

EMBRACING THE FUTURE: THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC JOURNALS

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In this, our final issue of our tenth anniversary of publication, the importance of *QRBD* remaining a quality interdisciplinary journal has been keenly on my mind. Academia has historically been decidedly siloed, with journals having very narrow lines of specialization (one of my favorite activities during graduate school at Oklahoma State University was to go to the basement of Edmon Low Library and raffle through the dust-covered journals from the early part of the 20th century...amazed at how narrowly focused the topics contained within were). While we as scholars still primarily communicate within our fields, there has been a growing recognition of and appreciation for collaborative work and society itself almost demands interdisciplinary approaches due to the ever-growing complexity and multifaceted nature of the problems needing to be solved. While academia, particularly within the tenure system, seems to work against interdisciplinary research, I believe that as academia continues to evolve, interdisciplinary journals such as *QRBD* will serve to drive innovation, foster collaboration, and offer platforms for more holistic forms of knowledge.

Encouraging Innovative Research

Interdisciplinary academic journals have the potential to dismantle traditional disciplinary boundaries, enabling scholars to pursue innovative research that transcends disciplinary constraints. By encouraging novel approaches and integrating diverse perspectives, these journals pave the way for groundbreaking discoveries, which may not have been possible within a single discipline. For instance, the winner of the first best paper award in the journal *Business and Society* brought together researchers from sociology, psychology, and organizational theory to develop a framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Slawinski, Pinkse, Busch, & Banerjee, 2017). Such interdisciplinary breakthroughs will likely become increasingly common, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of complex topics.

Facilitating Collaboration

Interdisciplinary journals create spaces for scholars from diverse disciplines to collaborate, fostering a spirit of cooperation and knowledge exchange. Collaboration across disciplines not only broadens perspectives but also enhances problem-solving capabilities. By facilitating academic interactions, interdisciplinary journals serve as catalysts for the coalescence of ideas and the exploration of uncharted territories.

Promoting Holistic Knowledge

Interdisciplinary journals have the potential to enrich academic discourse by bridging the gap between specialized fields. They offer platforms for scholars to synthesize knowledge across various disciplines and provide comprehensive assessments that offer unique insights. By combining essential elements from different areas, these journals contribute to a more holistic understanding of complex phenomena. An example is the journal *Environmental Science &*

Technology, which integrates research from environmental science, chemistry, and engineering to address environmental challenges holistically. Through the interdisciplinary approach, scholars can develop practical and effective solutions for pressing environmental issues (Job et al., 2019).

CONCLUSION

As our world becomes more and more complex, there is a greater need for experts and researchers to come together to collaborate and address these emerging and dynamic issues. By breaking down disciplinary silos, enabling collaboration, and promoting holistic knowledge, while their acceptance rates may not be at the practically unattainable levels as journals that proclaim themselves the definitive word on what is and is not important to know, interdisciplinary journals will continue to think outside the box, pushing the boundaries of knowledge creation and innovation. Embracing interdisciplinary research and fostering academic collaboration will undoubtedly be instrumental in addressing global challenges and forging a more integrated and enlightened future.

REFERENCES

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