



Financial Reporting

A Quarterly Journal on Financial Communication

In collaboration with



IASB Research Center

Under the auspices of



CALL FOR PAPERS

“The ‘Real’ Impact Factor: Accounting Research, Practice, and Users”

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As sources of funding for universities and academic research are under ever mounting pressures, there is a growing demand amid public authorities of various countries for researchers to demonstrate the impact of their work on real world. In particular, the Research Excellence Framework (REF – formerly Research Assessment Exercise-RAE) currently run in the UK includes the need for an explicit and documented information on the concrete effect of the scholarly work on “real life” and professional realms. Also the Netherlands, Canada and Australia governments are following a similar line.

Accounting researchers facing this new demand may encounter comparatively greater difficulties in demonstrating such an impact of their work. Indeed, there have been recurrent claims, from both practitioners and academics, that much accounting research is today virtually irrelevant to practice, the profession and the standard setting.

This subject area is becoming even more significant today owing to the new trend that accounting standard setters and international institutions have taken, i.e. the search for a stricter collaboration with academic research in order to better inform their activity, identify problems and issues, devise the most appropriate solutions, understand the implementation effects of standards, frameworks and recommendations, as well as justify and support the choices made.

Evidence-supported accounting standard setting calls naturally for more policy-oriented research, which still does not appear to be a fully-fledged and frequently pursued approach in the accounting literature.

Accordingly, it seems to be the right time to start debating also the related theme of the self-referentiality of academic research in the accounting domain.

In response to these rapidly emerging challenges, the journal *Financial Reporting* has decided to devote a Special Issue to the topic of

“The ‘real’ impact factor: accounting research, practice, and users”.

Relevant research topics for this issue include, but certainly are not restricted to:

- The impact of research on the accounting practices of firms;
- The impact of research on accounting standards and regulators;
- The impact of research on accounting requirements in regulated sectors, e.g., on how mandatory capital ratios are calculated;
- The effects on firms of accounting changes attributed to impacts of research;
- The impact of research on users of financial reporting and capital markets;
- The impact of research on national accounting practices, e.g. how GNP is calculated;
- The impact of research on wider public debates on accounting issues;
- The economic significance of accounting research findings: How often is it measured? How can research projects be designed so as to measure it? How can it be effectively communicated?
- How ‘real’ impact is judged in research assessment exercises?
- The effects on accounting research of the governmental requirements to demonstrate practical impact;
- International comparisons associated to any of the above subjects, discussing differences and similarities among different jurisdictions;
- Methods to evaluate the above impacts;
- The incentives for researchers to engage with practitioners and standard setters;
- The role of academic journals and their editors in facilitating dialogue between researchers, practitioners and information users.

Papers are welcome in relation to research on financial reporting, non-financial reporting, business communication and management accounting. They can be based on empirical, theoretical, case studies approach or any other suitable methodology.

A **Research Symposium** on the topic of the journal’s Special Issue, where the most promising submitted papers will be presented, is currently being organised – in collaboration with IASB (International Accounting Standards Board), the support of Ernst & Young and ICAS, and under the auspices of SIDREA (The Association of Italian Accounting and Business Economics Professors) – to be held on **9 September 2015 at Ernst & Young in London** starting at 10.00am, with distinguished key-note speakers from academia, the profession and the standard setting.

Papers should be submitted to both the guest editors (stefano.zambon@unife.it and ateixeira@ifrs.org) as well as the journal editor, Prof. Alberto Quagli (quaglia@economia.unige.it). The papers will be subject to the standard double blind peer review. The papers passing the first round of reviews will be given the possibility to be presented at the above London Symposium in front of a qualified audience of academics, practitioners and standard setters.

This Special Issue is planned to be **published by Summer 2016**.

DEADLINE FOR PAPER SUBMISSION: 15 August 2015.

Financial Reporting – A Quarterly Journal of Financial Communication (www.frjournal.eu) – is a European academic journal with an interest towards original and policy-oriented perspectives on financial reporting studies broadly conceived.