panel believes that the journal must interact with the editors/publishers of two other SA journals, *Neotestamentica* and *Acta Patristica et Byzantina* (soon to be re-named *Journal of Early Christian History*) in order to strengthen South African scholarship in this broad field.

4.2 Mainstream Theology

4.2.1 ACTA THEOLOGICA

Focus and Scope: *Acta Theologica* is a DHET-accredited South African journal publishing independently refereed research in the Biblical sciences, theology, and science of religion. Articles are published in English, Afrikaans, and occasionally in Dutch and German.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The members of the editorial board are drawn from South Africa and Europe, but only one editor comes from the rest of Africa and there are no members from Asia. The members of the editorial board are generally regarded as having good national and international standing in the discipline concerned. Both the former and present editor are respected scholars in their fields.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 29 years without significant interruptions. In the period under review, the number of published peer-reviewed original papers was 92 articles and 24 reviews, drawn from 152 submissions received; few manuscripts were rejected without peer review. Approximately 20% of the published papers/reviews had at least one author with a non-South African address. Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript, and altogether 64 peer reviewers were used in the same period; none of them had a non-South African address. Peer-review reports are retained in records.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print has been six months to one year, and on the web about the same. The publication frequency of the journal is twice per year, plus at least one supplement per annum. The regular issues of the journal are pre-scheduled to appear in June and December of each year.

The present editor has been in the position for only five months, after competitive appointment through a selection process, for an unspecified period. Members of the editorial board handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and sometimes act as arbitration reviewers. They also advise on editorial policies and practices. The members are not appointed competitively via advertisement, and no specific period is given for their appointment. They are appointed from inside the country in order to provide specific topical expertise (they are from different disciplines within theology).

Editorial policy guidelines are published; a conflict of interest policy is (puzzlingly) considered not applicable in theology. Apart from this, the editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* are published when the need arises. The journal contains a limited number of book reviews as a value-adding feature. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 99%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: Although there are some exceptions, the quality of the articles accepted and published (mostly in Afrikaans) is generally average to good. While most of the articles are from South African authors, these are not evenly drawn from across the country, although they are certainly distributed more widely than from just the host institution where the journal originates. Some authors are not from theological disciplines, but from related fields.

While the articles published are adequate in number, they cannot be described as a significant sample of the best theological work done in the country, since most of the leading names in the different theological disciplines have not published in the journal over the last three years. The journal provides an opportunity for lesser-known scholars, research assistants and postgraduate students to publish their ongoing work, an important role in the South African academic context, rather than being the place where outstanding work is normally to be found.

The focus of the journal on local matters is not so conscious and dominant that one could describe the journal's identity or purpose in those terms, but there are definitely several examples over the last three years of South Africa-focused articles of papers concerned with regional realities and problems.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: In-depth reviews are published from time to time, but apart from a few book reviews not much else of academic significance is provided as value-adding features. The journal does, however, honour and celebrate local scholars who retire or pass away.

There are proper English abstracts for all articles. There is no publication of *errata*. The citation practice is good, as are the presentation, layout, style and copy-editing.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: While the journal is directed more at established researchers, it is also suitable as a general on-going stimulus and publication opportunity for local graduate students and young staff. It cannot be considered an international journal, but is comparable with other national journals in its broad field.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: The journal should be operated and marketed in a way that is more open and inviting to all South African, regional and international scholars, including those who are at the forefront of their areas of focus. International participation in editing and peer review should be enhanced. It ought to have more value-adding features, such as editorials, correspondence and book reviews.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 220 copies per issue; it is published by Sunmedia, Bloemfontein. Both production and distribution are outsourced. The journal does

not carry either paid or unpaid advertising. Financial sponsorship is received on a regular basis from the University of the Free State and sometimes from other sponsors for special issues, e.g. a special issue on Bible translation received sponsorship from the Bible Society of SA.

The number of paying subscribers is only 53, of which 17 are organisations and 36 individuals. The journal appears free online on the website of the University of the Free State; it is also part of the African Journals Online (AJOL) pay-to-view e-publication service. The journal's total income is about R50 000 per annum, but the total expenditure is at least R60 000. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. The current publisher is Sunmedia, but in the years 2006-2008 it was the Publication Office, University of the Free State.

The journal is indexed by Thomson Reuters-ISI, as well as Scopus, but no impact factors are known to the editor. English abstracts are published if articles are not in English. The journal has been reviewed before by both ISI and Scopus.

The editor would in principle be interested in being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access journal platform.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals (over and above its entitlement to this, under policy as an ISI-indexed periodical).
- II. The journal's editor, editorial board and publisher should be careful to retain their international indexing status as this can be lost as a result of not meeting the required standards of performance in terms of article numbers, citations, etc. The latter should be closely monitored.
- III. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- IV. The editor should seriously consider the suggested improvements made in this review, especially the emphasis to attract the work of leading scholars, as well as emerging ones, from all over the country and region, as well as internationally.
- V. In addition, the Panel believes that the journal should offer more value-adding features.

4.2.2 JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Focus and Scope: The *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa (JTSA)* is published from the School of Religion and Theology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. *JTSA* has been published continuously since December 1972 as a vehicle to promote theological reflection within the social, political and cultural context of southern Africa. Over the years, articles have been published covering a range of issues and themes such as hermeneutics, public theology, inculturation, liberation theologies, African theology, development, feminism; all of which are directly related to the 'witness of the church' in both Africa and the world. *JTSA* also published key theological documents to do with the church in South Africa.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor and editorial collective are considered to have good national reputations, but are little known internationally. This may be why there are no international members on the collective.

Questionnaire: The journal was originally housed in the South African Council of Churches, and then moved to UCT in the 1980s; it moved to UKZN in 2003. It is owned by a Section 21 Company and not by the university or an academic society. It

has been published for 37 years (since 1972), without significant interruptions. In the three-year period under review, 61 original articles and 35 reviews were published; in the same period, 110 article manuscripts were received (an acceptance rate of 55%); five manuscripts were rejected without peer review. About eight out of 61 articles, and eight out of 35 reviews had at least one author with a non-South African address. Two or three peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript, and about 56 reviewers were used in 2008, of which only five reviewers had non-South African addresses. All peer-review reports are retained in records.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is three to four months; the journal is not available on the web. The publication frequency of the journal is three issues per annum, and it appears on given dates.

The present editor, who has been running the journal for six to seven years, was not appointed competitively and the period of appointment is open-ended. Members of the editorial board, who are also not appointed competitively, are drawn from inside and outside the country in order to provide specific topical expertise. Their period of appointment to the editorial board is unspecified. They handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and advise on editorial policies and practices.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, but there is no policy on conflict of interest. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* are published when the need arises. The journal contains editorials and book reviews as value-adding features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is close to 100%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles are generally of high quality and contextual relevance; only just over half of the articles submitted are published. In March 2008, an editorial explained and defended the strictness of this policy in a very constructive way.

The number of articles published per annum is adequate, but is somewhat less than that appears in several similar journals in the country. The articles are seen as a reasonable sample of the best work done in the field of academic theology, especially African theology, in Southern Africa; many of the leading scholars publish here (including a small number of leading international voices), and it is noteworthy that many articles are by black authors locally and from other African countries.

There has been a focus on local/regional kinds of materials since the journal's beginnings, and it is still applicable in remaining contextual and representative. The authors of articles are drawn variably from across the country,

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The journal publishes a limited number of additional scholarly features, including editorials, topical and book reviews, and even news on academic events, from time to time. All articles have English abstracts. No *errata* have been noted. The citation practice is good, as are the presentation, layout, style and copy-editing.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The journal's contextual and regional focus makes it an ongoing source of stimulation for young students and staff. It is considered by many to be best journal on African theology in the country.

Postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers regularly publish in it. The journal compares well with the middle tier of international journals, but is not in the same category as the leading international journals.

Suggested improvements

Consensus Review: The editor and editorial collective should be appointed on a competitive basis. A much wider representation of authors is needed. More international authors and reviewers would also help. The journal should be available online.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 650 copies. It is published by *JTSA*, a Section 21 Company. The editorial work and distribution are handled in-house, but layout and printing are outsourced. The journal carries very few paid advertisements and no unpaid advertising is carried. The journal does not receive financial sponsorship.

The number of subscribers is 417; about half of these are from organisations as opposed to individuals. The journal is not available online. The journal's total income in 2008 was about R156 000 and the total expenditure in the same year was about R150 000. The journal has previously received offers to purchase from multinational publishers, and several offers to join other online publishers. Authors retain copyright.

The journal is not indexed in Thomson Reuters-ISI, but the editor has applied and is awaiting a favourable response. The journal is indexed in ATLA, the American Theological Library Association (USA).

English abstracts are included in all articles. The editor would in principle be interested in the journal being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa platform.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the recommendations listed in this consensus review.

4.2.3

VERBUM ET ECCLESIA

Focus and Scope: *Verbum et Ecclesia* is the academic journal of the Dutch Reformed Church at the Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor-in-chief, associate editor and the members of the editorial board have national reputations; the international advisory board (since 2009 divided according to regions of the world: Afro-Asian section; American section; European section) includes several scholars with sound international reputations. It would be a good idea to bring some of the latter into the former structure (also using them in peer-review processes) to play a more direct role in building the journal's wider reputation.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 30 years without significant interruptions. In the three-year period from 2007-2009, the number of published

original articles was 132, and seven book reviews; in the same period, 152 article manuscripts were received, giving a problematically high acceptance rate of 87%. No manuscript was rejected without peer review.

From 2007-Jun 2009 about a quarter of published articles had at least one author with a non-South African address. Usually two to three peer reviewers are approached per submitted manuscript. In 2008, 97 reviewers were used, of whom just under 10% had non-South African addresses. All peer-review reports are retained in records.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is approximately between 12-15 months, while on the web it is about two months. The publication frequency of the journal from 2010 is one annual issue, but prior to 2009, two issues were published every year. The journal issues appear at infrequent intervals.

The present editor, who has been editing the journal since 2002, was appointed competitively following nomination and selection processes. The editor's appointment was for a period of five years, and he was reappointed in 2007. Members of the editorial board are not appointed competitively, but are selected and approached based on expertise and profile. Their appointment period is three years. They handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and advise on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of members from inside and outside of South Africa, who are appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, and the journal has a conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAF's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* are published when needed. The journal publishes editorials, topical reviews, book reviews and occasionally correspondence on published articles as value-adding features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is nevertheless claimed to be 99%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The academic quality of the articles is generally adequate to good. The number of articles published in a year is also satisfactory when compared with similar journals. The high acceptance rate is disturbing, however, and much higher than that of comparable journals.

The journal presents some of the best work done in the country, since some of the leading scholars in a variety of theological disciplines (some associated with the home institution of the journal) publish regularly in it. Not all the papers represent leading scholarship.

Although there are exceptions and although it is difficult to generalise, the topics do not reflect a clear focus (for example on local or regional problems). The papers rather seem to address general issues in the different fields and disciplines that could just as well have been written and published elsewhere in specialist journals. The very large number of scholars represented on the advisory editorial board from many places on the globe underlines this aspirant characteristic of the journal, which is not reflected in a commensurate number of papers from international authors (only 10% of the total). The 90% of authors who are local are probably not representative of institutions across the country, either, with a strong bias towards the home institution.

The journal does offer opportunity for research assistants and postgraduate students to publish their work.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: There are more book reviews in the journal than in most comparable journals, but no topical reviews and substantial editorials. All articles have proper English abstracts. Publication of *errata* is not visible, perhaps not so necessary. The citation practice is satisfactory, as are the presentation, layout, style and copy-editing.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The journal is suitable as a general on-going stimulus for local graduate students/young staff in the discipline, as well as for international students, particularly students from other African countries. The languages accepted for submissions are English, Afrikaans, German, Dutch and Sepedi.

The journal can serve as a platform for critical research on the connections that exists between religion and society, with applications in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. This broad focus expands the borders of focused theological research by combining theological disciplines with other scientific disciplines in contemporary terms.

The journal compares reasonably well with a number of international journals, but it is not in the same category as the leading international journals.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: Attempts should be made to attract more international members to the editorial board, as well as peer reviewers and especially contributing authors. At the same time, the reach of the journal in a wider spread of local institutions should be increased, and a more open participation model followed.

The rigour of independent peer review should be tightened, and strong editorial discretion applied.

Measures should be adopted to ensure the proper independent peer review of articles by the editors.

Articles should be published more quickly in the print edition.

The journal should keep to a fixed schedule of print publication.

Business Aspects

The idea of a regular print run does not apply as the journal is a 'roll on' e-publication, papers being published free online as soon as they are accepted, and printed in a single annual version later. The publisher is Open Journals Publishing, a division of AOSIS (Pty) Ltd, on a commercial basis; production is outsourced. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising, but it receives financial sponsorship.

There are no paying subscribers as this is a free online, open access journal, accessible at www.ve.org.za. The journal's total income per year is not known; the total expenditure was R120 000 in 2009. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Copyright resides with authors.

The journal has applied to be indexed by Thomson Reuters-ISI. English abstracts and front details are published for all articles. The journal was previously independently peer-reviewed. The journal's publisher is already working with ASSAf and SciELO-SA for the journal possible inclusion on the platform.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. **The editor should seriously consider the findings and recommendations listed in this consensus review, particularly those that apply to greater international and wider national participation at all levels in the journal, and tighter peer review.**

4.2.4 SCRIPTURA

Focus and Scope: *Scriptura* is an independent journal which publishes contributions in the fields of Bible, religion and theology. It is international in scope but special attention is given to topics and issues emerging from or relevant to Southern Africa. *Scriptura* publishes contributions in English, but also in other languages relevant to the Southern African region (such as Afrikaans, Xhosa, Sesotho, Zulu, French and German).

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The three active co-editors have good national (and perhaps even international) reputations; most (although not all) of the members of the editorial board are South Africans, and all are senior and respected scholars in their respective fields, some of them with scholarly reputations that extend beyond this country's borders; the international advisory board consists of well-known and highly respected scholars.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 30 years without significant interruptions. During the three-year period under review, the number of published original articles was 121 and that of book reviews, ten; in the same period, 153 article and 12 book-review manuscripts were received, giving an article acceptance rate of around 80%. No manuscript was rejected without peer review. Two book review articles were rejected by the editor because they were not up to standard.

About a quarter of the published articles (and a fifth of two of the book reviews?) had at least one author with a non-South African address. At least two peer reviewers are usually approached per submitted manuscript; a third reviewer is used when there is a marked difference of opinion between the first two reviewers. In the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, respectively, no fewer than 85, 65 and 96 reviewers were used. Of these peer reviewers, over a quarter had non-South African addresses. All peer-review reports are retained in the records.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is approximately 11 months. The publication frequency of the journal is three volumes per year, but the issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on given dates.

The present editor, who has been running the journal for ten years, was not appointed competitively (i.e. following advertisement and a selection process). Members of the editorial board are also not appointed competitively; their period of appointment is not specified. They handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and advise on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of members from inside and outside of South Africa.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, and the journal has a conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have been approximately aligned with ASSAF's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. When it is necessary, *errata* are published. The journal publishes editorials infrequently, but has topical reviews and book reviews as value-adding features. The percentage of

pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 96%, as only the book reviews are not peer-reviewed.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The quality of the articles accepted and published is generally good, although they tend to be shorter than is found in other similar journals; there is a strict review process in place. While the average article published represents solid and useful, contextually appropriate work in the different sub-fields that are covered, a moderate proportion are written by some of the best-known and most respected scholars in these fields in the country, drawn from many institutions, as well as by a reasonable number of international contributors. On balance, however, the journal does not attract the best work in the country in the field of theology. There is a sufficient focus on local and regional kinds of problems. Post-graduate students are also sometimes given the opportunity to publish their own research and on-going work.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: Almost every issue also includes a topical review, but the emphasis is clearly on peer-reviewed articles. All published articles have English abstracts. No *errata* were noted. The citation practice is good, as are the presentation, layout, style and copy-editing.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The journal is suitable as a general, on-going stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the disciplines concerned. The contextual nature of the journal provides young theologians with useful insights. The journal is accessible and the articles readable for young students and theologians, and the journal is affordable.

The journal is generally not comparable with the leading international journals in this area.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: The conciseness of the articles impacts on their quality; lengthier discussions would provide more depth to the journal. The journal needs to stay on schedule with its intended publication dates. Efforts should be made to attract more international editors, contributors and peer reviewers. Thought needs to be given as to whether the publication of papers presented at conferences is necessarily good for the quality of the journal. There also needs to be a selection process of the editor.

The journal could improve its impact by being more available (free online) on the web.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 180 copies; it is published by Readme Services. Production is done by a part-time editorial assistant, while the distribution is done with Postnet by the departmental administrative officer. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising. The editorial assistant responsible for the layout and communication with the printer is paid by the university (R29 000 per year).

The number of paying subscribers is 160, of whom about 75% are libraries. The journal is part of the SABINET commercial (pay-to-read or subscribe) e-publication service.

The journal's total income per year is R70 000 (R50 000 as page fees and R20 000 as subscriptions), plus the salary of the editorial assistant, and total expenditure is R95 000 per annum. The journal has previously received two offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Copyright is allowed to authors if the item concerned is published as part of an author's collected works that focus on a specific topic or in translated form. The 'second' publication must clearly reflect that the article was initially published in *Scriptura*.

