REVIEW OF JOURNALS-1: Annual review of information science and technology

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Title: Annual Review of Information Science and Technology
Author: American Society for Information Science and Technology
Published by: Information Today
Editor: Blaise Cronin
ISSN: 1550-1382 (paper)
Catalan libraries where it can be found: BC, UAB, UB, UdG, UdL, UPC, UPF, URV, IDESCAT

We often have to seek information on subjects that touch tangentially those we work with regularly. In these cases, it is always advisable to find documents from which you can see the overview of a certain issue. This is one of the main virtues of scientific reviews, that allow us to know more about a certain topic and at the same time we have a long list of references through which we can continue the search. Reviews may be perceived as greater bibliographic searches already done by scientific colleagues that are presented all at once.

This is why review journals are always considered central works when it comes to searching for information. These journals are often a search criteria in many databases and an excellent approach to a subject. Moreover, they are usually written by experts in the subject, so they are capable of going beyond the specific and describe the overall without getting too deep.

In the area of Information and Documentation Sciences, the journal of reference for such items is The Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, known for short as ARIST.

ARIST has been published since 1966. It is owned by the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST), the American company created in 1937 for information professionals understood in a broad sense, and has other publications as the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST).

ARIST has been published by several of the most prestigious publishing houses throughout these 41 years: John Wiley & Sons, Elsevier Science, etc.. Information Today is currently in charge of its publication.

Throughout the various volumes published, its objective is by no means reviewing the same contents year after year, but rather trying different themes each year. So when an article deals with the state of the art of a certain topic, what is trying to do is an analytical review of what have been the main advances made in that specific area of the documentation in a given period.
This fact gives the articles, often with lots of pages and references, the chance to include a chronological description of the new keywords, new research lines and trends in a particular branch of knowledge acquired through what has been published.

From volume 36 on, the editor of ARIST has been Blaise Cronin, author of an extensive bibliography on academic communication and analysis of citations. Blaise Cronin also has an editorial board of 14 members from diverse Anglo-Saxon fields. It is precisely the surprise factor one of its strengths. Therefore, despite the determined field of knowledge of ISI Journal Citation Reports (that includes the Information Sciences, Computer Science and Information Systems), there are also magazines from IEEE of computing. ARIST is always one of the leading magazines, even though the low number of articles published in its annual volume (quite normal in this kind of journals). It is also a journal that is considered one of the most important ones, according to the CARHUS lists.

In conclusion, ARIST, which also has its electronic version, it's a good magazine to be considered for consultation, not only in front of an informative need, but also to be updated on the various aspects of Information Sciences, both the most traditional ones like librarianship, and the most technological ones that are obviously linked to the possibilities of internet.