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Editorial preface

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Dear Readers,

It is my great pleasure to introduce the latest issue of the Scientific Journals of the Maritime University of Szczecin number 51 (123). Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to share with you some news about the journal. Scientific Journals of the Maritime University of Szczecin have set sail to wide international waters thanks to the Web of Science Core Collection – a database in which they have been indexed since July this year.

Until 2014, articles published on the pages of the Scientific Journals of the Maritime University of Szczecin (SJ) were indexed in bibliometric databases such as BazTech, EBSCO, Google Scholar and Index Copernicus. In recent months, the journal has been registered in new bases (Chybowski, 2016b), which resulted from the inclusion of SJ in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) last October. This database is a part of the prestigious Web of Science platform (Chybowski, 2016a). A calendar of the major events related to the activities of SJ, from January 2015 is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Key Changes to the Scientific Journals from January 2015 to September 2017

Date	Event	Date	Event
January 2015	Commencing the publication of articles prepared exclusively in the English language.	June 2016	The decision of MNISW to grant funding for SJ in the area of Activities Popularising Science.
January 2015	Amending the name of the journal in the National Library and gaining an ISSN 2329-0378 for the electronic version of Scientific Journals.	September 2016	Indexing the SJ by the Global Impact Factor database.
January 2015	Launching a bilingual website for the journal.	October 2016	Joining the Web of Science – Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI).
February 2015	Modernising the online repository of full-text scientific articles	November 2016	Improving the rating of SJ in the Index Copernicus ICV 2015 database by 10% in comparison to the previous year.
February 2015	Changing the layout and design of the publication	December 2016	Digitising and assuming Open Access principles to all archival issues of SJ since 1973 (http://repository.scientific-journals.eu/).
March 2015	Introducing into the editorial processes language-based proofreading made by a native speaker of British origin.	March 2017	Onset of publishing invited articles prepared by outstanding international scientists
June 2015	Registering the journal in the DOI system (prefix 10.17402).	March 2017	Developing the infrastructure and implementing the electronic ARE system for supporting the publishing process in relation to author – reviewer – editor communication.
July 2015	Entering SJ into the InfoBase Index.	July 2017	Indexing articles published in SJ in the Web of Science Core Collection by Clarative Analytics (from issue No. 45).
September 2015	Court registration of the journal as acting in accordance with Press Law.	September 2017	Testing of the electronic ARE system for supporting the publishing process in relation to author – reviewer – editor communication.
November 2015	Improving the rating of SJ in the Index Copernicus ICV 2014 database by 18% on comparison to the previous year.		Commencing works on modernising of the journal's website.
December 2015	Increasing scores of SJ on the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNISW) list from 5 to 8 points.		
January 2016	Indexing SJ in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).		
January 2016	Implementing the decision on printing the journal in colour.		

The Web of Science platform, which now includes SJ, counts the citations of particular articles; it directly affects the bibliometric rating of other articles indexed previously in the database and quotability of individual scientists. Therefore, it is a huge opportunity for our authors to showcase the results of their research on an international forum and improve the quantitative indicators of scientific activity. For our journal, it is the opportunity to increase the number of citations and, consequently, move forward to implement the SJ quarterly to the Journal Citations Reports, JCR®.

In the current issue, we publish the results of the latest research from the fields of marine engineering, sea navigation and transport engineering. The introductory article entitled “Application of Root Conflict Analysis (RCA+) to Formulate Inventive Problems in Maritime Industry” has been prepared by TRIZ MASTER Valeri Souchkov – Vice President of the International TRIZ Association (MATRIZ), Founding Member and Information Manager of ETRIA (the European TRIZ Association) Executive Board, head of ICG Training & Consulting (Enschede, the Netherlands), lecturer of University of Twente (Enschede, The Netherlands) and lecturer of TIAS Business School (Tilburg, the Netherlands). The paper focuses on the use of his original RCA+ method in the cause-and-effect analysis of the Estonia ferry catastrophe. The publication was funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland from funds for activities popularising science: grant No. 790/P-DUN/2016 (Chybowski 2017a, 2017b). I hope that this material will prove to be fascinating to all readers interested in safety issues during marine transportation and using creative methods.

In the Marine Technology and Innovation section, we publish articles on the economic justification of the new approach to video-based smoke detection onboard ships as well as the use of heuristic and numerical methods in designing hulls of sea vessels.

The section devoted to navigation describes a method for ship’s safe trajectory determination and discusses selected legal aspects of investigating marine accidents in Poland.

The section entitled Transportation Engineering includes articles that relate to coastal transport, hinterland transport in service of the Ports of Szczecin and Świnoujście, economic aspects of exploiting ship systems and determining the floodable length of a bulk carrier.

In addition, this issue includes the Miscellaneous section, featuring papers on the design and modelling of exoskeleton torque sensor, diagnostic modelling, computer simulations in offshore mining, and a study of the effectiveness of the team of specialists and the occurrence of team roles according to Belbin’s theory.

To access the electronic version of the current issue and archival journals reaching back to the first publication in 1973, please visit our website: <http://scientific-journals.eu/>. The digitisation and access to archival issues was funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland from the previously mentioned funds for activities popularising science.

We cordially invite authors to submit articles and readers to provide us with comments, which will help us improve the quality of the journal.

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