English abstracts and front details are published for all articles. The journal was independently peer-reviewed in 2005. The editor would in principle be interested in the journal being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access platform.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to join the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the findings and recommendations made in this consensus review.

4.3 Specific Theological Traditions

4.3.1 *IN DIE SKRIFLIG* (NEW TITLE: *IN LUCE VERBI*)

Focus and Scope: *In die Skriflig* is a theological journal which seeks to reflect the practice and growth of reformational theology in a scholarly manner "in service of the Church and the Kingdom of God".

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The journal is a well-established journal with a reasonable national but limited international reputation. The editor is considered to have international standing in his discipline, as is shown by his NRF rating, and the same generally goes for the national editorial associates. While the members of the editorial board seem all to be from one, perhaps two, South African universities (University of North-West (Potchefstroom campus) and the University of the Free State), the journal has reputable international associates.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 42 years without interruption. Between 2006-2008, about 90 original peer-reviewed articles and six book reviews were published; about 112 article manuscripts were received in the same period (about 80% acceptance rate). Very few manuscripts were rejected without peer review. Less than 10% of the published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Three peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. In 2008, 90 peer reviewers were used, of whom approximately 20% had non-South African addresses. Peer-review reports are accessibly retained in the records. The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and on the web is anywhere between three and nine months. The publication frequency of the journal is four issues per year. The issues appear regularly on the scheduled dates.

The present editor has been running the journal for three years, and was appointed for a period of four years with the option to continue after that. The editor's appointment was not based on competition/selection. Members of the editorial board are appointed from inside and outside the country, in order to provide specific topical expertise. Occasionally, members of the editorial board handle

the peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and they advise on editorial policies/practices.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, and a conflict of interest policy has also been developed. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. It was not necessary so far to publish *errata*, but if needed, this will be done.

The journal publishes value-adding features such as editorials, news and views, topical reviews, book reviews and correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is about 75-80%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The quality of the published articles is generally good, with some being high. A fair number of articles (30) are published per annum. They are a good sample of the best work done in the country in the broad field of theology, revealing sound scholarship on the whole but predominantly within the *Gereformeerde* family of scholars. There is a limited focus on local/regional kinds of materials or topics. There is a concentration of authors from North-West University, and although the editor states that 7% of the authors are international, the authors concerned seem to be mostly from the Netherlands.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The journal carries features such as editorials, book reviews and a feature called 'Fokus' for emerging theologians. All articles have proper English and Afrikaans abstracts. Publication of *errata* may be practiced but no example was observed. The journal has a sound citation practice. The hard copies are well presented.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The journal is suitable as a general on-going stimulus for local graduate students and young staff, but this is mostly limited to its confessional pool. The journal is not comparable with leading international journals in the field, but it is good within its confessional framework.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: A broader range of authors from within South Africa and more international scholars, especially from other African countries, need to be involved as both authors and editorial board members, even if only within the *Gereformeerde* family. In order to reach a wider constituency, however, the journal also needs to broaden its base outside the *Gereformeerde* circle.

One suggestion has been that the institutional affiliations of the authors should be provided in the table of contents.

The editor should preferably be selected competitively, as should members of the editorial board.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is about 235 copies, and it was published by V&R Printing Works, Pretoria and recently open accessible by AOSIS Publishers. Both

production and distribution are outsourced. The journal does not carry paid advertising but sometimes includes unpaid advertising. The journal receives an unspecified level of financial sponsorship.

The journal has 164 paying subscribers, of which number 62 are organisations as opposed to individuals. The journal is part of a commercial pay-to-view and/or pay-to-subscribe e-publication service. Its annual total income is just over R62 000, while total expenditure is about R70 000. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers.

The submission of an article entitles *In die Skriflig* to exclusive rights of publication, both in printed and in electronic and other media. No ISI-type impact factor has to date been determined for the journal. Front details like titles, authors, addresses, and English abstracts are included in the journal. The editor would in principle be interested in the journal being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access journal platform.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the recommendations listed above, especially those pertaining to broadening the confessional and regional geographic base of the journal, with respect to both authors and editorial board members.

4.3.2 NEDERDUITS-GEREFORMEERDE TEOLOGIESE TYDSKRIF (NGTT)

Focus and Scope: The *NGTT* or *Nederduits-Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif* is an open-access peer-reviewed academic journal with a focus on Christian theology. As the name suggests, the journal has historical ties with the Reformed tradition, yet this is coupled with the strong ecumenical commitment of the University of Stellenbosch. The journal is serious about promoting multilingualism, and features theological research that stretches across all the theological sub-disciplines and even interdisciplinary engagement with other academic fields.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The journal is a very old and established journal with a sound national and a reasonable international reputation. Both recent editors certainly had national, perhaps a measure of international standing, in the discipline, while the members of the editorial board mostly have national standing. The journal also has international associates with good reputations in the field.

Questionnaire: The history of the *NGTT*, although not under its current name, dates back to the years 1849 and also the years after the founding of the Stellenbosch Theological Seminary (1859) when its future and later teachers used journals like the *De Kerkbode* and its predecessor *De Gereformeerde Kerkbode* (from 1849), *Het Nederduitsch Zuid-Afrikaanse Tijdschrift* (from 1877), *Het Gereformeerde Maandblad* (from 1892) and also *Het Zoeklicht* (from 1923); *Die Ou Paaie* (from 1926) and *De Gereformeerde Vaandel* (from 1934) for the publication of their articles. Since the founding of the *NGTT* in 1959 as a continuation of the above-mentioned long tradition of Reformed publications, the readers of the *NGTT* have been academic theologians, scholars in the field of humanities and social sciences, professional pastors/ministers of religion and academically oriented readers interested in theological, ecclesiastical and religious matters. There has been no interruption in publication since 1959.

For the period of 2006-2008, the number of published original articles was 158 out of 169 article manuscripts received, a perhaps disturbing acceptance rate of over 93%. No manuscript was rejected without peer review. About 108 published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. In 2008, 106 peer reviewers were used, of whom only 5% of had non-South African addresses, a very low percentage, suggesting minimal international participation in quality assurance. Peer-review reports are all retained in the records.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is approximately six months. The publication frequency of the journal is two issues per year, pre-scheduled to appear in June and beginning December.

The previous editor ran the journal from 2000 until 2010, since when a new editor took over, also from the University of Stellenbosch, who unfortunately passed away early 2013. The editor is appointed competitively, in being selected from a number of persons who have been nominated. Members of the editorial board are nominated by the three Faculties of Theology at the Universities of Stellenbosch, Bloemfontein and Pretoria; this board then appoints a broader board of co-workers. The board members handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and advise on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of members drawn only from inside the country, while the co-workers are appointed on the broader editorial board for their topical expertise.

Editorial policy guidelines have been published, and a conflict of interest policy is implicitly included in the policy of the journal. The editorial policy guidelines have as far as possible been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. When it is necessary, *errata* are published. The journal contains editorials, topical reviews, and book reviews as value-adding features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material varies.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The published articles, which are of good to high quality, number over 50 articles per annum, amongst the highest in the country's local journals. What is published is therefore a good sample of the best work done in the country in the field of theology. There is a balanced focus on universal issues and those which are local/regional (except in the 2010 supplement, which was much more focused solely on local/regional matters); amongst the topics are church unity, the relationship between church and state, public theology, reconciliation in South Africa, and human rights in South Africa.

While articles in the NGTT certainly reflect the strong heritage of Reformed theology in South-Africa, many articles address issues that transcend denominational and institutional boundaries, as already stated above.

There is a predominance of articles published by authors from the Universities of Stellenbosch, Pretoria and the Free State, although a number are contributed by authors at other SA universities, and from abroad – the latter mainly from persons who have an adjunct capacity at one of the named universities.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The only value-adding features are a few editorials, which have the character of sharing local and denominational news or personalia, infrequent topical reviews, a small number of book reviews, but no correspondence.

The editorials have the character of sharing local and denominational news, which gives them a 'personalia character'. The book reviews are relatively few. All articles have proper English abstracts.

Publication of *errata* was not noted. The citation practice is sound, but the referencing systems vary between papers, and the use of footnotes varies from none to overwhelming. The presentation, layout, style and copy-editing are well done (Note the recommendation 3 below).

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: A reasonable number of local graduates and younger researchers publish articles in the journal, which is suitable as a general on-going stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the discipline.

The journal compares well with a number of other local journals, but is not in the class of the best international theological journals.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: The editor and editorial board should seek more participation from international peer reviewers and especially from other African countries, as well as broadening the scholarly network within the country itself.

It would help in this respect if the page with information on the editorial board and the co-workers were printed in English, as well as in Afrikaans.

There should also be more depth to the editorials, for example by giving a summary and even an appraisal of the articles in the issue concerned, rather than sharing local and denominational news, which is a practice that is not only dated, but creates the impression that the journal is intended for a very definite (local) denominational readership.

At present the page layout is rather crowded since the start of a new paragraph is marked only by an indented first line; if the spacing between paragraphs could be doubled, it would make for much easier reading.

A consistent referencing style should be enforced, and the same for the use by authors of footnotes.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 300-350 copies. Since 2011, an e-version of the journal has been published free online, and a recent development is a project in which the full archive of past issues will be digitised. Both production and distribution are outsourced.

The journal carries very little paid advertising, but does receive financial sponsorship. The number of paying subscribers is about 300, of whom all but 25 are individuals.

The journal's total income from 2008-2009 was R77 000, and the total expenditure in the same period was R84 000. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. The journal owns the copyright of the articles published.

English abstracts are published for all articles. The journal has never been independently peer-reviewed before. The editor in principle would be interested in

the journal being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa platform, if this leaves it financially viable.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the suggestions for improvement listed above.
- IV. In addition, the Panel believes that the journal needs to exert a greater international influence in the broad discipline of theology, with implications for editorial policy, rigorous peer review, and widening of the constituency.

4.3.3 SOUTH AFRICAN BAPTIST JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY

Focus and Scope: The *South African Baptist Journal of Theology (SABJT)*, published annually in September, is South Africa's only evangelical peer-reviewed and DHET-accredited theological journal, specialising in many aspects of theology and ministry. The journal's inaugural issue appeared in 1992 with the intention to further evangelical scholarship, and through it to serve the ministers and members of the Baptist Union of South Africa (BUSA), as well as the broader evangelical churches in Africa and the rest of the world. The journal has a dual purpose, serving academia (peer-reviewed articles) and the church (ministry and laity). *SABJT* is housed at Cape Town Baptist Seminary.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: Information is sparse, but the editors appear to be involved in education and hold doctorates; two members of the editorial board are from Australia, one from Ireland, while three are from universities in South Africa. The editors do not appear to have substantial national or international disciplinary reputations.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 18 years without significant interruptions. The number of published original articles during the three-year period under review was 77 articles and 21 book reviews; in the same period, 78 article manuscripts were received, of which one was rejected without peer review and all the others were accepted, a disturbingly high acceptance rate of nearly 100%. About a quarter of the published papers and two reviews had at least one author with a non-South African address.

Usually two peer reviewers are approached for each submitted academic manuscript; only 11 peer reviewers were used in 2009, all of them South Africans. Book reviews are not peer-reviewed, and accreditation is not sought by authors/institutions. Peer-review reports are accessibly retained in records. The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is five months. The journal is not published on the web at present.

The journal is published once per year. The journal issues are scheduled to appear in the last week of each September, and this deadline has always been met to date.

The present editor has been editing the journal since September 2008; the term of office expires in September 2011. The editor was not appointed competitively. Editorial board members are also not appointed competitively, and their appointment period is not specified. They are appointed from inside and outside the country in order to provide specific topical expertise. Members of the editorial board handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and advise on editorial policies/practices.

Editorial policy guidelines are published but the journal has no conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* are published when necessary.

The journal contains only book reviews as value-adding scholarly features. The rest of the pages in each issue (more than 90%) represent peer-reviewed original material.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles seem generally to be of average to good quality. The bibliographies of the papers are sufficient and show interaction with published research. A reasonably large number of peer-reviewed articles are published per year, averaging 26. The contextual links to the Baptist Church and the challenges of evangelism are handled sensitively, while there is a focus on challenges to evangelism in South Africa in the post-modern context, and on cultural diversity of groups. There is a fair representation of authors from various parts of South Africa, some from Australia, New Zealand, and Malawi. One South African has four articles in the 2010 issue. The authors are from the circle of Baptist and other conservative evangelical scholars (50% of subscribers are not Baptists).

There are very few Baptist journals with which to compare this one. The high rate of acceptance of submitted manuscripts is very worrying, as is the absence of international reviewers.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation, etc.

Consensus Review: The journal contains some good editorials, but no topical reviews, while the eight book reviews are not confined to scholarly works. Abstracts were not published for articles until 2011, since when they have been made compulsory. No publication of *errata* was noted. The citation practice is satisfactory, as are the presentation, layout, style and copy-editing (although the title of one article contained an error).

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The journal is intended to be used as a development tool for Honours, Masters and doctoral students to enable them to gain experience in writing for publication; for this reason it publishes articles submitted by such students. Despite this policy, the journal's suitability as a general on-going stimulus may well be limited to local graduate students and young staff within Baptist and conservative evangelical circles. It is difficult to judge the journal's comparability with other similar journals in the field, but it is not amongst the leading journals within that tradition.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: All articles should have proper abstracts, and the peer-review process should be more thorough and rigorous through drawing reviewers from a much wider range of institutions and geographical bases, some of them international, followed by careful consideration by the editor of the review reports concerned.

At present the journal is published once a year. The non-scholarly articles dealing with themes related to pastoral ministry and church mission should at the very least

be presented in a clearly separated section of the journal. The scholarly section should strive to do more than primarily serving the specific purposes of the Baptist Union of South Africa, its ministers and mission. The problematic dual role of the journal impacts on the standing of a journal which seeks recognition as being genuinely scholarly. This issue must be considered at a fundamental level of policy.

Business Aspects

The regular print run of the journal is 700 copies per issue; it is published by the Baptist Union of Southern Africa. Production is outsourced and distribution is partially outsourced. The journal does not carry neither paid nor unpaid advertising. It also does not receive any financial sponsorship.

The number of paying subscribers is 225; of these, 42 are organisations as opposed to individuals. The journal does not appear online yet. The journal's total income in 2009 was about R126 000, while the total expenditure was R63 755.

The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Published articles are the property of the journal; the editor states that if the article has already been published elsewhere and is re-published in this journal, copyright belongs to the journal in which it was originally published – re-publication is a very bad practice.

All published articles are in English. The journal has never been independently peer-reviewed before. The editor and the publisher are open to inclusion of the journal in the ASSAf SciELO-South Africa online platform.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. **The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.**
- II. **The publisher/editor should not be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform, until the shortcomings described in this consensus review have been demonstrably overcome.**
- III. **The editor should seriously consider the findings and recommendations listed above, and particularly focus on the issue of rigorous, independent and multiple peer review of articles submitted from a wider field of scholarly activity (an acceptance rate of near 100% is not creditable).**
- IV. **In addition, the Panel believes that the journal needs to consider whether its dual purpose could not be better served by separating the content into two publications.**

4.3.4 HTS THEOLOGIESE STUDIES - THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (Incorporating: Practical Theology)

Focus and Scope: *HTS* has published original research concerned with the dissemination of the results of theological research of national and international scholars since 1943. The journal has a wide multi-disciplinary scope and supports theologians, philosophers, scholars, ministers of religion and specialists in religious and socially related subjects by providing them with evidence-based, peer-reviewed outcomes of research. The journal covers theology in its broadest sense and therefore publishes articles linked with a variety of other study fields, and has a multi-disciplinary, multi-church, inter-faith, and multi-religious focus and scope. Articles cover, among others, aspects of religious studies, philosophy, ancient Semitic and classical languages, sociology and ethics. *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* is committed to the capacity building of young scholars.

Practical Theology is focused on communication acts that serve the gospel of the 'Kingdom'. These are not only communication acts of the congregation but also

actions of the faithful outside the formal context of the congregation. In fact, the field of study touches on the actions on the congregation in worship, the congregation in training and the congregation in its functioning.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: This journal, which is well-established nationally and internationally, despite its editorial 'home' (title-holder) in the *Hervormde Teologiese Kollege* in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Pretoria. It is the oldest theological journal in the country and a modern macro journal that serves a very wide scope of authors and theological and related academic disciplines. Consultations between the editors, the journals *Practical Theology in South Africa* and *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* which began in 2007, led in 2009 to a decision to continue as a single theological research journal, namely, *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*. Since 2010, *Practical Theology in South Africa* has ceased to be an independent scholarly journal and has been fully incorporated within *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* (ISSN: 0259-9422) as a permanent single issue per annum, with practical theology as its theme. The tradition of publishing original, scholarly and peer-reviewed research within practical theology as a theological sub-discipline is thus continued.

The editor of *HTS* has been highly regarded internationally for many years, as has the journal itself. The associate editor is considered to be in roughly the same league. The editorial board is representative not only of the theological sub-disciplines within its focus, but extends outside South Africa with some of its members in this category also having considerable international standing.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 70 years without interruption. In the three-year period under review, 254 original articles and 158 reviews were published; as 328 article manuscripts were received, the acceptance rate for them was about 77%. No manuscript was rejected without peer review. Approximately 15% of the published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Two peer reviewers were approached for each submitted manuscript (excepting in cases where papers were authored by the editor, when three reviewers were approached); about 130 reviewers were used in this time, 34 of them with non-South African addresses. In all cases, peer-review reports are retained in the records.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print was 15 months; for the web version this was about 50 days.

