EDITORIAL. OPENING OF THE 10TH YEAR OF SCIRES-IT

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Abstract

In 2020 SCIRES-IT (SCIentific RESearch and Information Technology) eJournal turns ten. This Editorial focuses on the history and main results of SCIRES-IT over these ten years and on future prospects.

Keywords

SCIRES-IT, Editorial, SCIentific RESearch and Information Technology, Open Access Journal, Eco-sustainable publications, Cultural and Environmental Heritage, SCIRES-IT Manifesto, Tenth year of SCIRES-IT.

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This Editorial focuses on the history and main reesults of SCIRES-IT during these ten years and on future prospects.

2011. *SCIRES-IT (SCIentific RESearch and Information Technology - Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologie dell'Informazione) was founded in 2011 by Virginia Valzano, under the editorial project "Eco-sustainable Open Access Publications", launched in 2009 in partnership with CASPUR-CIBER[1] (directed by Francesco Proietti) and SIBA[2] of Salento University (directed by Virginia Valzano), for the development of open access publishing and for the preservation and restoration of the natural environment.*

SCIRES-IT, e-ISSN 2239-4303, is an eco-sustainable open-access journal providing an international forum for the exchange and sharing of know-how in the areas of Digitalization and Multimedia Technologies and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in support of Cultural and environmental Heritage (CH) documentation, preservation and fruition.

The Journal aim is to encourage scientists to publish their experimental results and theoretical work in a comprehensive way. Restrictions on the length of papers is negotiable with the Editors. There are, in addition, other features that this Journal encourages: electronic files regarding the full details of theoretical derivations, detailed experimental results, high-resolution renderings, short video animations and audio/video documentaries can be deposited as supplementary material to support the article.

SCIRES-IT is a peer-reviewed journal, covered by various indexing and abstracting databases and available online on a semi-annual basis.

SCIRES-IT is an eco-sustainable open-access journal, which combines the main principles of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access with the aims of the International Convention on Biological Diversity, fostering scientific dissemination, biodiversity awareness, enviroment preservation, and sustainable use of natural resources.

"Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society." (Berlin Declaration).

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[1] CASPUR: Consorzio interuniversitario per le Applicazioni di Supercalcolo Per Università e Ricerca (Consortium for Supercomputing for University and Research) – CIBER: Coordinamento Interuniversitario Basi Dati & Editoria in Rete (Interuniversity Committee for Database and E-publishing) of CASPUR. See:http://www.ceit-otranto.it/index.php/editoria-elettronica/14-caspur

[2] SIBA (Servizi Informatici Bibliotecari di Ateneo) a centre founded and directed by Virginia Valzano until 2010, coordinates the Library Computer Services and the Telematic Information System for Research and Education at the University of Salento. See: http://www.ceit-otranto.it/images/documents/brochure_info_siba.pdf

"We can survive as a species only if we live by the rules of the biosphere. The biosphere has enough for everyone's needs if the global economy respects the limits set by sustainability and justice." (Vandana Shiva, Indian environmental activist). (SCIRES-IT Manifesto, 2011; Proietti & Valzano, 2011; Valzano, 2014).

2013. A closer collaboration was established between the Editors-in-Chief and some members of the Editorial Board, in particular with Marco Gaiani and Fabrizio Ivan Apollonio of the Department of Architecture, University of Bologna (Boero & Lucarella, 2018).

In 2013 SCIRES-IT has fully passed the evaluation foreseen by the "Regulations for the Classification of Journals in non-bibliometric areas" and has been included by ANVUR in the list of "Scientific" journals for the areas Architecture (Area 08); Antiquities, philology, literary studies, art history (Area 10); History, philosophy and pedagogy (Area 11); Economics and Statistics (Area 13); Political and social sciences (Area 14) (Valzano & Cigola, 2018).

2014. Since the first issue of Volume 4, SCIRES-IT has improved its graphical layout, widened its international Editorial Board, with a new Co-Editor-in-Chief, Cristiana Bartolomei, Department of Architecture, University of Bologna, who replaced Francesco Proietti, Director of CASPUR and Co-editor-in-Chief of SCIRES-IT until 2013 (Boero & Lucarella, 2018).

