



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

INFORMATION

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CIB Encouraged Journal

CIB takes over as Publisher of the Electronic Journal of Information Technology in Construction

As a means to strengthen the journal's position as the leading construction IT journal CIB has from the beginning of 2005 become the official publisher of ITcon through a contract signed between the co-editors, CIB and the former publisher, the Royal Institute of Technology from Stockholm. In addition to strengthening the journal it also marks CIB's determination to explore the new possibilities and business models offered by the Internet for efficient research communication and technology transfer from research to industry.

Background

The Electronic Journal of Information Technology in Construction (ITcon) originated from discussions in the CIB working group W078 (IT in Construction) and is still run as a community effort by key researchers from the group. Since its first volume in 1996 ITcon has published 120 peer reviewed scientific articles using the new business model of open access. ITcon was one of the first scientific journals to adopt this reader-friendly format. Currently there are more than 1500 peer reviewed Open Access journals and some commercial publishers are starting to offer both open access journals and open access on the individual article level.

The screenshot shows a Google search results page for the query 'information technology construction'. The search bar at the top contains the text 'information technology construction' and a search button. Below the search bar, the results are listed under the heading 'Web'. The first result is 'ITcon Journal Home Page' with a description: 'The Electronic Journal of Information Technology in construction is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal on the use of IT in construction.' The second result is 'Lublana Information Technology in Construction' with a description: '... database of about 1000 papers on construction information technology (in full ... Over 1250 resources related to information technology in construction ...'. The third result is 'IT Construction Best Practice' with a description: 'IT Construction Best Practice is now The IT Construction Forum. You are now being transferred to our new website ...'. The fourth result is 'The Civil Engineering Portal - Construction - Information Technology' with a description: 'Indexing and cataloging quality Internet resources in civil engineering and technology ...'. The fifth result is 'Redirect' with a description: 'has grown to become. Visit our new Site ...'. The search results are numbered 1 through 5, and the total number of results is indicated as 'Results 1 - 10 of about 50,400,000 for information technology construction'.

Figure 1: ITcon gives first hits in Google

In addition to encouraging a number of journals CIB also at one stage acted as publisher for Building Research and Information. Thus acting as publisher for journals in key areas of construction research is quite natural for CIB, as it is for many closely related professional societies, for instance ASCE. Helping to spread construction research efficiently through the Internet both to academics and practitioners is also very much in line with the fundamental mission of CIB.

Accessing ITCON

From the viewpoint of authors and readers very little changes. The editorial policy of ITcon will stay exactly the same, encouraging rapid publication (average 4-6

months from first submission) of high quality peer reviewed articles. ITcon is one of the earliest Open Access journals, and will stay so also in the future. Open access means that the full text is openly readable to anyone globally who has access to the Internet. ITcon is run in the same mode as open source programming projects, a way which is very natural to academics who usually act as journal editors and reviewers for free in order to build networks and social capital.

Publishing a scientific journal in Open Access mode increases the visibility of the research results radically. This is particularly important if researchers want to attract readers from industry whose companies usually don't subscribe to expensive academic journals. ITcon is returned as the top result in Google.

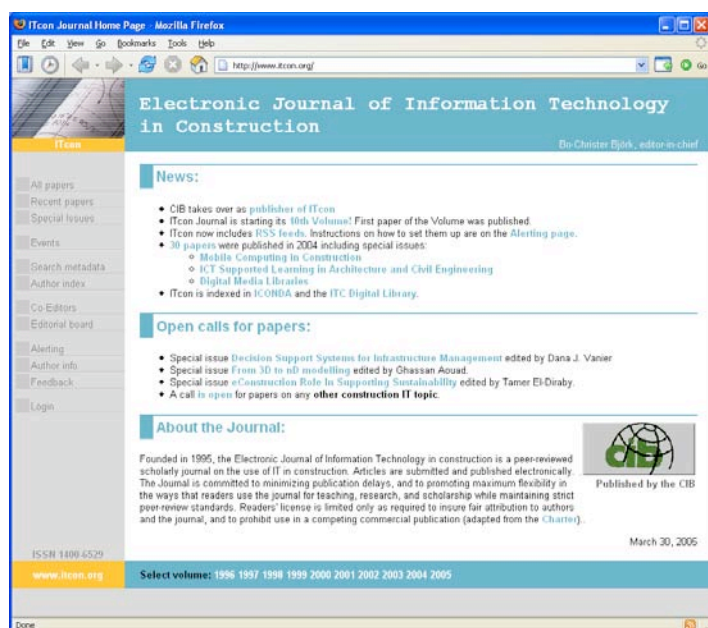


Figure 2: The ITcon Website

There are no subscription or author fees and articles published in ITcon are easy to find through general search engines like Google. This increases the readership and citations and in particular facilitates access for readers outside the academic community, such as industry practitioners.