Between 1985 and 2008, four issues appeared on time every year. At the beginning of 2009, commencing with Volume 65 of *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*, the Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa entered into a publishing agreement with African Online Scientific Information Systems (Pty) Ltd (AOSIS), which provides various services, including but not limited to the provision of scholarly publication services through its scholarly publishing division known as OpenJournals Publishing. Since then, the journal has been published fully online, playing a pioneering role in the digitising of theological journals in South Africa. It has been indexed in Thomson-Reuters-ISI (since 2007), Elsevier Scopus (since 2008) and SciELO-SA (since 2010).

The present editor has been in charge of the journal for 26 years. He was appointed competitively by nomination and selection every year since then, at official meetings of the editorial board. The actual period for appointment is thus one year, but is renewable.

Members of the editorial board occasionally handle the peer reviews of individual manuscripts. They also advise on editorial policies and practices. They are ap-

pointed, presumably also by the editorial board, based on their expertise and profile, and for unspecified periods. They are appointed from both inside and outside the country in order to provide specific topical expertise.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, and the journal has a conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* are published when the need arises. The journal contains editorials, topical reviews, book reviews and occasionally correspondence on published articles, as value-adding features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material, as stated by the editor, is nevertheless very high (99%).

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The papers which are published are generally of a high quality, and the total number published in the review period was close to a hundred, a remarkable achievement for a locally published journal. It is certainly a good sample of the work done in the country in theology. Publication of articles is by authors from across the country, and internationally. Very few black African authors have published in *HTS* up to the present time (about 13% of authorships in 2012). The articles and reviews exhibit a balanced focus on local/regional issues, as well as more universal issues. The policy of the journal is not to request authors to reveal their denominational attachments; the editor has nevertheless estimated that not more than 20% of authors from 2008 to 2012 were members of the *Hervormde Kerk*, and not more than 5% of articles addressed issues concerning this specific denomination. More than 25% of authors were from local institutions not having any affiliation with the so-called sister churches or the *Hervormde Kerk* itself, and about a third of all authors in this period were from outside South Africa.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The journal carries features such as book reviews but no editorials, topical reviews or correspondence. All articles have proper English abstracts. Publication of *errata* is not evident. The journal has a sound citation practice. The hard copies are very well presented, with excellent layout and style reflecting much attention to detail.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The journal is very suitable as a general on-going stimulus for local graduate students/young staff in the theological disciplines. A reasonable number of local graduates and younger researches published in the journal. Its comparability with leading international journals in the field is very apparent.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: The journal could be improved by (i) including editorials, correspondence and debates that might help attract potential new readers; (ii) locating the issues within the broadest possible context, attracting authors who might engage the issues differently and stimulate a wider discussion; and (iii) by including articles that relate more to the African continent generally (e.g. more authors from other parts of Africa).

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is about 1 000 copies, and it is published by Open-Journals Publishing, a division of AOSIS (Pty) Ltd, a commercial publisher. Produc-

tion is outsourced, and distribution does not apply as the journal is openly accessible online. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising. Financial sponsorship is received, but the extent was not revealed.

The number of subscribers was about 600 for 2009; these were not paying subscribers because *HTS* is a free-online, open access journal accessible at www.hts.org.za. The journal's total expenditure has not been revealed. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers, but several offers to join other online publishers; the journal is already on the SciELO-SA platform with the help of its publisher, OpenJournals Publishing.

Copyright resides with authors.

English abstracts are published if articles are not in English. The journal has been independently reviewed before.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals (over and above its entitlement to this, under policy as an ISI-indexed periodical).
- II. The journal is well worthy of its place in the SciELO-SA collection.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the recommendations listed above.

4.4 Science/Scholarship in Theology

4.4.1 *KOERS: BULLETIN FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP*

Focus and Scope: *Koers* is an interdisciplinary journal. Articles from all fields of academic research in Christian scholarship are therefore considered. The subtitle of *Koers* is *Bulletin for Christian Scholarship*. While the basis of *Koers* articles is Christian, room is left for justified differences of opinion.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The journal operates in the field of the relations between faith and science, and provides a kind of niche where scholars can publish in this field. The editor and the South African editorial associates have national, and some international standing amongst scholars within the worldview of reformational philosophy. The list of faculty representatives has been removed and a new editorial board, with fewer NWU representatives and more international representatives, has been in effect since 2010. Some of the overseas editorial associates are certainly well known and respected scholars, but most of them probably come from this same philosophical tradition as well.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 84 years without significant interruptions.

In the period from 2006-2010, the number of published articles was 150 original articles, 21 letter-type articles and 97 reviews; in the same period 213 article manuscripts were received, giving an acceptance rate of about 70%. Only a few manuscripts were rejected without peer review. About 18% of the papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Three peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. About 97 reviewers were used, of whom about 20% had non-South African addresses. Peer review reports are all retained in records.

The interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is between three and nine months and on the web, a little longer. The publication

frequency of the journal is four issues per year; not all issues appear on their given dates. Since 2012, the journal is published electronically, in open access mode, on a rolling publication basis. One edition, in hard copy (containing all contributions for that year) is published annually. In the case of special themed issues, a separate edition is published for each special issue. Also, as of 2012, all issues appear on their given dates.

The present editor, who has been editing the journal since 2008, was appointed competitively by the *Koersvereniging* (Society) for five years that can be extended. Members of the editorial board are also appointed by the *Koersvereniging* (Society) for a period which is reviewed every three years. Editorial board members are appointed from both inside and outside the country in order to provide specific topical expertise. They handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and advise on editorial policies and practices.

Editorial policy guidelines are published and the journal has a conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. When it is necessary, *errata* are published. The journal contains editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, and correspondence on published articles as value-adding features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is just under 80%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: Probably due to its rigorous peer-review system and careful editing, the articles published in this journal are generally of good quality. The journal clearly distinguishes in each issue between research articles and other kinds of genres, which is an indication that the editorial process respects the integrity of peer-reviewed original research.

As an interdisciplinary journal that publishes articles from the fields of natural science and the humanities with philosophy as the bridge, the journal attracts articles from a wide spectrum of authors, and uses referees from across the board of scholarly academic activity. Because of this pronounced inter-disciplinarity, it is difficult to say whether the articles in this journal represent a good sample of the best work done in the country. It could be that those scholars who want to publish serious scholarly work for their peers will probably do that elsewhere, in their respective disciplinary journals, and not here. For example, it could be argued that the theological papers published in *Koers* are ones that could not be published in mainstream theology journals, but that may not be a question of poor quality, rather of a new direction. There seem to be quite a number of philosophical articles written not by philosophers but by other scholars reflecting on the theoretical and worldview aspects of their own disciplines; when the authors concerned are well known in this country and elsewhere, this is not a bad thing.

The number of articles per annum at about 38, published in four issues, is low but reasonable in comparison with similar local journals. The journal seems to be on a par with other journals in theology, the humanities and philosophy. A broader spectrum of contributors, especially international academics, should, however, be pursued, and not only through publishing papers presented at international meetings.

The articles show a balance between global and local matters; philosophical research published in the journal is mostly focused on global issues, while articles exploring the relation between religion, culture and science have a more local flavour. The journal may be able to expand its international focus by initiating a global discourse about religion and science.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: Editorials appear regularly and are published in both Afrikaans and English, usually focusing on the contents of the issue concerned. Publication was often behind schedule, but no issue is ever missed out. As of 2012, publication is on schedule due to online publishing.

Book reviews are presented, as well as other value-adding features, such as commentaries on specific topics such as leadership or communication, but perhaps more international publications could be reviewed. Scholarly correspondence is lacking.

Every article has a proper English abstract, as well as a summary in Afrikaans.

No *errata* have been noted.

Over recent years the journal has improved its technical quality, so that the presentation and layout are now very neat and of high quality; the journal makes a good academic and scholarly impression. The style used is the abbreviated Harvard method of referencing, and this citation practice is good.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The overall impression is that the journal stimulates scholars and students to take part in a discourse about faith and science, or religion and society. The extent to which graduate students and young staff publish in the peer-reviewed section is not clear, however.

Not many international journals have the same philosophical focus and niche; compared with, for example, *Philosophia Reformata* in the Netherlands, this journal would look quite good. International interest in the journal could be improved because the discourse about faith and science is currently alive and well.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: The journal has a particular niche which is extremely relevant in the post-modernist interest in the relevance of religion; the journal should accordingly be encouraged to seek a more prominent international position, and the editorial board should do its utmost to make the journal a leading journal in the faith-science debate. Perhaps a brief description of the nature of the journal and its ambitious aims could be included in each volume, in order to create a framework of understanding for a greater range of readers in many different disciplines.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 180 copies; it is published by V&R Printing Works. As of 2012, the production services are handled by AOSIS and the distribution services are handled in-house. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising, and receives no financial sponsorship.

The number of subscribers is 137; of these, 51 are organisations and 86 individuals.

The journal appears online as part of a commercial e-publication service.

The journal's total income per year is R60 000 and the total expenditure is R62 000. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers, but several offers to join other online publishers. The submission of an article entitles *Koers*

to exclusive right of publication, in printed, electronic and other media. As of 2012, copyright resides with authors and articles are licenced under the Creative Commons Attribution License.

English abstracts are published for all articles. The editor would in principle be interested in the journal being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa platform.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.**
- II. **The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.**
- III. **The editor should seriously consider the recommendations provided in this review.**
- IV. **In particular, the Panel believes that the journal should energetically exploit its already established position as a niche journal in the spaces between the natural science and the humanities, with philosophy as the bridge.**

4.4.2 TYDSKRIF VIR CHRISTELIKE WETENSKAP/JOURNAL FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP

Focus and Scope: The *Journal for Christian Scholarship* is a DHET-accredited publication of *Die Vereniging vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys* (The Association for Christian Higher Education) in South Africa. It serves to provide scholars with an opportunity to publish articles with a Christian point of view, not necessarily in accordance with that of the *Vereniging* (Association), but (i) making a contribution to the enhancement of Christian scholarship, or (ii) engaging in discourse within the Christian scholarly tradition.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor has national standing in his field of study, namely the philosophy of law; he is also a frequent contributor to the journal itself (See below). The journal is the property of the *Vereniging vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys* (Association of Christian Higher Education), but publishes articles more widely in the fields of philosophy, law, education and theology. The array of articles over the past three years does not indicate a specific niche, and also does not explicate the specific Christian paradigm it is intended to explore: the use of the concept 'Christian' is too general and the exposition of 'Christian Education' unclear. Their application actually seems to be limited to a very small pocket of Christian scientific studies. It seems that the journal operates in the domain of fundamentalist theology and philosophy; this impression is strengthened by the overuse of certain authors and the absence of articles by prominent international scholars. The editorial board consists of three local members who are well respected, but mostly from one institution (UFS), and one international scholar; it should definitely be expanded – both nationally and internationally.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 45 years without significant interruptions. During the three-year period under review, the number of published original articles was 51 in scheduled issues and 26 in special issues, with one book reviews. In the same period, 93 article manuscripts were received, a high acceptance rate of 83%. No manuscript was rejected without peer review.

Eleven out of the 77 published articles had at least one author with a non-South African address. One or two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. In 2009, 45 peer reviewers were used, all South Africans. All peer-review reports are retained in the records.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is approximately four to six months, and on the web five to seven months. The publi-

cation frequency of the journal is two to four issues per year, special editions excluded. The journal issues are pre-scheduled and normally appear on the given dates.

The present editor, who has been running the journal for the past seven years, was appointed competitively following a selection process. The appointment period is from time to time as decided by the executive board. Members of the editorial board are also appointed competitively following a selection process; the period of their appointment is not specified. They handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and advise on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of members from inside and outside South Africa.

Editorial policy guidelines are published; conflicts of interest are handled by the editorial board. The journal is in the process of aligning its editorial policy guidelines with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. Where they become apparent, *errata* are published. The journal publishes topical reviews, book reviews and correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is nevertheless apparently close to 100%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles focus on local/regional kinds of materials/problems, including important issues such as worldviews, philosophical aspects concerning natural science, theological ethics, epistemology, ontological questions, education, law, and polemics. They apparently seek to create philosophical frameworks of understanding with regards to issues within a particular discipline, such as education, ethics, law, etc.

Despite the above, the articles are generally of average quality and seldom reflect international standards. This state of affairs can probably be attributed to the fact that international referees are not used and that referees are often limited to less than two per article. It seems that the authors, including the editor, operate in a fairly closed circle of communication, and do not engage in the international debates about the topics they wish to address. The journal gives an impression of 'in-breeding' and a lack of specific engagement with open discourse.

The journal is published regularly, and several special editions have been published in addition to the normal editions. Taking into consideration the fact that some scholars publish regularly (sometimes with more than one article in a single issue), and that in many cases only one referee who in every instance is local, this state of affairs should be expected.

With a few exceptions, the work done is not on par with other journals nationally.

The articles do not engage enough in active regional issues. Much can and should be done in this respect especially in the field of practical education where there are enormous challenges for research. The same can be said regarding the articles about ecclesiology and law.

The editor personally publishes in literally every edition (three times a year). Together with the fact that several other names appear repeatedly as authors, the independence of the journal is in serious jeopardy.

The overall impression of the journal is that it is very local, and that no attempt is made to make it more open, national or international, and that only a very limited number of people actually publish in the journal.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: In the issues of the journal over the past three years, editorials, topical reviews and correspondence are lacking, while very little attention is paid to book reviews (i.e. one was published in the past nine issues).

Proper English abstracts are published with all articles in Afrikaans, while Afrikaans and English abstracts are published with articles in English. This practice impedes indexing. No publication *errata* could be found in the past ten editions.

The citation practice is acceptable. The journal uses the abbreviated Harvard method of citation and references. The presentation, layout and style are neat and well done, but the general technical image of the journal is out-dated and not on a par with other journals in the field of the humanities.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: Due to the limited scope of the journal and its particular ideological paradigm, its suitability as a general on-going stimulus for local graduate students and young staff can be questioned.

The journal falls short when compared with leading international journals in the specific field of law, theology, philosophy and education; the problem is that a real comparison is not possible.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: The journal should broaden its focus by enrolling international scholars to serve on the editorial board and attracting papers from authors from abroad; expanding its paradigmatic scope to make it possible for more scholars to publish and to engage in critical reflection; broadening its list of contributors and peer reviewers; establishing policies for special peer review of articles by the editor and editorial board members; introducing rules for publishing book reviews and encouraging critical reflections; and improving the general image of the journal and changing its old-fashioned look.

Business Aspects

The journal is published by the Association for Christian Higher Education. Production is outsourced, while the distribution is handled in-house. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising, and receives no financial sponsorship.

The number of paying subscribers is 71, of whom about 15 are organisations as opposed to individuals. The journal is part of SABINET's commercial e-publication service. The journal's total income per year is R55 000, while total expenditure is R38 000. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Copyright is vested in the Association for Christian Higher Education.

The journal is indexed in IBSS, and its ISI impact factor has never been determined. English abstracts and front details are published for all articles. The journal was previously independently peer-reviewed. The editor would in principle be interested in having the journal considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access platform.

Panel's Consensus View

1. The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals (despite its entitlement to this, under policy as an IBSS-indexed periodical).

- II. The publisher/editor should not be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the findings and recommendations provided in this consensus review, especially those pertaining to quality assurance through effective independent, multiple peer review.

4.5 Religious Studies

4.5.1 *THEOLOGIA VIATORUM: JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION IN AFRICA*

Focus and Scope: The editorial committee of the above-mentioned journal accepts contributions on any topic related to the fields of theology and religious studies, particularly those concerning the African continent and its people. Interdisciplinary articles and contextualised analyses are included.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor has national/regional standing, supported by an assistant editor from the same institution. The editorial committee is spread over six South African institutions, and the editorial board over three other African and two foreign institutions. They represent a good spread of expertise and perspective.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 24 years, and has been accredited since 2003 (for 2004). There was a significant interruption between 2000-2004 due to lack of funds. Eighteen research articles were published between 2006 and 2008, and 19 in the two issues for 2009. A total of 63 manuscripts were received in the period of 2006 to 2010, many of them received in 2008 for the special xenophobia issue in 2009. None of the manuscripts was rejected without review; the overall rejection rate was about 50%. About 30% of published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Two peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript, and 26 different reviewers were used in 2008 with the special issue. About 10% of reviewers had a non-South African address. Peer-review reports are retained in records.

The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication depends on how good the manuscript is. Mostly, if the article is received in a particular year, it is published in the same year if it is really good, but otherwise the year after, and, in some cases, an article may wait for two to three years, depending on the number of re-writes it needs. The publication frequency is two issues per year, but between 2006 and 2007 it was one issue per year. The issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on a given date. Generally the editor tries to bring out one issue each in June and November/December, but usually this does not happen.