2015. Since 2015, SCIRES-IT has also been indexed in Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) - a new database within the Web of Science - and, since 2017, in SCOPUS, the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, such as scientific journals, books and conferences proceedings (Boero & Lucarella, 2018).

2016. SCIRES-IT published a Supplement to vol. 6 (2016), containing the results of CoCoNet (Towards COast to COast NETworks of marine protected areas, coupled with sea-based wind energy potential), a project of the EU Oceans of Tomorrow programme. CoCoNet tackled two problems that are closely linked with each other: the protection of the marine environment and clean energy production (CoCoNet, 2016; Boero, Valzano & Bartolomei, 2016).

2018. Since Volume 8(1), SCIRES-IT has a new Co-Editor-in-Chief, Michela Cigola, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, who replaced Cristiana Bartolomei.

In 2018 SCIRES-IT was ranked as a "Class A" journal in the area 08 - Architecture by the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes – ANVUR (Valzano & Cigola, 2018).

2019. SCIRES-IT dedicated first Issue of 2019 to an overview on European Year of Cultural Heritage – EYCH 2018. It published vol. 9(1) 2019 with key topic on "The European year of Cultural-Heritage 2018. A laboratory for heritage-based innovation", together Guest Editor Erminia Sciacchitano, Chief Scientific Advisor of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (Valzano & Cigola, 2019).

2020. The first number of this year, vol. 10 (1) 2020, is a special issue on *"Virtual Models and Scientific Value"*, with the Guest Editors Sabine Frommel & Hermann Schlimme. It is dedicated to 3D-Models, digital documentations, virtual or 3D-printed reconstructions and interpreted point clouds in art and architectural history and building archeology.

The issue aims to bring together major exponents in the field, to discuss emerging standards and to disseminate shared best practices, which enable us to fully exploit the potential and the scientific value of digital art and architectural history. The best papers from the international meeting and conference series on "3D models in the history of art, architecture and archaeology" from 2015 to 2018 have been invited to contribute to the Issue.

This Special Issue opens the 10th year of SCIRES-IT.

SCIRES-IT is an Open Access Journal that has achieved, in a few years, a very high scientific level, adhering to Best Practice and high publishing standards.

It has published, over these ten years, open access scientific articles and special issues of great international relevance on ICT, cultural, architectural, historic, artistic heritage and landscape, as well as on the application of innovative technology for the knowledge,

protection and (also virtual) fruition of the cultural, environmental and natural heritage.

Over all these years, SCIRES-IT has maintained its fundamental objectives and its policy, thus achieving excellent results in both national and international scientific fields (Boero & Lucarella, 2018).

SCIRES-IT does not require authors to pay any APCs (Article submission or Processing Charges) for submission or publication of articles, and it has no financial contribution. The Editorial Team has been working without any financial support, with remarkable generosity, sustained by great passion only.

It is therefore a Journal fully aligned with the principles of open access, since its foundation (2011), in a linear, clear and precise way, supporting researchers and facilitating scientific research and the dissemination of knowledge

We are convinced of our choices and we hope that these principles can be fully affirmed in all the scientific-disciplinary sectors, overcoming obstacles, resistances and opacities (Valzano & Cigola 2019).

In line with the editorial project "Eco-sustainable OA publications", for each issue of SCIRES-IT, an action of environmental restoration has been carried out in protected areas by planting local ecotypes of native species, in cooperation with CEIT[3], the Botanical Garden of the University of Salento[4], and ARIF Puglia[5] (Valzano, 2014).

In cooperation with CEIT, the Laboratory of Zoology and Marine Biology[6], the Department of Mathematics and Physics of the University of Salento, and the Pro Loco of Porto Badisco-Otranto[7], other initiatives and workshops have been organized aimed at the knowledge, enhancement, management and preservation of natural and environmental resources, as well as the development of study programmes aimed at carrying out interventions of restoration of the natural environment, thus enabling policies of improvement and cultural, economic and eco-sustainable development of the areas involved (Boero & Lucarella, 2018).