The editor, who has been in this position since 1999, was appointed unanimously by the relevant faculty board of the University of Limpopo (UL), for an indefinite period. Members of the editorial board do not handle the peer review of individual manuscripts but they do advise on editorial policies/practices. They are not appointed competitively via advertisement, and no specific period is given for their appointment. They are also appointed only from inside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

Editorial policy guidelines are published as 'Notes for Contributors', and there is a conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with AS-SAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. Errata are published when the need arises. The journal contains editorials as a value-adding feature and may in future also feature book reviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is over 90%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles are all in English, and are generally scholarly. Their content and format are of good quality. This tri-annual journal has six to eight articles per issue, and about 18-22 articles per annum. The articles are a reasonable sample of good work done in this country in the target topic area, but the field has the potential to provide much more, especially if the catchment really were to apply to all of Africa, as suggested by the journal title. The focus is mostly South African, but some articles deal with matters from other African countries. Authorships are spread across South African institutions, but very few are from outside this country and continent.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: There are no value-adding features excepting for a brief introduction to the content by the editor. Abstracts are in English, and no *errata* were observed. The citation practice is adequate to good.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The topics covered are thought-provoking and relevant (mostly), and would provide useful points of discussion and debate. The journal may be a small player in a big continent, but it seems to represent a promising start to a bigger future role. Generally, the content is beginning to compare reasonably well internationally.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: Features such as opinion editorials, commentaries, and book reviews could be included with benefit. The journal needs to attract articles from other African countries and from further afield, perhaps using editorial board membership to widen participation by other countries. The peer-reviewer network should be widened and acknowledged in the journal itself on an annual basis.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 100-120 copies per issue, and it is published by the University of Limpopo. Both production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal is scheduled to be published on an open-access basis from next year, subject to the approval of various stakeholder bodies. The editor has personally done everything on the production side, except for language editing, up to now. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising, and receives no financial sponsorship. The journal has only five individual subscribers, the rest are institutional. The journal does not appear online. Its total income per annum is R40 000-R45 000, and the total expenditure includes about R10 000 printing cost; if layout, publishing and distribution were outsourced, the cost would go up to R120 000-R140 000. The journal has never received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Copyright rests with the author and publisher.

The journal is not indexed in Thomson-Reuters-ISI or in Scopus, and no ISI-type impact factors have ever been revealed for the journal. The journal has never been reviewed before except by DHET for accreditation.

The editor would in principle be interested in being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access journal platform. The journal is increasing in status, as is evident from the increased number of contributions that are being received from international contributors and established SA researchers. An offer of online and print publication by AOSIS is being considered by the faculty at present; funding is the issue.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the improvement suggestions listed above.
- IV. In addition, the Panel believes that the journal needs to be professionalised **in having the editor's position advertised and filled competitively, for a set period, and to set up the editorial board on a similar basis.**
- V. A name change might also be useful, as few people could deduce the focus of the journal from its present title.

4.5.2 JOURNAL FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION

Focus and Scope: The *Journal for the Study of Religion* is published twice a year, in March and September, by the Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa as a forum for scholarly contributions on topics of contemporary significance in the academic study of religion.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor is a highly rated, publication-productive and active scholar. No addresses are given for the other members of the editorial board, but a Google search suggested they were mostly or all located in the editor's research centre at UCT. There are nine members of an international editorial advisory board, mostly drawn from universities in the USA, although two of them are from other South African universities and one again from UCT itself. It is a problem for the editors of a South African journal to be drawn largely from one institution.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 29 years, first as *Religion in Southern Africa* (1980-1987); latterly under its present name (1988 to date). There have been no interruptions in publication. In the three-year period (2007-2009) under review, 31 articles were published (this number includes the five articles published in Volume 22 (2), 2009) out of a total of 53 articles received (about eight manuscripts were rejected without peer review). This gives an acceptance rate of just under 60%.

On average, five peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. In 2009, 37 peer reviewers were used, of whom about 60% had non-South African address. Peer-review reports are retained in records (a paper copy is filed, as well as an electronic archive). Approximately half of the 15 articles had a first author with an international address.

The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is approximately five months. The *Journal for the Study of Religion* is published biannually. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in March and September, and for the most part they appear on the scheduled dates.

The present editor has been in charge of the journal for the last seven years, having been re-elected each year by the Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa. Members of the editorial board are invited to serve for an unspecified period on the board; they are appointed from inside and outside the country, in order to provide specific topical expertise. Editorial board members handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts and also give advice on editorial practices.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, but a conflict of interest policy is not formally stipulated. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's Na-

tional Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review. Errata have not yet been published, as the need has never arisen.

The journal does not contain non-peer reviewed features such as editorials, news and views, topical reviews, book reviews, and correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is therefore 100%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles vary in quality but are all interesting and relevant. There are no 'faith-based' items, or articles which are not empirical in nature. Most of the articles are free-standing but one issue was devoted to the papers presented at a symposium (guest-edited by three scholars not on the editorial board.) Generally, the articles are competent but not highly original, and pay attention to meta-aspects of most South African religions. One can learn much about the topics covered, from reading the articles or their abstracts, but there is much more in the field one would like to see rigorously explored, especially the interactions between religion and public policy.

There are only about 8-12 articles per annum, published in two issues; the symposium report alone contained eight articles; it is clear that the editors are choosy in turning down many submitted manuscripts. Considering the special and dynamic place of religion in contemporary South African society, the journal should surely attract many more and better critical articles in this field, both from within and from outside the country.

Generally, the journal focuses on local and regional kinds of materials.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: There are no potentially useful scholarly features such as editorials (except as introductory material in the guest-edited symposium issue), book reviews, correspondence or any other 'added-value' features. This is a great pity taking into account the potential vibrancy of discourse available.

There are well-constructed good abstracts for all articles. No publication of *errata* was noted. The citation practice is good, consistent, complete and appropriate throughout. The layout is adequate to good.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: In some ways, the journal may well provide some good material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as local/regional exemplars and sources, but the journal fails to convince as a comprehensive contributor to thinking and review of its important field, and is only beginning to be comparable with the best international competitors such as *Journal of Religion*, or *Religion & Religious Studies*. All in all it is an excellent journal.

We suspect most scholarly journals in the field are much like this, but are simply much more substantial in the volume and range of their papers. The religiously diverse South African society presents a huge scholarly challenge which should be producing many more papers, linked solidly to the political, social and economic domains. Few mainstream journals would have all/most of their editors based at one institution.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: This journal is edited and produced with care, and contains

interesting and significant articles. It is very important, however, that (i) the focus of the journal be specified more narrowly, preferably to South or Southern African aspects of the topic; (ii) every attempt is made to attract good articles that more fully document the contemporary situation of religion in South Africa and the region, and (iii) the editorial board functions more closely according to the ASSAf guidelines, specifically in respect of the periodic appointment of editors and members of the editorial board. The journal would gain greatly from being enlarged to three-four times a year, with a concomitant increase in the number of articles, and presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), book reviews, correspondence and other features. The full addresses of all authors should be provided and contact details of corresponding authors also, plus dates of submission and of acceptance.

This journal needs to be accessible free online to all potential users, as its concerns and contributions are of wide interest in the nation.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 180-200 copies, and it is published by the Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa. The journal's printing is outsourced to Salty Print, and the distribution to EBSCO and Swet. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising; limited financial sponsorship is supplemented by research funds.

The number of paying subscribers is 120, plus 40 who receive the journal as members of the Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa. The primary subscribers consist of 20 individuals and 100 institutions. The journal will soon appear online as part of a commercial e-publication service, possibly ProQuest. The journal's total income per annum is R27 000 (from subscriptions and research funds, while the annual expenditure is R22 000 for production and postage plus R24 000 for the work of research assistants housed in the Institute for Comparative Religion in Southern Africa who assist with the journal.

The journal has not yet received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Copyright is retained by the authors of articles in each case. All articles are in English and have abstracts. The journal has been independently peer-reviewed before. The editor is not interested in being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access journal platform because of the pending arrangement with ProQuest.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the recommendations provided in this consensus review.
- IV. In addition, the Panel believes that the journal should broaden its editorship across institutions, and greatly expand the authorship by enhancing its focus on local and regional matters in this important field.

4.5.3 JOURNAL OF CONSTRUCTIVE THEOLOGY: GENDER, RELIGION AND THEOLOGY IN AFRICA (Name changed to JOURNAL OF GENDER AND RELIGION IN AFRICA)

Focus and Scope: The *Journal of Constructive Theology* seeks to promote dialogue and response not only within the academic theological community in Africa and beyond, but also with faith practitioners working on the ground to build a more just society in the region. These may include clergy, other church professionals and laity across broad social spectrums, who seek to read their faith against the critical issues confronting society today.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor and co-editor are both from UKZN, as are two of the other eight members of the editorial board; the rest are senior academics, two from the University of South Africa (UNISA), two are from Zimbabwe and one from De Pauw University in the USA. They all appear to enjoy good scholarly reputations. The seven international representatives are from a variety of foreign countries; their role in running the journal is not explained. It is a problem that so many of the editors of a South African journal in a significant field are drawn largely from one institution.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published since 1996 without interruption. The number of original peer-reviewed papers published during the period under review included 29 articles, three letter-type articles and one book review. About 46 article manuscripts were received in the same period; about ten manuscripts were rejected without peer review. Eighteen papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Usually, two peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript, but only different 20 peer reviewers were used in each year, half of these with non-South African addresses. Peer-review reports are accessibly retained in the records. The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is one year. The publication frequency of the journal is twice per year. The issues are pre-scheduled to appear regularly on scheduled dates.

The present editor has been in charge of the journal for 12 years, and the associate editor for seven. Both these editors were not appointed competitively, and their appointment period was not defined. Members of the editorial board are also not appointed competitively, but serve for a given period. They are appointed from inside and outside the country, in order to provide specific topical expertise. Some members of the editorial board handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and all advise on editorial policies/practices.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, while a conflict of interest policy is in the process of being developed. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* are published when they become apparent.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles vary in quality but are mostly interesting and relevant. The focus on gender issues in Africa in relation is very marked, and not justified by the editorial policy statement on the purpose of the journal. Some articles amount to sophisticated sermonising and hint of ideology makes itself felt in many articles, which are directed towards changes in social mores and practical policy. Amongst issues covered are faith responses to experience of AIDS, gender and poverty in Africa, and also in the US (in the case of African Americans).

Some of the articles are free-standing but one double issue was devoted to a set of invited essays forming part of a taught course at UKZN, while another was a guest-edited set of articles on a specific topic. Generally, the articles are competent but not highly original. One can learn much about the topics covered, from reading the articles or their abstracts, but there is much more to be covered in the field, and analogous fields mentioned in the editorial policy, that one would like to see rigorously explored, especially the interactions between the role of religion in gender and similar issues, and its relation to public policy.

There are about 15 articles per annum, published in two issues; the course-related issue contained ten essays. Considering the present narrow focus of the journal, the

small number of articles is perhaps understandable, but the scope should actually be much wider, and it also seems as though the numbers are inflated through the dedication of whole issues to special topics.

The present narrow focus of the journal on gender makes it likely that the published work represents much of what is being done in the country, but much that is important, and could be, is not covered. Widening this focus may elicit many more articles from active authors. Most of the articles have a clear focus on African/South African contents; while there is a particular emphasis on KwaZulu-Natal, scholars from other South African and international institutions are involved.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: There are no editorials (excepting as introductory material), few book reviews (one in three years), no correspondence or any other value-adding features – this is a pity. There are also no abstracts for articles, a serious failing; the use of a section called 'Introduction' in each article or essay, instead of an abstract, does not constitute acceptable practice. Some articles offer almost no discussion of the secondary literature concerned.

No *errata* were noted. The citation practice is good, consistent, complete and appropriate throughout. The layout is adequate to good.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: In some ways, the journal may well provide some good material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as exemplars and sources; widening the scope of articles will enhance this. Many articles draw attention and stimulate reflection on important aspects of African society. The journal should stimulate students in a range of disciplines.

Most scholarly journals in this field are probably much like this one, but are simply much more substantial in the volume and range of their papers. Few mainstream journals would have so many of their editors based at one institution. At present, the journal is far away from being a leading international journal.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: The new title *Journal of Gender and Religion in Africa* may well be more appropriate than the original title.

This journal is edited and produced with care, and contains interesting and significant articles. It is very important, however, that (i) the spread of editorial board members be extended throughout the country; (ii) the focus of the journal be widened, preferably to include more analogous treatments of South or Southern African issues that could respond to constructive theology; (iii) every attempt is made to attract good free-standing articles from active scholars in South Africa, the region and internationally; and (iv) the editorial board functions more closely according to the ASSAf guidelines, specifically in respect of the periodic appointment of editors and members of the editorial board. The journal would gain greatly from presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), book reviews, correspondence and other features. The full addresses of all authors and the contact details of corresponding authors must be provided, plus the dates of submission and of acceptance.

Technical matters such as introducing proper abstracts are a high priority. Value-adding features should be expanded.

This journal needs to be accessible free online to all potential users, as its concerns and contributions are of wide interest.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 200 copies, and it is published by the Centre for Constructive Theology. Both the journal's production and distribution are handled in-house. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising; however, it receives some kind of, as yet unquantified, financial sponsorship.

The journal has only 59 paying subscribers; 43 are organisations as opposed to individuals. The journal does not appear online. Its annual total income is about R21 000, while expenditure is about R27 000. The editor has in the past received offers to purchase from multinational publishers, but details remain confidential at this stage.

Copyright rests with the journal. Front details like titles, authors, addresses, and English abstracts are not included in the articles. The editor would be interested in having the journal considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access journal platform.

Panel's Consensus View:

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should only be invited to join the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform, after attention has been given to the recommendations listed above, and most or all of the suggested improvements affected.

4.5.4 **MISSIONALIA: JOURNAL OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN MISSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Focus and Scope: *Missionalia* is the journal of the Southern African Missiological Society (SAMS). It also contains abstracts from a wide range of missiological journals.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: From the one hard copy available to the reviewers (Volume 35(3), 2007), it was learnt that the editor is joined on a three-person editorial committee by the general secretary and his deputy of the South African Missiological Society. (The international advisory board comprises fifteen scholars, most of professorial rank, based in seven European countries, three in the USA, one each in Japan and Argentina, and one from Africa (Rwanda). Concern can be felt about the small editorial committee and its ex officio nature and relation to SAMS. It is difficult to judge how much is contributed to the journal by the IAB.

Questionnaire: *Missionalia* is the only theological journal in Southern Africa that is dedicated to missiology as a scholarly discipline.

The journal has been published for 37 years without significant interruptions. The number of original articles published during the three-year period under review was 71 (out of 84 submissions) but there were 117 reviews (out of 117 submitted). Five manuscripts were rejected without peer review. About 40% of published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address.

On average three peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. Only 12 reviewers were used in one year, which is remarkably low for the 20-25 manuscripts handled, at three reviewers per paper, indicating the possibly undesirable multiple use of the same small number of reviewers. A third of the peer reviewers had non-South African addresses. All peer-review reports are accessibly retained in records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is 18 months.

The journal publishes three issues per annum. The journal issues are pre-scheduled to appear in April, August and November of each year; the journal has, however, fallen behind its schedule for the past few years. The new editor, who is a black woman and was appointed as from 2009, is busy wiping out the backlog.

The previous editor served for 17 years. While not appointed competitively, he was re-appointed for terms of three years at a time at business meetings of SAMS, which owns the journal.

Members of the editorial board are also not appointed competitively, and their appointment period is not specified. They are appointed from inside and outside the country, in order to provide specific topical expertise. Editorial board members handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts and they are asked to assess the quality of one issue per year.

Editorial policy guidelines are published in each issue. The inside cover contains the following information: "*Missionalia* is the journal of the Southern African Missiological Society (SAMS). It is published three times a year (April, August and November). Articles published or abstracted in *Missionalia* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial committee or of SAMS. Manuscripts submitted for publication are assessed by the panel of referees and the decision to publish is dependent on those referees' reports. On the basis of this, the editor tables a report on the journal to the annual congress of SAMS, to whom the editorial committee is accountable".

The sub-title of the journal reveals its purpose as the *Southern African Journal of Missiology*. It is a research journal and therefore publishes only articles that contribute new knowledge to the field; as a Southern African journal, it gives preference to contributions by Southern African scholars, and young African scholars are especially encouraged to submit articles. The journal has a conflict of interest policy for the use of the editorial committee.

All articles are refereed 'blind', i.e. all references to the author(s) are removed when the manuscript is sent to referees. Contributions submitted by editorial committee members are refereed by an outside panel of reviewers. No contributor, whether on the editorial board or not, will have more than one of his/her articles published in a particular year/volume.

The journal has followed most of the ASSAf *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review Principles And Practice* for some time. There are, however, a few aspects in which the journal still needs alignment of its practice, such as publishing a list of referees annually, and publishing the dates of receipt and acceptance of each article in the journal.

The journal contains value-adding features such as editorials, book reviews, and news and views. The annual congress of SAMS, with its topics and speakers, is regularly announced in *Missionalia* as part of the front section. Topical reviews are occasionally published, for example on a series of publications from specific German publishers. Correspondence on published articles is not published; when someone feels challenged, stimulated or aggrieved by the contents of an article and communicates that to the editor, he or she is invited to submit an article in response to the previous one.

The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material in past three years is about 90%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The overall quality of the articles is reasonable, and many of them are written in a readable and contemporary style. There are many papers

that represent sound scholarly work but there are also many much weaker examples. The number of articles published is surprisingly high, suggesting weakness in the peer-review mechanism (See above comment on the paucity of reviewers used). The journal is important for local church history and for an understanding of the way in which different varieties of religious experience are currently passed on to, and enjoyed by, vast numbers of people worldwide.

The focus of many articles is on issues relevant for Africa, and some specifically South African, contexts. More than 50% of the authors are South Africans, with the others mainly from other African countries.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The journal publishes regular editorials, many book reviews, information about congresses, and sometimes collections of essays on a special topic. All articles are accompanied by an English abstract plus index words. No *errata* have been published. The citation practice is good.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: In general, the journal is suitable as a lively and engaging ongoing stimulus for local graduates and young staff, not only in the disciplines of missiology and local church history, but also many social science disciplines. The focus is not limited to mission practices among Christians.

It is a good and enterprising journal for the South African context, but nowhere near an international level.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: The peer-review process needs to be overhauled to include a much greater variety and range of reviewers; in addition, the editorial committee should be enlarged and diversified, and become much more rigorous in accepting or rejecting articles. The IAB should be brought into a more active role in developing the journal internationally, and there should be more international peer reviewers, editors and contributors.

Publications of issues should be more regular and on time.

Business Aspects

The regular print run of the journal is 600 copies; it is published by the Southern African Missiological Society. Both printing and distribution are handled in-house. The journal does not carry paid advertising; occasionally it advertises new publication by Southern African colleagues on a complimentary basis. It does not receive financial sponsorship.

The number of paying subscribers is 423, of whom 124 are individuals and the others institutions or organisations. The journal does not appear online. Its total income per annum is R86 000, while the total expenditure is R83 000.

The journal has been approached by multinational publishers with offers to purchase, but the editor and publisher were not interested. Authors retain copyright. All published articles are in English. English abstracts of each article are published. The journal has never been independently peer-reviewed before. The editor would in principle be interested in the journal being considered for inclusion in ASSAF's SciELO-South Africa platform as a free online, open access journal.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.

- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to join the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform, but this should depend on whether improvements in quality assurance, mainly based on more effective peer review and more rigorous editorial discretion by a larger editorial committee, have been implemented.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the recommendations concerning internationalisation of the journal.

4.5.5 *STUDIA HISTORIAE ECCLESIASTICAE*

Focus and Scope: *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae (SHE)* publishes articles in the discipline of church history/history of Christianity, preferably with an African, and specifically, a South African, perspective. The focus is on articles that present new research in the field of (South) African ecclesiastical history, or offer substantial re-interpretation of already published research, including articles with a specific focus on gender, class and power and their manifestations through the centuries.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The journal is published through UNISA by the Church History Society of Southern Africa (CHSSA). The editor and co-editor are from UP and UNISA, respectively, and the editorial associates are from South Africa (4), the USA (3), and from Nigeria, Malawi, the Netherlands and Scotland (1 each). Their institutional addresses and academic titles are not provided. It is thus not possible to assess their scholarly reputations or standing, but the opinion has been expressed that they enjoy good national reputations, some perhaps also beyond the country's borders.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 35 years without significant interruptions in publication. The number of published original articles during the three-year period under review was 125 articles and (remarkably) 185 reviews. In the same period, 407 manuscripts were received, presumably of both articles and reviews, giving an acceptance rate of around 80%. Approximately 25% of the manuscripts were rejected without peer review. About 10% of the published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address.

Usually the editor approaches four peer reviewers per submitted manuscript, of whom two or three usually agree; 64 peer reviewers were used in total, in the three-year period. About 10% of these peer reviewers had non-South African addresses. Peer-review reports are accessibly retained in records. The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is three to six months. The journal is not available on the web.

The journal is published in two issues plus a supplement, annually; these are pre-scheduled to appear in February, June, and October. The issues appear regularly on the scheduled dates.

The present editor, who has been running the journal for four years, was appointed competitively for a five-year period after nomination and election at the AGM of the Church History Society of Southern Africa.

In principle, members of the editorial board handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts, and advise on editorial policies/practices. The membership of the editorial board, as well as policies related to the journal, are currently under review; the aim is that the new members will also act as an advisory board that evaluates issues of *SHE* after they have been published. The members are appointed competitively for five years, after members of the CHSSA have been invited to present names that are put through a selection process via the AGM. Members are appointed mainly from inside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

Editorial policy guidelines are published in each issue. The journal has no written conflict of interest policy, but reviewers of articles are never chosen from the same institution as the author of a manuscript. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* would be published where the need arises.

The journal contains value-adding features such as editorials (See for instance the editorial on female genital manipulation in the first issue of 2009). While news and views only appear on the website, topical reviews are published in print. Book reviews are also published in print (the journal has contacts with the main publishing houses of the world to send in books for review). Correspondence on published articles is encouraged. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 90%.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: Until five years ago, *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* published mainly articles by a small group of academics within the sphere of Reformed Church history. Since then, its authorship and subject matter have been broadened to include both male and female academics from all races, belonging to a wide variety of denominations and religions. During 2008, for instance, 48 articles were published of which 27 were by black scholars and 19 by women scholars (of whom 11 were black). The journal also engages in capacity building with developing scholars; for example, the review process allows for guidance to young researchers who are at the beginning of their academic careers.

The tone of the journal is refreshingly contemporary and intellectually lively. Articles tend to be arranged and grouped in thematic sections in each issue, and in one issue, one theme only. They are mostly engaged and yet scholarly/empirical in approach and format. They include specific histories and biographies. The book reviews are astonishingly (for a South African journal) numerous and diverse, and mostly written by local authors; they take up nearly half the printed pages. A welcome and logical degree of multi-disciplinarity is evident.

There have been between 30-40 articles per annum, published in two-three issues. This relatively large number of articles is impressive, and reflects good support by a particular scholarly community (But see below).

The focus of the journal and the appreciably large scholarly community of local authors (and presumably readers) makes it likely that the published work represents a significant part of what could be produced in the country.

Many articles display a local and contemporary focus. The authors are drawn from a defined subset of South African institutions, however, with 8-14 authors in one issue (Volume 34 (2)) from either UNISA or UP. US, NWU and UKZN make up most of the rest, with a fair smattering of regional contributions, especially from Botswana. Very few authors come from departments not located in theology/religious studies, history, etc. and none from conventional history departments. Church history has evidently not become part of integrated history, yet it needs to be. Social anthropology, political science, and organisational psychology are all areas with a strong interest in church history; they are not (yet) participating in the life of this journal (except in some of the many book reviews).

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, *Errata*, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The book reviews are plentiful and highly readable, but there are no opinion' editorials, no correspondence or any other value-adding features.

This is a pity. All articles have English abstracts. No publication of *errata* was noted. There is consistent, complete and appropriate citation practice throughout. The layout is excellent.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The journal provides some good exciting and relevant material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as exemplars and sources (and stimulus for reading new books!).

We suspect that many scholarly journals in this field are much less lively and engaged than this one. The African focus is also valuable.

The journal is generally comparable in quality with the *Journal of Ecclesiastical Studies*, the *Journal of Theological Studies*, and *Church History*, all of which however, are more traditional.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: This journal is edited and produced with care and evident enthusiasm, and contains interesting and significant articles, with a real feeling of engagement and modernity. The scope given to articles by non-white, non-male authors and young authors is commendable and should be encouraged. This is presumably a function of the use of double-blind reviewing processes, which makes for a strong journal and 'voice'. The failure to connect with scholars working in related mainstream disciplines is to be deplored, however. It is very important that articles are solicited from universities and departments which despite having good scholars in the field have not yet contributed to the journal. The editorial board should function more closely in accordance with the ASSAf guidelines, specifically in respect of the periodic appointment of editors and members of the editorial board. The journal would gain greatly from presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), correspondence and other features. The dates of submission and of acceptance of individual articles should also be provided.

This journal needs to be accessible free online to all potential users, as its concerns and contributions are of wide interest in the nation and beyond.

Business Aspects

The regular print run of the journal is just over 100, published by the Church History Society of Southern Africa. Printing is outsourced to the Pretoria Duplicating Company, while layout and distribution are handled by the secretary of the editor. The journal carries neither paid nor unpaid advertising. It also does not receive any financial sponsorship.

The number of paying subscribers is 110, of which number 37 are organisations as opposed to individuals. The abstracts and book reviews appear free online on the website www.unisa.ac.za/she. The journal's total income per annum is R126 000, while the total expenditure is R110 000.

The journal has had offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Copyright remains with CHSSA. The journal is indexed in ATLA Religion Database, published by the American Theology Library Association, Chicago.

English abstracts and front details are published. The journal has never been independently peer-reviewed before. The editor would in principle be interested in the journal being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa platform as a free online, open access journal.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the findings and recommendations brought forward in this consensus review.

4.6 Specific Religious Traditions

4.6.1 JOURNAL FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

Focus and Scope: The *Journal for Islamic Studies (JIS)* is committed to the publication of original research on Islam as a world culture and civilisation, stimulating research that relates to religion, theology and law. It also seeks to cover the disciplines of history, culture, art, ethics, politics, international relations, philosophy, history of religions, anthropology and sociology in the variety of ways in which these relate to the world of Islam in its broadest sense. This extends to comparative studies of societies, as well as research with an interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary focus.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The editor and two other executive editors are all from UCT, while the advisory editorial board (AEB) comprises individual academics from UJ and the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa, one from the University of Botswana, six from the USA and one from Malaysia. They are all scholars of some distinction, as far as can be determined. The role of the AEB members in running the journal is not explained. It is a problem that all of the executive editors of a South African journal are drawn from one institution.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for 29 years without significant interruptions, but has some 'catch up' issues to address. The number of original peer-reviewed papers published during the period under review was 19 articles and two reviews; about 27 manuscripts were received in the same period, of which 11 were rejected without peer review. This suggests that virtually all papers actually subjected to peer review were accepted, not a good sign of rigour. Out of 17 published papers, 14 had at least one author with a non-South African address.

Usually, two peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. Approximately ten peer reviewers were used in one year, of whom eight had non-South African addresses. Peer-review reports are accessibly retained in the records. The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is one year, and it is sent to AJOL as soon as it has been published. The publication frequency of the journal is one issue per year, not pre-scheduled to appear on a given date (the last two issues appeared in July in the respective years).

The immediate past editor, who has been running the journal since 2006, was not appointed competitively but was asked to serve for three years by colleagues. Editorial board members are invited (not specified by whom, presumably by the editor) as specialists in the field to serve for five years. They are appointed from both inside and outside the country, in order to provide specific topical expertise. Editorial board members handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts. Some comment from time-to-time on editorial policies/practices.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, but there is no stipulated conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have not been aligned with ASSAF's *National Code of Best Practice in Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* are published when they become apparent.

The journal does publish value-adding features such as editorials, book reviews, and correspondence on published articles, but is not opposed in principle to publishing topical reviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 100%, excepting for book reviews.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles vary in quality, and some are perilously close to what one might call 'faith-bound' rather than scholarly in nature. Most of the articles are rightly Africa-focused. Some of the articles deal with various challenges to religious practice: concerning women, divorce, local history, youth, etc. In principle, the journal offers a stimulating choice of topics. Authors come from South Africa and from a variety of countries (Nigeria, Turkey, Canada, Holland, etc.).

Most articles are free-standing, but one issue (2008) was devoted to a set of articles on gender relations in Muslim Africa. There is much to be learnt from the topics covered, from reading the articles or their abstracts, but there is surely much more in the field that one would like to see rigorously explored, taking into account the importance of Islam in African countries and regions, and the many and deep issues raised by developments in an era characterised by globalisation and accelerating technological change. In fact, reading the papers gives one the impression that time is somehow assumed to stand still, or nearly so, in many contexts of society, political conflict, and insights into the human condition.

There are a half-dozen or less articles per annum, published in one issue. Considering the huge significance of Islam in the world at this time, the small number of articles is understandable only in terms of a small scholarly community, but this would reflect a narrowing of that community to its immediate practitioners, rather than to a broad community of scholars in different disciplines who should be encouraged to turn their gaze to Islamic matters. Such an editorial policy would enhance the impact and scope of this journal, and sharpen the arguments in its pages.

Widening the scholarly focus will elicit many more articles from active authors in many fields; as an example, the book review by a Muslim surgical researcher was refreshing to read.

The articles focus on local and regional kinds of materials. The small number of authors is drawn from several South African institutions, with a few from outside the country.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The book reviews are excellent and add much value to the journal's pages. There are, however, no editorials (excepting as introductory material for specially collected articles), no correspondence or any other value-adding features – this is a pity.

English abstracts for all articles are published. No publication of *errata* was noted. The citation practice is good, consistent, complete and appropriate throughout. The layout is adequate to good.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: In some ways, the journal may well provide some good material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as exemplars and sources. Widening the scope of articles in terms of authorship and scope will enhance this.

We suspect most regional scholarly journals in the field are much like this, but presumably they are much more substantial in Muslim-majority countries. The special interest of Africa in the context of Islam is not well illustrated by this journal, although it is a start.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: This journal is edited and produced with care, and contains interesting and significant articles. It is very important, however, that (i) the spread of executive editorial board members be extended throughout the country; (ii) the disciplinary focus of the journal be widened, preferably to include more papers from outside the immediate small community of Islamic scholars; (iii) all faith-based content is carefully analysed and excised or rejected; and (iv) the editorial board functions more closely according to the ASSAf guidelines, specifically in respect of the periodic appointment of editors and members of the editorial board. The journal would gain greatly from presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), correspondence and other features. The full addresses of all authors and the contact details of corresponding authors must be provided, plus the dates of submission and of acceptance.

This journal needs to be accessible free online to all potential users, as its concerns and contributions are of wide interest in the nation. Subject to improvements along the above lines, it should be in the newly established SciELO-South Africa collection, and accredited by the Department of Education in terms of its research outputs policy.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 250 copies, and it is published by the Centre for Contemporary Islam. Both the journal's production and distribution are handled in-house. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising, and appears to receive no financial sponsorship.

The journal has 47 paying subscribers; 20 of these are organisations as opposed to individuals. The journal appears online as part of AJOL's non-commercial e-publication mechanism. Its annual total income is R25 000, while expenditure is R30 000. The editor has in the past received offers to purchase from multinational publishers.

The journal uses AJOL, but copyright belongs to the journal. English abstracts for all articles are mandatory. The journal is indexed by SABINET; American Theological Library Association (ATLA); and an application is pending for inclusion in Thomson Reuters-ISI. The editor is not interested in being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access journal platform because the journal depends on subscriptions for income.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.
- II. The publisher/editor should be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the recommendations listed above.
- IV. In particular, the Panel believes that the journal needs to broaden its appeal to non-Islamic scholars interested and working in this and related fields.

4.6.2 *NIDAN: INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR THE STUDY OF HINDUISM*

Focus and Scope: *Nidan* is a journal for the study of Hinduism, edited by Prof P Kumar (University of Kwa-Zulu Natal). Articles published in *Nidan* relate to any aspect of Hinduism, broadly conceived to include, not merely, the traditionally recognised

areas within the discipline, but also contributions from scholars in other fields who seek to bring their particular worldviews and theories into dialogue with Hindu studies. *Nidan* serves not only the academic community, but is also a useful reader for the community on various themes and topics on Hinduism, and as such, assisting in educating the community in its own traditions, practices and philosophies.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: In 2010, only five persons are listed as local editors, comprising two joint editors (apparently from UKZN), a senior editor from UKZN, and two members of the local editorial board (from UNISA and UCT). There are ten members of an international editorial board (IAB), drawn from major universities in a variety of countries, Japan, Hawaii, USA, Australia, etc. No information on the research standing of the local scholars specifically in Hinduism studies is provided, but the field is small in this country and they are presumed to be amongst the few scholars who are active in it. The members of the editorial board are seemingly not very much involved in the peer-review processes, as only four peer reviewers, all of them South African, were working in the whole period (See below).

Questionnaire: The journal has been published without significant interruptions for 22 years. The number of published original articles was 11 in 2008, seven in 2009, and seven in 2010, thus 25 in total for the three years. In the same respective years, 13 (2008), ten (2009), and nine (2010) manuscripts were received, a total of 32 papers. The acceptance rate was thus disturbingly just under 80%; since seven manuscripts were rejected without peer review, it seems that all the papers that were peer-reviewed were accepted, again surprisingly.

About 80% of the published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Usually, two peer reviewers are approached per submitted manuscript, but only four reviewers were used in one year (for 7-11 papers). None of the peer reviewers had non-South African addresses. Peer-review reports are accessibly retained in the records. The average interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is three months. The journal is published once per year. The journal issues appear regularly on prescheduled dates.

The present editor, who has been in charge of the journal since 1998, was appointed (not known by whom), after nomination, for an indefinite period. Members of the editorial board are also appointed following peer recommendation and nomination, usually for three to five years. They handle peer reviews of individual manuscripts (But see comments above), and give advice on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists only of South Africans; all members of the board and the IAB are selected for their expertise in South Asian studies.

Editorial policy guidelines are published. The editorial board usually makes the editor aware of its conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAf's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. The journal also follows the generally accepted European guidelines. *Errata* are not published. The journal publishes editorials, but not regularly. All pages of the journal in each issue represent peer-reviewed original material.