The current emergency situation worldwide, the COVID 19 health emergency, the serious environmental, economic, political and social problems, have highlighted the need to overcome the barriers that prevent the widest dissemination of research data, and have strengthened the awareness that preserving nature, biodiversity is of crucial importance, that we must exit the crisis in a sustainable way. A radical change is needed worldwide, on a practical and political level, to initiate a radical ecological conversion in behavior and in the productive system.

This confirms the validity of the fundamental objectives of SCIRES-IT and its policy, since 2011, which we can define as pioneering and that we will maintain in the future.

In 2020-2021 we will continue our commitment for the realization of Open Science and new models of scientific communication and research evaluation, topics already widely discussed in the presence of experts, political and academic authorities, in the 2019 Workshop organized by CEIT (Euro-Mediterranean Center of Technological Innovation for Cultural and Environmental Heritage and Biomedicine), in collaboration with the University of Salento, the CAFRE (Interdepartmental Center for Updating, Training and Educational Research) of the University of Pisa, and other Institutions.

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[3] CEIT- Centro Euromediterraneo di Innovazione Tecnologica per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali e la Biomedicina (Euro-Mediterranean Center of Technological Innovation for the Cultural and Environmental Heritage and Biomedicine), founded and directed by Virginia Valzano. See: http://www.ceit-otranto.it/.

[4] Orto Botanico (Botanical Garden) of the University of Salento. Technical manager: Rita Accogli.

[5] ARIF Puglia - Agenzia Regionale per le attività Irrigue e Forestali (Regional Agency for Irrigation and Forestry activities).

[6] Laboratory for Zoology and Marine Biology of the University of Salento, directed by Ferdinando Boero.

[7] Pro Loco is an association promoting local culture and tourism. Pro Loco of Porto Badisco-Otranto. President: Vito Corvaglia.

Porto Badisco is a seaside resort in the Municipality of Otranto (LE, Italy), with a charming landscape, a crystal blue sea and an uncontaminated nature; rich in history and culture, with archaeological sites of remarkable relevance, such as the Grotta dei Cervi, a complex and fragile Neolithic cave with an extraordinary repertoire of pictograms. The Grotta dei Cervi of Porto Badisco was the subject of a digital acquisition Project, three-dimensional reconstruction and virtual representation, coordinated by Virginia Valzano. See: http://www.ceit-otranto.it/index.php/progetti/24-grotta-dei-cervi-porto-badisco ; https://vimeo.com/407669569 .
http://www.ceit-otranto.it/index.php/progetti/250-tesori-otranto-3d ; https://vimeo.com/383129952 .

Particular attention will be given to the knowledge, enhancement, management and preservation of cultural heritage and natural and environmental resources and to eco-sustainable technological innovation.

For the tenth year of SCIRES-IT, we have started and intensified many collaboration relationships
- with CEDAD (CEnter of Applied Physics, DAting and Diagnostics) of the University of Salento, for the dating and diagnostics of cultural and environmental heritage;
- with the Coastal Engineering Laboratory (LIC) of the Polytechnic of Bari, for the physical modeling in support of the safety of tourist ports and for the development of sites and infrastructures in support of aquaculture activities, which must be innovative and environmentally sustainable;
- with the Botanical Garden of the University of Salento, for the study and protection of the agricultural biodiversity of Salento;
- with the Institute for BioEconomy - IBE of the CNR of Florence, for the design and adoption of "nature and green based" solutions aimed at: i) reducing the effects of climate change and the environmental impact of anthropic activities; ii) increasing the resilience of the urban and peri-urban environment; iii) identifying and developing reliable and low cost monitoring technologies.

Indeed, the current health, environmental and socio-economic crisis can be an opportunity to design innovative technological solutions for the management of structures and remote control of factors that can affect the safety and preservation of cultural and natural heritage, for the maintenance of green areas, archaeological parks, historic gardens, botanical gardens.

Further ideas and proposals for projects and collaborations will obviously be very welcome.

Finally, we would like to thank all the collaborators: the Editorial Board, the Editorial Staff and the Reviewers, for the invaluable work they have done so far, which we greatly appreciate, and then all the Authors who, with their research and papers, of high scientific level, contributed to the great success of SCIRES-IT.

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