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles vary considerably in quality, several are faith-bound and not scholarly in nature, and some are downright poor, including contributions that are by non-scholars. Impressions, drawn from the small sample of articles in the three years reviewed, are that the handful of senior non-South African (international) authors are dogmatic, assertive and long-winded, while the foreign student

authors tend to be more original despite their less-established status. Local authors tend to examine sociological/anthropological aspects of Hinduism, or interpretations of the classical writings; overall, these are the papers that have the best quality. One learns much about Hindu affairs from reading the articles or their abstracts, but there is much more one would like to know and to see rigorously explored.

There are about six to ten articles per annum, published in a single issue. Considering the special place of the Hindus in contemporary South African society, punching well above their weight, so to speak, and the rise of predominantly Hindu India in the modern world, a journal that purports to be “an international journal for the study of Hinduism” should surely attract more and better articles in this field, both from within and from outside the country.

The same considerations as in the previous paragraph apply; there should be many more articles from active authors.

Despite this being an ‘international’ journal, the more difficult and challenging questions in the field are not being addressed.

Authors are mainly drawn from UKZN, with a few from other South African universities or regional institutions, such as the University of Botswana.

The focus in some articles is on South Africa, while others focus on Hindu teaching. Over the last three years 13 contributions out of 24 were by authors from outside South Africa.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: The only additional scholarly features are introductory editorials describing the articles to follow in an issue; there are no book reviews, correspondence or other features. English abstracts were missing from some articles in earlier volumes. No publication of *errata* was noted. The citation practice is reasonably consistent, but many outdated references are used by authors, while the layout is adequate. Copy-editing is poor and leaves many errors in the text, both with respect to words and format.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: In some limited ways, the journal may well provide some material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as exemplars and sources, but the journal fails to ignite interest as a significant contributor to thinking and review of its field.

One suspects most scholarly journals in this field are similar to this journal, just much more substantial and well edited; one certainly doubts that scholars in India would take this journal very seriously.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: This journal is edited, but not produced with care, and it is very important that (i) the copy-editing is improved; (ii) articles that are faith-bound and not empirical are rejected or severely edited; and (iii) every attempt is made to attract good articles that more fully document the contemporary situation of Hinduism and Hindus in South Africa and the region. In fact, there seems to be no real purpose in calling the journal “international” when it could become more focused, effective and internationally relevant if it restricted itself to fully covering its important field in Southern Africa. Rigorous peer review by a much larger variety of experts is needed to ensure quality, and to escape from what may seem to be a small, possibly in-bred group of authors submitting manuscripts. The journal would gain

greatly from being enlarged to twice (or three times) its size in number of better-quality articles, appearing twice or three times a year, and presenting opinion-type editorials (some invited), book reviews, correspondence and other features. The full addresses of all authors should be provided and contact details of corresponding authors also, plus dates of submission and of acceptance.

This journal needs to be accessible free online to all potential users, as its concerns and contributions are of wide interest in the nation.

Business Aspects

The regular print run of the journal is 100 copies; it is published by the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Both production and distribution are handled in-house. The journal does not carry either paid or unpaid advertising. The journal does not receive any financial sponsorship.

All university libraries in South Africa subscribe to the journal, which appears online on SABINET's commercial e-publication service (pay-to-view or subscribe). The journal's total income per annum is R12 000-R15 000, while the total expenditure is about R10 000.

The journal has not yet received offers to purchase from multinational publishers. The journal holds copyright to articles published in it. Publication is only in English; abstracts and front details are published for all articles. The journal was previously independently peer-reviewed. The editor would be interested in an invitation for the journal to join the ASSAf SciELO-South Africa open access platform.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. **The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals.**
- II. **The publisher/editor also should not be invited to join the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.**
- III. **The editor should seriously consider the findings and recommendations made in this review, in order to strengthen its contribution to scholarship in an important niche.**

4.6.3 INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Focus and scope: The *International Journal for Religious Freedom (IJRF)* is the journal of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF). It aims to provide a platform for scholarly discourse on the issue of religious freedom in general and the persecution of Christians in particular.

Editing Functions: Standing, Local Institutional Spread, International Participation, Peer Review, etc.

Consensus Review: The journal's address is given as Cape Town, but it appears to function as an international periodical, published on behalf of the IIRF of the World Evangelical Alliance, an organisation with offices in Germany, South Africa and Sri Lanka. It publishes articles and other kinds of items on a biannual basis. The editors are respectively director and co-director of the IIRF, and the honorary editor is also closely associated with it. The international advisory board comprises about 16 people drawn from institutions all over the world; about half of them have professorial titles and they mostly appear to be people of a very clear evangelical background.

It is a problem for a journal to have two editors directly associated with the publishing organisation, without any indication as to possible (competitive) turnover of both editors and members of the board. There is a real risk of the journal being (or becoming ever more) agenda-driven.

Questionnaire: The journal has been published for five years. There have been no significant interruptions in publication. There have been 38 research articles of which ten are in the latest issue, 14 letter-type articles, and two reviews; 75 manuscripts were received in the period, providing an approximate rejection rate of 33%, although the editor states that about ten manuscripts were rejected. Approximately 90% of published papers had at least one author with a non-South African address. Two to four peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript, 45 reviewers were used in all. About 80% of reviewers had a non-South African address. Peer-review reports are retained in records.

The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication is about four months, and for publication on the web, about six months. The publication frequency is two issues per year. The issues are roughly pre-scheduled to appear on a given date within a margin of four to six weeks.

The editor has been in this position since 2008 when the journal was founded, and was appointed as founding editor for an indefinite period. Members of the editorial board handle the peer review of individual manuscripts, but not exclusively, and they advise on editorial policies/practices. They are appointed competitively via advertisement, and a two-year period is given for their appointment. They are appointed from inside and outside the country, in order to provide specific topical expertise.

Editorial policy guidelines are published, in so far as the 'Notes for Contributors' are concerned, and there is a conflict of interest policy. The editorial policy guidelines have been aligned with ASSAF's *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*. *Errata* are published, but are rare. The journal contains value-adding features and a 'Newsworthy' section, and there is occasionally some correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material, accompanied by an editorial, has been 70% in the last year (latest two issues).

Content: Quality, Focus, Spread within Domain, Sample of Best Work in SA, Enrichment Features, etc.

Consensus Review: The articles vary greatly in both in nature and quality; some, but only some, are undoubtedly interesting and relevant scholarly analyses of problems in the chosen field of focus. That focus is on religious freedom generally, but particularly on persecution of Christians; one may want to think a little about the suitability of such a special pre-occupation for a scholarly journal purporting to use only empirical approaches to its topics. A number of articles and features regrettably bear the hallmarks of faith-based advocacy, with a 'preachy' quality, while some features, announcements and pronouncements are not suitable for an academic journal. Most of the academic articles are in an appropriate format, and do appear to examine issues that are significant in an objective manner.

One might prefer to see the important topic of religious freedom explored, in a multi-disciplinary manner, in journals that have not quite so clearly nailed their colours to the mast, as it were. One can indeed be distinctly uncomfortable with the context and approach of the *JIRF*.

There are only about six to eight academic articles per annum, published in two issues. Considering the present narrow focus and agenda of the journal, the small number of articles is perhaps understandable, but the scope should actually be much wider to include all aspects of religious freedom without the qualification of a focus on persecution of Christians.

The journal does not really have a focus on South/Southern Africa, and few/none of the articles have been written by authors associated with South African institutions.

The Cape Town office of the IRF is simply the base of a journal with a full (international) focus on countries where religious freedom is endangered.

No authors are drawn from South African institutions, and no local connections seem to have been made.

Essential Technical Features: English Abstracts, Errata, Citation Practice, Presentation

Consensus Review: There are introductory editorials and book reviews, but no academic correspondence. Most of the value-adding features are simply advocacy for the IRF and its mission. There is a section on recent developments and documentation interviews.

The articles have both editorial comment and an abstract. No publication of *errata* was noted. The citation practice is sound, with consistent and appropriate practice throughout. The layout is adequate to good.

Usefulness in Capacity Development and International Comparability

Consensus Review: The journal may well provide some material for both undergraduate and postgraduate use, as exemplars and sources, but the clear advocacy of the IRF, and the dominance of its directors in authoring articles, lessens its potential value and impact, as does the particular emphasis on Christian suffering.

The journal is too obviously associated with a clearly defined mission and agenda, and is impaired in its scholarly usefulness by the lack of independence and the inclusion of a particular sectarian emphasis in the field of focus.

Suggested Improvements

Consensus Review: This journal is edited and produced with care, and contains some interesting and significant articles. No data have been provided on manuscript acceptance rates and the basis for editorial decisions. It is very important for the demonstration of genuine scholarliness on the part of this potentially important journal that (i) editorship be extended beyond officials of the publishing organisation; (ii) the spread of editorial board members be extended to this country; (iii) the focus of the journal be widened to remove its special emphasis on the persecution of Christians and; (iv) every attempt is made to attract good free-standing articles from recognised scholars in South Africa and the neighbouring region; and (v) the editorial board functions more closely according to the ASSAf guidelines, specifically in respect of the periodic new appointment of editors and members of the editorial board. The full addresses of all authors and the contact details of corresponding authors must be provided, plus the dates of submission and of acceptance. The layout and typography of the journal could be improved.

Business Aspects

The journal's regular print run is 1 000 copies per issue, and it is published by AcadSA Publishing. Production is outsourced; distribution is done by the *International Journal of Religious Freedom*. The journal carries both paid and unpaid advertising. The journal received financial support for the previous issues but with the last issue it was self-supporting. The journal has about 60 paying subscribers; over 50 of these are organisations as opposed to individuals.

The journal appears online on the journal website and articles are in PDF. It is also part of a commercial (pay-to-view) through SABINET. The journal's per annum total income is R60 000 and total expenditure is R60 000. The journal has never received

offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Authors keep copyright of their articles.

The journal is not indexed in Thomson Reuters-ISI and Scopus, and no ISI-type impact factors have ever been determined for the journal. Articles are only in English. The journal has been reviewed before by ASSAf.

The editor would in principle be interested in being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's SciELO-South Africa open access journal platform. (See the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the *International Journal for Religious Freedom*.) English abstracts are published if articles are not in English.

Panel's Consensus View

- I. The journal should not be listed on the DHET list of accredited journals because of the limitation placed on its title-indicated scope by the focus on a particular faith, in a world where religious freedom has a much broader **significance**.
- II. The publisher/editor should not be invited to consider joining the evolving SciELO-South Africa platform.
- III. The editor should seriously consider the strong recommendations made above concerning the focus of the journal, with consequential implications for editing, peer review, spread of authorship, etc., plus a greater **connection with South African scholarship in this field**.



Appendix A: Questionnaire sent to Each Editor of Journals being Peer Reviewed

Please type in a short answer, just after each question, and send us your consolidated response as an MSWord document.

1. Editorial Process-related Criteria (generally based on the *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review* developed by ASSAf)

- For how many years has your journal been published?
- Have there been significant interruptions in publication?
- How many peer-reviewed original papers have you published during the last three years:
Articles?
Letter-type articles?
Reviews?
- How many manuscripts (of all three types) were received in the same period?
- Approximately how many manuscripts of all three types were rejected without peer review?
- What proportion of papers of all three types that you published had at least one author with a non-South African address?
- How many peer reviewers are usually approached for EACH submitted manuscript?
- How many peer reviewers were used in total, in any ONE of the last three years?
- What proportion of these had non-South African addresses?
- Are peer-review reports accessibly retained in your records?
- What is the average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication.
In print?
On the web?
- What is the publication frequency of your journal, per year?
- Are issues of your journals pre-scheduled to appear on given dates?
- If scheduled, do the issues in fact appear regularly on the scheduled dates?
- How long have you been editor/chief editor of this journal?
- Were you appointed competitively (i.e. following advertisement and a selection process)?
For what period?
- Do members of your editorial board
Handle peer review of individual manuscripts?
Advise on editorial policies/practices?
- Are they appointed competitively (i.e. following advertisement and a selection process)?
For a given period?
From inside and outside the country?
To provide specific topical expertise?
- Do you have published editorial/policy guidelines?
- Is there a conflict of interest policy?

- Have your editorial/policy guidelines been aligned with the ASSAf *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*?
- Do you publish *errata* in all cases where these have become apparent?
- Does your journal contain value-adding features such as
 - Editorials?
 - News and views?
 - Topical reviews?
 - Book reviews?
 - Correspondence on published articles?
- What is the percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material?

2. Business-related Criteria

- What is the regular print run of your journal?
- Who is the publisher?
- Is production and distribution outsourced?
- Do you carry advertising which is
 - Paid?
 - Unpaid?
- Do you receive financial sponsorship(s)?
- What is the number of paying subscribers?
- How many of the subscribers are organisations as opposed to individuals?
- If your journal appears online,
 - Is it free online (open access)?
 - Is it part of a commercial (pay-to-view and/or pay-to-subscribe) e-publication service?
 - Is it part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism (e.g. Medline)?
- What is your journal's (average) total income per annum?
- What is your journal's total expenditure per annum?
- Have you had offers to purchase from multinational publishers?
- What are your copyright arrangements?

3. Bibliometric Assessments

- Is your journal indexed in Thomson Reuters-ISI and/or the IBSS?
- Have ISI-type impact factors (e.g. Google Scholar or Scopus) ever been determined for your journal?
- If articles are not in English, are front details like titles, authors, addresses and English abstracts mandatory?
- Has your journal ever been independently peer-reviewed before?

4. General

- Would you (and our publisher) in principle be interested in being considered for inclusion in ASSAf's proposed SciELO-South Africa as a free online, open access journal (project description recently circulated to all editors)?
- Have you any other information or comments that may be useful to the Panel?

Appendix B: Requests to Independent Peer Reviewers

1. Do the hard copies of the last two to three years of issues of the journal reflect:
 - 1.1 High national/international disciplinary reputations/standing of the editor-in-chief/associate editors/members of the editorial board?
 - 1.2 A high/good (general/average) quality of the articles accepted/published?
 - 1.3 A (contextually) adequate/good number of articles per annum?
 - 1.4 An (adequate/good) sample of the best work done in the country in the discipline/field?
 - 1.5 A focus on local/regional kinds of materials/problems?
 - 1.6 Publication of articles by authors from across the country, and internationally?
 - 1.7 Useful additional scholarly features like editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, scholarly correspondence, etc.?
 - 1.8 Proper (English-language) abstracts for all articles?
 - 1.9 Suitable publication of *errata*?
 - 1.10 Good citation practice?
 - 1.11 Good presentation, layout, style and copy-editing interventions?
 - 1.12 Suitability as a general on-going stimulus for local graduate students/young staff in the discipline concerned?
 - 1.13 Some kind of comparability with leading international journals in the field?
2. Please list your suggestions for an improvement programme for the journal?

Appendix C: Bibliometric Profile of South African Religious Study Journals

A statistical report by:

The Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology (CREST) Stellenbosch University



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19 April 2011

Table 1A: Summary of bibliometric indicators for SA Religious Study journals for the period 1990-2010

Journal	Years covered in SAK ¹	Number of papers	Number of different authors	Total number of authorships ²	Average number of different authors per paper	Average number of papers per year ³
Journal for Islamic Studies	2007-2009	19	17	21	0.89	6.33
Koers	2001-2009	234	195	316	0.83	26
Journal for the Study of Religion	1990-2009	208	150	219	0.72	10.4
Journal for Semitics	2004, 2007-2010	128	90	142	0.70	25.6
Acta Theologica	1990-2009	376	239	416	0.64	18.8
Missionalia	1990-2010	379	230	393	0.61	18.05
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	1999-2003, 2006-2007, 2009	145	84	176	0.58	18.13
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	1990-2009	450	254	478	0.56	22.5
Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika	1991-2009	373	209	432	0.56	19.63
Scriptura	1990-2009	634	336	665	0.53	31.7
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)	1990-2010	666	337	703	0.51	31.71

¹ SAK = SA Knowledgebase. SAK is a database developed by CREST of public science in South Africa. Bibliographic information, such as the article title, authorship, journal, publishing detail and keywords (excluding citations), are captured on articles with South African author addresses, which appeared in journals accredited by the Department of Education.

² 'Authorships' refer to 'article x author' combinations. In other words, if an article (Art1) has two authors (PX and PY), the article will generate two authorships (Art1 – PX and Art1 – PY).

³ The calculation of the 'Average number of papers per year' did not necessarily take the total period of 1990-2010 into account, since the results were calculated by dividing the total number of journal papers by the years covered in SAK.

Journal	Years covered in SAK ¹	Number of papers	Number of different authors	Total number of authorships ²	Average number of different authors per paper	Average number of papers per year ³
Neotestamentica	1990-2000, 2002-2010	379	191	391	0.5	18.95
Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae	1990-2010	409	204	443	0.5	19.48
Acta Patristica et Byzantina (New Title: Journal of Early Christian History (JESH))	2002-2009	140	67	157	0.48	17.5
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	1990-2010	1040	461	1161	0.44	49.52
In die Skriflig (New Title: Journal of Early Christian History (JESH))	1990-2009	561	240	640	0.43	28.05
Hervormde Teologiese Studies	1990-2010	1245	476	1358	0.38	59.29
Old Testament Essays	1990-2010	693	242	703	0.35	33
Total		8245	1253	8982		

- Results for the field, 'Average number of authors per paper', were calculated by dividing the total number of journal authors by the total number of journal papers. A small number in this field implies that most of the papers that are produced, are in fact produced by a small and select group of authors, who dominate publication in that particular journal. A journal with a relatively large number in the field implies that a considerable number of authors contributed to the papers published in that specific journal.
- In Table 1A, the journals have been presented in descending order by the average number of authors per paper for the period 1990-2010. There is a substantial range in the average number of authors per paper. The journal in the top-ranking position for this field (Journal for Islamic Studies with 0.89 authors per paper) has just over 2.5 more authors per paper than the journal with the smallest number of authors per paper (Old Testament Essays with 0.35 authors).
- The cluster of journals with the smallest number of authors per paper (less than 0.5) include: Acta Patristica et Byzantina; Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif; In die Skriflig; Hervormde Teologiese Studies and Old Testament Essays.
- The cluster of journals with the largest number of authors per paper (0.7 or more) include: Journal for Islamic Studies; Koers; Journal for the Study of Religion and Journal for Semitics.

Table 1B: Summary of bibliometric indicators for South African Religious Study journals for the most recent period (2005-2009, 2007-2009 or 2006, 2007 and 2009)

Alphabetical list of journals	Statistics for the most recent period							Average number of papers per year for the period 1990-2010
	Years covered in SAK	Number of papers	Number of authors	Number of authorships	Average number of authors per paper	Average number of papers per year		
Most recent period: 2005-2009								
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	2005-2009	94	54	106	0.57	18.8	17.5	
Acta Theologica	2005-2009	135	108	158	0.8	27	18.8	
Hervormde Teologiese Studies	2005-2009	377	233	446	0.62	75.4	59.29	
<i>In die Skriflig</i>	2005-2009	161	106	197	0.66	32.2	28.05	
Journal for the Study of Religion	2005-2009	54	50	59	0.93	10.8	10.4	
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	2005-2009	102	90	110	0.88	20.4	22.5	
Koers	2005-2009	143	135	192	0.94	28.6	26	
Missionalia	2005-2009	106	92	113	0.87	21.2	18.05	
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	2005-2009	285	180	335	0.63	57	49.52	
Neotestamentica	2005-2009	83	66	85	0.8	16.6	18.95	
Old Testament Essays	2005-2009	234	115	242	0.49	46.8	33	
Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika	2005-2009	132	105	173	0.8	26.4	19.63	
Scriptura	2005-2009	202	154	215	0.76	40.4	31.7	
Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae	2005-2009	187	99	208	0.53	37.4	19.48	
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)	2005-2009	224	169	247	0.75	44.8	31.71	
Most recent period: 2007-2009								
Journal for Islamic Studies	2007-2009	19	17	21	0.89	6.3	6.33	
Journal for Semitics	2007-2009	96	72	106	0.75	32	25.6	
Most recent period: 2006, 2007 and 2009								

Ekklesiastikos Pharos	2006-2007, 2009	52	40	67	0.77	17.3	18.12
Total		2686	2517	3080			

- Table 1B presents the same data as Table 1A, but for the most recent years. Journals are listed alphabetically.
- The final column 'Average number of papers per year for the period 1990-2010' is added for comparative purposes. Journals with a marked growth in the average number of papers per year for the most recent period (2005-2009) are marked in green. They are: *Hervormde Teologiese Studies*, *Old Testament Essays*, *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* and *Verbum et Ecclesia*. The only two journals that have a lower average number of papers per year for the period 2005-2009 than for the period 1990-2010 are (marked in blue): *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* and *Neotestamentica*.

Table 2: Number of papers per year (for the period 2005-2009) by South African Religious Study journals

Journal	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average number of papers per year ⁵
<i>Hervormde Teologiese Studies</i>	70	68	75	88	76	75.4
<i>Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif</i>	51	57	67	54	56	57
<i>Old Testament Essays</i>	39	70	48	39	38	46.8
<i>Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)</i>	46	58	36	42	42	44.8
<i>Scriptura</i>	63	32	43	32	32	40.4
<i>Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae</i>	34	45	32	32	44	37.4
<i>In die Skriflig</i>	34	34	28	30	35	32.2
<i>Journal for Semitics</i>	NA	NA	40	30	26	32
<i>Koers</i>	31	25	27	30	30	28.6
<i>Acta Theologica</i>	19	36	27	21	32	27
<i>Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika</i>	17	31	21	40	23	26.4
<i>Missionalia</i>	22	22	22	18	22	21.2
<i>Journal of Theology for Southern Africa</i>	22	21	21	20	18	20.4

⁵ The number of years used in the calculation, is dependent on the coverage by SAK. See Tables 1A and 1B.

Journal	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average number of papers per year ⁵
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	18	20	15	17	24	18.8
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	NA	18	16	NA	18	17.3
Neotestamentica	17	15	17	15	19	16.6
Journal for the Study of Religion	11	13	12	10	8	10.8
Journal for Islamic Studies	NA	NA	9	5	5	6.3

- In Table 2, all journals have been presented in descending order by the average number of papers per year for the period 2005 – 2009.
- The table reveals the substantial range in the average annual production for Religious Study journals. The journals which produce the least numbers of papers (around ten papers per year) have an annual output of less than one seventh of the top journal (Hervormde Teologiese Studies). These results therefore clearly show how diverse the Religious Study journals are in terms of the volume of issues and papers per year.
- This table shows the range of the top five journals to the bottom five. The cluster of journals with the most number of papers per year has on average more than 40 papers; whereas the cluster of journals with the smallest number of papers per year has 20 or less papers.

Table 3A: Analysis of authorship patterns of SA Religious Study journals for the period 1990-2010

Journal ranked in order of authorship share	Years covered in SAK	Number of papers	Total Number of authors	10% most productive authors produced... % of papers	20% most productive authors produced... % of papers	Half of papers produced by ... nr of authors
Hervormde Teologiese Studies	1990-2010	1245	476	49% (48 authors)	64% (95 authors)	50
<i>In die Skriflig</i>	1990-2009	561	240	48% (24 authors)	64% (48 authors)	27
Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika	1991-2009	373	209	47% (21 authors)	60% (42 authors)	25
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	1990-2010	1040	461	43% (46 authors)	59% (92 authors)	63

Journal ranked in order of authorship share	Years covered in SAK	Number of papers	Total Number of authors	10% most productive authors produced... % of papers	20% most productive authors produced... % of papers	Half of papers produced by ... nr of authors
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	1999-2003, 2006-2007, 2009	145	84	36% (8 authors)	57% (17 authors)	14
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)	1990-2010	666	337	41% (34 authors)	57% (67 authors)	50
Old Testament Essays	1990-2010	693	242	37% (24 authors)	56% (48 authors)	39
Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae	1990-2010	409	204	37% (20 authors)	56% (41 authors)	33
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	2002-2009	140	67	38% (7 authors)	55% (13 authors)	11
Koers	2001-2009	234	195	37% (20 authors)	52% (39 authors)	36
Missionalia	1990-2010	379	230	37% (23 authors)	52% (46 authors)	44
Scriptura	1990-2009	634	336	37% (34 authors)	52% (67 authors)	61
Neotestamentica	1990-2000, 2002-2010	379	191	36% (19 authors)	51% (38 authors)	36
Acta Theologica	1990-2009	376	239	35% (24 authors)	50% (48 authors)	48
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	1990-2009	450	254	35% (25 authors)	50% (51 authors)	51
Journal for the Study of Religion	1990-2009	208	150	30% (15 authors)	46% (30 authors)	39
Journal for Semitics	2004, 2007-2010	128	90	26% (9 authors)	40% (18 authors)	24

Journal ranked in order of authorship share	Years covered in SAK	Number of papers	Total Number of authors	10% most productive authors produced... % of papers	20% most productive authors produced... % of papers	Half of papers produced by ... nr of authors
Journal for Islamic Studies	2007-2009	19	17	24% (2 authors)	32% (3 authors)	7

Note: Journals are listed in descending order by the share of papers produced by the top 20% of authors

- Most Religious Study journals, when considering the entire publication period, are 'sustained' by a relatively small pool of contributing authors. In only four journals do the 20% most productive authors produce less than half the papers. These are also significantly the journals that have published relatively fewer papers during the period under review.
- In the journal *Hervormde Teologiese Studies* only 50 authors are responsible for authoring 622 (half of the total number of 1 245) papers.

Table 3B: Analysis of authorship patterns of SA Religious Study journals for the period 2005-2009

Journal	Years covered in SAK	Number of papers	Number of authors	10% most productive authors produced... % of papers	20% most productive authors produced... % of papers
<i>Hervormde Teologiese Studies</i>	377	233	40% (23 authors)	55% (47 authors)	38
<i>Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae</i>	187	99	32% (10 authors)	51% (20 authors)	19
<i>In die Skriflig</i>	161	106	33% (11 authors)	50% (21 authors)	21
<i>Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika</i>	132	105	33% (11 authors)	49% (21 authors)	22
<i>Acta Patristica et Byzantina</i>	94	54	29% (5 authors)	48% (11 authors)	12
<i>Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif</i>	285	180	32% (18 authors)	48% (36 authors)	38
<i>Koers</i>	143	135	33% (14 authors)	47% (27 authors)	32

Journal	Years covered in SAK	Number of papers	Number of authors	10% most productive authors produced... % of papers	20% most productive authors produced... % of papers
Acta Theologica	135	108	29% (11 authors)	46% (22 authors)	27
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	52	40	29% (4 authors)	45% (8 authors)	10
Scriptura	202	154	28% (15 authors)	44% (31 authors)	43
Old Testament Essays	234	115	28% (12 authors)	43% (23 authors)	29
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)	224	169	27% (17 authors)	43% (34 authors)	42
Neotestamentica	83	66	25% (7 authors)	39% (13 authors)	23
Journal for Semitics	96	72	23% (7 authors)	38% (14 authors)	21
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	102	90	21% (9 authors)	35% (18 authors)	33
Missionalia	106	92	23% (9 authors)	35% (18 authors)	34
Journal for Islamic Studies	19	17	24% (2 authors)	32% (3 authors)	7
Journal for the Study of Religion	54	50	20% (5 authors)	32% (10 authors)	20

Notes: (1) Journals are listed in descending order by the share of papers produced by the top 20% of authors.

Table 3B presents the same data as 3A, but focuses on the most recent five-year period. Again, it is clear that the pool of contributing authors varies hugely across journals. For the majority of the journals, less than 35 authors during this period produced more than half of all papers in the journal. The reason why this is important is that it may – in some cases – raise the question about the long-term sustainability of those journals which are dependent on very small numbers of active authors.

Table 4A: Analysis of institutional contributions to South African Religious Study journals for the period 1990-2010

Journal	Publishers	Nr of papers	Nr of SA authors	Method 1			Total article equivalents produced by SA authors	Method 2		
				Institutional breakdown (%) of SA authors				Institutional breakdown (%) of article equivalents by SA authors		
				Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3		Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	Department of Ancient Languages, University of Pretoria	140	64	UP (27%)	UNISA (20%)	NWU (19%)	136	UP (32%)	UNISA (21%)	UJ/UFS (15%)
Acta Theologica	University of the Free State (Publications Office)	376	189	UFS (43%)	SU (19%)	UP (14%)	322	UFS (50%)	SU (16%)	UP (12%)
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	Institute for Afro-Hellenic Studies (UJ)	145	76	UJ (54%)	UP (20%)	NWU/UNISA (9%)	133.5	UJ (64%)	UP (14%)	UNISA (7%)
Hervormde Teologiese Studies	Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk Afrika	1245	379	UP (57%)	UNISA (12%)	NWU (11%)	1034	UP (70%)	UNISA (11%)	NWU (5%)
<i>In die Skriflig</i>	Reformed Theological Society of South Africa Bureau for Scholarly Journals	561	187	NWU (52%)	SU/UP (12%)	UFS (10%)	498.67	NWU (72%)	UFS (8%)	SU (7%)
Journal for Islamic Studies	Centre for Contemporary Islam (UCT)	19	4	UCT (50%)	SU/UKZN (25%)		5	UCT/UKZN (40%)	SU (20%)	
Journal for Semitics	UNISA Press	128	77	UNISA (32%)	UFS (18%)	UP (16%)	113	UNISA (38%)	UFS (15%)	SU/UP (12%)
Journal for the Study of Religion	Penumala School of Religion & Theology	208	80	UCT (34%)	UKZN (31%)	UNISA (14%)	129.5	UCT (37%)	UKZN (31%)	UNISA (17%)

Journal	Publishers	Nr of papers	Method 1			Method 2				
			Nr of SA authors	Institutional breakdown (%) of SA authors			Total article equivalents produced by SA authors	Institutional breakdown (%) of article equivalents by SA authors		
				Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3		Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	JTSA School of Theology (UKZN)	450	167	UKZN (23%)	SU (17%)	UCT (16%)	339	UKZN (30%)	UCT (19%)	SU (12%)
Koers	Bureau for Scholarly Journals	234	185	NWU (51%)	UNISA (18%)	UFS (12%)	222.33	NWU (56%)	UFS (15%)	UNISA (13%)
Missionalia	UNISA Press	379	132	UNISA (41%)	SU (16%)	UKZN (14%)	247	UNISA (44%)	SU (15%)	UKZN (13%)
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	SABINET Online Ltd	1040	374	SU (46%)	UP (15%)	UFS (14%)	927.5	SU (47%)	UFS (16%)	UP (13%)
Neotestamentica	St Joseph's Theological Institute	379	118	UP (24%)	UNISA (21%)	SU (14%)	287.8	UNISA (26%)	UP (23%)	SU (12%)
Old Testament Essays	Department of Old and New Testament (SU)	693	182	SU (29%)	UP (22%)	UNISA (18%)	565	UNISA (28%)	UP (25%)	SU (21%)
Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika	Secretary: Dr LC Dressel	373	166	UP (23%)	UNISA (22%)	SU (17%)	327	UNISA (28%)	UP (27%)	SU (22%)
Scriptura	US Printing	634	242	SU (46%)	UNISA (14%)	UKZN (10%)	525	SU (48%)	UNISA (11%)	UWC (10%)
Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae	School of Ecclesiastical Sciences	409	148	UNISA (37%)	UP (15%)	NWU (11%)	328.5	UNISA (37%)	UP (12%)	UKZN (11%)

Journal	Publishers	Nr of papers	Method 1			Method 2				
			Nr of SA authors	Institutional breakdown (%) of SA authors			Total article equivalents produced by SA authors	Institutional breakdown (%) of article equivalents by SA authors		
				Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3		Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)	Reformed Church at the Faculty of Theology (UP)	666	276	UP (54%)	UNISA (14%)	SU (12%)	579.17	UP (64%)	UNISA (10%)	SU (8%)

Note: Foreign authors and authors of unknown affiliation are excluded.

How to read tables 4A & 4B

An article equivalent is a fractional count that expresses an author's relative contribution to an article. For instance, if three researchers co-authored an article and only one author has a South African affiliation, South Africa was awarded an article equivalent of 0.33. Where two of the three authors have a South African affiliation, South Africa received an article equivalent of 0.66. All South African equivalents, in turn, have been broken down by institution. In Table 4A, for example, it can be seen that Acta Patristica et Byzantina produced 140 papers over the period covered in SA Knowledgebase (See Table 1A for period covered). A total of 136 article equivalents (or article fractions) of the 140 papers were produced by South African authors. The University of Pretoria produced the largest share (32%) of the 136 equivalents. A total of 64 South African authors were responsible for producing the 136 article equivalents and 27% of the 64 authors were affiliated with the University of Pretoria.

The following five journals were dominated by a single institution (with at least fifty percent of SA authors from one university):

- Ekkelesiastikos Pharos (UJ: 54% of SA authors; 64% of SA equivalents)
- Hervormde Teologiese Studies (UP: 57% of SA authors; 70% of SA equivalents)
- *In die Skriflig* (NWU: 52% of SA authors; 72% of SA equivalents)
- Koers (NWU: 51% of SA authors; 56% of SA equivalents)
- Verbum et Ecclesia (UP: 54% of SA authors; 64% of SA equivalents)

Table 4B: Analysis of institutional contributions to South African Religious Study journals for the period 2005-2009

Journal	Publishers	Nr of papers	Nr of SA authors	Method 1			Total article equivalents produced by SA authors	Method 2		
				Institutional breakdown (%) of SA authors				Institutional breakdown (%) of article equivalents by SA authors		
				Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3		Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	Department of Ancient Languages, University of Pretoria	94	52	UP (29%)	UNISA (23%)	NWU (17%)	91.00	UP (30%)	UNISA (23%)	UFS (18%)
Acta Theologica	University of the Free State (Publications office)	135	102	UFS (56%)	NWU (14%)	UP (11%)	129.00	UFS (59%)	NWU (11%)	SU/UP (9%)
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	Institute for Afro-Hellenic Studies (UJ)	52	35	UJ (40%)	UP (29%)	UNISA/NWU (14%)	46.00	UJ (43%)	UP (26%)	NWU (15%)
Hervormde Teologiese Studies	Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk Afrika	377	222	UP (68%)	UNISA (11%)	NWU (9%)	365.50	UP (76%)	UNISA (9%)	NWU (6%)
In die Skriflig	Reformed Theological Society of South Africa Bureau for Scholarly Journals	161	101	NWU (62%)	UP/UFS (11%)	SU (5%)	154.50	NWU (71%)	UFS (12%)	UP (6%)
Journal for Islamic Studies	Centre for Contemporary Islam (UCT)	19	4	UCT (50%)	SU/UKZN (25%)		5.00	UCT/UKZN (40%)	SU (20%)	
Journal for Semitics	UNISA Press	96	59	UNISA (32%)	UP (19%)	SU/UFS (17%)	81.00	UNISA (32%)	SU/UP (16%)	UFS (14%)
Journal for the Study of Religion	Penumala School of Religion & Theology	54	31	UCT (45%)	UKZN (29%)	UNISA (13%)	33.00	UCT (42%)	UKZN (27%)	UNISA (18%)

Journal	Publishers	Nr of papers	Method 1				Method 2			
			Nr of SA authors	Institutional breakdown (%) of SA authors			Total article equivalents produced by SA authors	Institutional breakdown (%) of article equivalents by SA authors		
				Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3		Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	JTSA School of Theology (UKZN)	102	72	UKZN (39%)	SU (18%)	UNISA (10%)	85.00	UKZN (41%)	SU (16%)	UCT (11%)
Koers	Bureau for Scholarly Journals	143	127	NWU (51%)	UNISA (17%)	UFS (16%)	134.00	NWU (57%)	UFS (18%)	UNISA (12%)
Missionalia	UNISA Press	106	52	UNISA (52%)	UKZN (21%)	SU/UP (6%)	59.00	UNISA (48%)	UKZN (27%)	SU/UP (5%)
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	SABINET Online Ltd	285	177	SU (41%)	UP (18%)	UFS (17%)	280.50	SU (43%)	UFS (19%)	UP (14%)
Neotestamentica	St Joseph's Theological Institute	83	46	UP (43%)	UKZN (13%)	UNISA (11%)	61.00	UP (43%)	UKZN (15%)	SU (10%)
Old Testament Essays	Department of Old and New Testament (SU)	234	97	UP (26%)	UNISA (24%)	SU (19%)	206.00	UNISA (29%)	UP (28%)	SU (17%)
Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika	Secretary: Dr LC Dressel	132	101	UNISA (29%)	UP (17%)	UFS (14%)	128.50	UNISA (35%)	UP (16%)	SU/NWU (12%)
Scriptura	US Printing	202	117	SU (44%)	UNISA (19%)	UKZN (10%)	164.00	SU (48%)	UNISA (15%)	UWC (11%)
Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae	School of Ecclesiastical Sciences	187	81	UNISA (51%)	UKZN (11%)	NWU/UP (7%)	159.00	UNISA (46%)	UKZN (13%)	SU (9%)

Journal	Publishers	Nr of papers	Method 1			Method 2				
			Nr of SA authors	Institutional breakdown (%) of SA authors			Total article equivalents produced by SA authors	Institutional breakdown (%) of article equivalents by SA authors		
				Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3		Univ 1	Univ 2	Univ 3
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)	Reformed Church at the Faculty of Theology (UP)	224	146	UP (53%)	UNISA (16%)	NWU (12%)	195.17	UP (57%)	UNISA (14%)	SU (9%)

Note: Foreign authors and authors of unknown affiliation are excluded.

With the exception of *Ekklesiastikos Pharos*⁶ the above-mentioned journals continued to be dominated by the same institutions. In most cases this dominance has increased for the latest period:

- *Hervormde Teologiese Studies* (UP: from 57% up to 68% of SA authors; and from 70% to 76% of SA equivalents)
- *In die Skriflig* (NWU: from 52% to 62% of SA authors; and from 72% to 71% of SA equivalents)
- *Koers* (NWU: remains 51% of SA authors; and from 56% to 57% of SA equivalents)
- *Verbum et Ecclesia* (UP: from 54% to 53% of SA authors; and from 64% to 57% of SA equivalents)

Acta Theologica is the only additional journal that has over 50% of publications dominated by a single institution for this period (UFS: 56% of SA authors; 59% of SA equivalents).

⁶ Down from 54% to 40% for SA authors and from 64% to 43% for SA equivalents for UJ during this period.

Table 5A: Breakdown of article equivalents by author affiliation (SA versus foreign) for the period 1990-2010

Journal	Foreign institution	SA	Total	Percentage of articles by South African authors
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	11.5	927.5	939	99%
Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika	4.5	327	331.5	99%
Hervormde Teologiese Studies	26.5	1033.5	1060	98%
<i>In die Skriflig</i>	10.5	498.7	509.2	98%
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	4	136	140	97%
Acta Theologica	12	322	334	96%
Koers	10.7	222.3	233	95%
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)	34.8	579.2	614	94%
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	10.5	133.5	144	93%
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	27	339	366	93%
Old Testament Essays	46	565	611	92%
Scriptura	46	525	571	92%
Neotestamentica	30	287.8	317.8	91%
Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae	35	328.5	363.5	90%
Journal for Semitics	14	113	127	89%
Missionalia	36	247	283	87%
Journal for the Study of Religion	29	129.5	158.5	82%
Journal for Islamic Studies	14	5	19	26%

Note: Authors of unknown affiliation are excluded.

Table 5B: Breakdown of article equivalents by author affiliation (SA versus foreign) for the period 2005-2009

Journal	Foreign institution	SA	Total	Percentage of articles by South African authors
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	2.5	280.5	283	99%
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	3	91	94	97%
Hervormde Teologiese Studies	11.5	365.5	377	97%
Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika	3.5	128.5	132	97%
Acta Theologica	6	129	135	96%
<i>In die Skriflig</i>	6.5	154.5	161	96%
Koers	9	134	143	94%
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	6	46	52	88%
Old Testament Essays	27	206	233	88%
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)	28.8	195.2	224	87%
Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae	25	159	184	86%
Journal for Semitics	14	81	95	85%
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	17	85	102	83%
Scriptura	37	164	201	82%
Neotestamentica	22	61	83	73%
Missionalia	25	59	84	70%
Journal for the Study of Religion	21	33	54	61%
Journal for Islamic Studies	14	5	19	26%

Note: Authors of unknown affiliation are excluded.

- Tables 5A and 6A show that the overwhelming majority of papers are produced by South African authors (more than 80% of papers) for the period 1990-2010; with the exception of Missionalia, Journal for the Study of Religion, Journal for Islamic Studies and Journal for Islamic Studies.
- When considering the most recent five-year period of 2005-2009 in Tables 5B and 6B, it seems as if the proportion of foreign authors is generally on the increase. This is particularly the case for journals such as Neotestamentica, Missionalia and Journal for the Study of Religion which demonstrate a large increase in the percentage of foreign authored papers.
- Table 6A and 6B also show that the body of Religious Study scholarship as reflected in these journals is predominantly local, since there is a dominance of South African single-authored papers (which is not surprising for the field of Religious Study as in many other humanities fields) and co-authorships are also preferred with other South African authors. With the exception of Journal for Islamic Studies co-authorships between and with foreign authors are almost negligible.

Table 6A: Number of papers by authorship patterns for foreign and South African authorships for the period 1990-2010

Journal	Authorship	Count	Percent
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	Single-authored – SA	120	85.7%
	Single-authored – Foreign	4	2.9%
	Co-authored – SA	16	11.4%
	Total	140	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
	Grand total	140	
Acta Theologica	Single-authored – SA	289	87.6%
	Single-authored – Foreign	12	3.6%
	Co-authored – SA	29	8.8%
	Total	330	100.0%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	46	
	Grand total	376	
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	Single-authored – SA	105	72.9%
	Single-authored – Foreign	9	6.3%
	Co-authored – SA	27	18.8%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	3	2.1%
	Total	144	100.0%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	1	
	Grand total	145	

Hervormde Teologiese Studies	Single-authored – SA	936	88.7%
	Single-authored – Foreign	23	2.2%
	Co-authored – SA	92	8.7%
	Co-authored –Foreign	3	0.3%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	1	0.1%
	Total	1055	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	190	
Grand total	1245		
<i>In die Skriflig</i>	Single-authored – SA	431	85.0%
	Single-authored – Foreign	10	2.0%
	Co-authored – SA	65	12.8%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	1	0.2%
	Total	507	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	54	
	Grand total	561	
Journal for Islamic Studies	Single-authored – SA	5	26.3%
	Single-authored – Foreign	12	63.2%
	Co-authored – Foreign	2	10.5%
	Total	19	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
	Grand total	19	

Journal for Semitics	Single-authored – SA	102	80.3%
	Single-authored – Foreign	13	10.2%
	Co-authored – SA	11	8.7%
	Co-authored – Foreign	1	0.8%
	Total	127	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	1	
	Grand total	128	
Journal for the Study of Religion	Single-authored – SA	124	79.0%
	Single-authored – Foreign	27	17.2%
	Co-authored – SA	4	2.5%
	Co-authored – Foreign	2	1.3%
	Total	157	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	51	
	Grand total	208	
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	Single-authored – SA	317	86.8%
	Single-authored – Foreign	26	7.1%
	Co-authored – SA	21	5.8%
	Co-authored – Foreign	1	0.3%
	Total	365	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	85	
	Grand total	450	

Koers	Single-authored – SA	163	70.0%
	Single-authored – Foreign	10	4.3%
	Co-authored – SA	59	25.3%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	1	0.4%
	Total	233	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	1	
	Grand total	234	
Missionalia	Single-authored – SA	238	84.1%
	Single-authored – Foreign	34	12.0%
	Co-authored – SA	8	2.8%
	Co-authored – Foreign	1	0.4%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	2	0.7%
	Total	283	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	96	
Grand total	379		
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	Single-authored – SA	818	87.6%
	Single-authored – Foreign	11	1.2%
	Co-authored – SA	104	11.1%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	1	0.1%
	Total	934	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	106	
	Grand total	1040	

Neotestamentica	Single-authored – SA	281	88.6%
	Single-authored – Foreign	30	9.5%
	Co-authored – SA	6	1.9%
	Total	317	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	62	
Grand total	379		
Old Testament Essays	Single-authored – SA	556	91.0%
	Single-authored – Foreign	45	7.4%
	Co-authored – SA	9	1.5%
	Co-authored – Foreign	1	0.2%
	Total	611	100%
Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	82		
Grand total	693		
Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika	Single-authored – SA	280	84.8%
	Single-authored – Foreign	4	1.2%
	Co-authored – SA	45	13.6%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	1	0.3%
	Total	330	100%
Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	43		
Grand total	373		

	Single-authored – SA	502	87.9%
	Single-authored – Foreign	42	7.4%
	Co-authored – SA	23	4.0%
	Co-authored – Foreign	4	0.7%
	Total	571	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	63	
	Grand total	634	
	Single-authored – SA	298	82.3%
	Single-authored – Foreign	34	9.4%
	Co-authored – SA	28	7.7%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	2	0.6%
	Total	362	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	47	
	Grand total	409	
	Single-authored – SA	549	89.6%
	Single-authored – Foreign	34	5.5%
	Co-authored – SA	28	4.6%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	2	0.3%
	Total	613	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	53	
	Grand total	666	
Scriptura			
Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae			
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)			

Note: Due to rounding off of percentages, they do not necessarily add to 100

Table 6B: Number of papers by authorship patterns for foreign and South African authorships for the period 2005-2009

Journal	Authorship	Count	Percent
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	Single-authored – SA	80	85.1%
	Single-authored – Foreign	3	3.2%
	Co-authored – SA	11	11.7%
	Total	94	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified country affiliation	0	
	Grand total	94	
Acta Theologica	Single-authored – SA	109	80.7%
	Single-authored – Foreign	6	4.4%
	Co-authored – SA	20	14.8%
	Total	135	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
	Grand total	135	
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	Single-authored – SA	33	63.5%
	Single-authored – Foreign	5	9.6%
	Co-authored – SA	12	23.1%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	2	3.8%
	Total	52	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
Grand total	52		

Hervormde Teologiese Studies	Single-authored – SA	303	80.4%
	Single-authored – Foreign	9	2.4%
	Co-authored – SA	62	16.4%
	Co-authored –Foreign	2	0.5%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	1	0.3%
	Total	377	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
	Grand total	377	
<i>In die Skriflig</i>	Single-authored – SA	122	75.8%
	Single-authored – Foreign	6	3.7%
	Co-authored – SA	32	19.9%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	1	0.6%
	Total	161	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
	Grand total	161	
	Journal for Islamic Studies	Single-authored – SA	5
Single-authored – Foreign		12	63.2%
Co-authored – Foreign		2	10.5%
Total		19	100%
Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation		0	
Grand total		19	

Journal for Semitics	Single-authored – SA	74	77.9%
	Single-authored – Foreign	13	13.7%
	Co-authored – SA	7	7.4%
	Co-authored – Foreign	1	1.1%
	Total	95	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	1	
	Grand total	96	
Journal for the Study of Religion	Single-authored – SA	30	55.6%
	Single-authored – Foreign	19	35.2%
	Co-authored – SA	3	5.6%
	Co-authored – Foreign	2	3.7%
	Total	54	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
	Grand total	54	
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	Single-authored – SA	79	77.5%
	Single-authored – Foreign	16	15.7%
	Co-authored – SA	6	5.9%
	Co-authored – Foreign	1	1.0%
	Total	102	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
	Grand total	102	

Koers	Single-authored – SA	97	67.8%
	Single-authored – Foreign	9	6.3%
	Co-authored – SA	37	25.9%
	Total	143	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
	Grand total	143	
Missionalia	Single-authored – SA	54	64.3%
	Single-authored – Foreign	24	28.6%
	Co-authored – SA	4	4.8%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	2	2.4%
	Total	84	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	22	
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	Single-authored – SA	237	83.7%
	Single-authored – Foreign	2	0.7%
	Co-authored – SA	43	15.2%
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	1	0.4%
	Total	283	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	2	
Neotestamentica	Single-authored – SA	59	71.1%
	Single-authored – Foreign	22	26.5%
	Co-authored – SA	2	2.4%
	Total	83	100%
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	0	
	Grand total	83	

Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae	Single-authored – SA	140	76.1%	
	Single-authored – Foreign	24	13.0%	
	Co-authored – SA	18	9.8%	
	Co-authored – SA & Foreign	2	1.1%	
	Total	184	100%	
	Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation	3		
	Grand total	187		
	Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en kerk)	Single-authored – SA	177	79.0%
		Single-authored – Foreign	28	12.5%
Co-authored – SA		17	7.6%	
Co-authored – SA & Foreign		2	0.9%	
Total		224	100%	
Papers with at least 1 author with a non-specified affiliation		0		
Grand total	224			

Note: Due to rounding off of percentages, they do not necessarily add to 100

Table 7: Single-authored papers by South African authors

Journals	1990-2010		2005-2009		Count of papers
	Count of SA single-authored papers	Percentage of SA single-authored papers	Count of SA single-authored papers	Percentage of SA single-authored papers	
Acta Patristica et Byzantina	120	85.7%	80	85.1%	94
Acta Theologica	289	87.6%	109	80.7%	135
Ekklesiastikos Pharos	105	72.9%	33	63.5%	52
Hervormde Teologiese Studies	936	88.7%	303	80.4%	377

<i>In die Skriflig</i>	431	85.0%	507	122	75.8%	161
Journal for Islamic Studies	5	26.3%	19	5	26.3%	19
Journal for Semitics	102	80.3%	127	74	77.9%	95
Journal for the Study of Religion	124	79.0%	157	30	55.6%	54
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa	317	86.8%	365	79	77.5%	102
Koers	163	70.0%	233	97	67.8%	143
Missionalia	238	84.1%	283	54	64.3%	84
Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif	818	87.6%	934	237	83.7%	283
Neotestamentica	281	88.6%	317	59	71.1%	83
Old Testament Essays	556	91.0%	611	199	85.4%	233
Practical Theology in South Africa/Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika	280	84.8%	330	94	71.2%	132
Scriptura	502	87.9%	571	157	78.1%	201
Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae	298	82.3%	362	140	76.1%	184
Verbum et Ecclesia (Former: Skrif en Kerk)	549	89.6%	613	177	79.0%	224

Table 7 shows that the vast majority of papers are South African single-authored papers. There is a marked difference between the numbers for the period of 1990-2010 and 2005-2009 for three journals (Journal for the Study of Religion, Missionalia and Neotestamentica). There is a clear decrease in the percentage of single-authored papers produced by South Africans for these journals. This is predominantly caused by the proportional growth in recent years in single foreign-authored papers for these journals.

Salient Points

- The range in the average annual publication of papers for religious studies/theology journals is relatively large. The journal with the highest average number of papers per year (for the period 2005-2009), contained more than 70 papers on average per year, whereas the journals that produced the fewest papers for this period, produced about 10 papers per year.
- The majority of religious studies/theology journals are sustained by relatively small pools of contributing authors. This is evident in the fact that a relatively small number of authors (in most instances 20% or less) authored more than half of all papers.
- The small percentage of foreign authorships recorded for the period 1990-2010 is striking; despite an increase recorded amongst various journals in the recent years (the period of 2005-2009), the percentage of foreign authors remains low. Particularly striking is the lack of co-authorships between South African and foreign authors.
- The dominance of South African single-authorships and co-authorships shows that the bulk of published scholarship local. There is, however, a significant decrease in the percentage of single-authored papers authored by South Africans for Journal for the Study of Religion, Missionalia and Neotestamentica.

