The “A” List of International Refereed Journals on Environment, Behaviour & Society

In June 2009, Dr Zena O’Connor (PhD ’08) gave an excellent EBS Research Seminar on “Publication Strategies”. In that presentation, she mentioned the importance of publishing in peer-reviewed (also called refereed) journals. She referred to developing a publications strategy; I’ve called this the ‘ladder of publications’ – the idea is the same: to present first at local or national conferences, then at international conferences that have a proceedings where you can get at least an abstract of your work published, then continuing to work up the ladder to international peer-reviewed conferences with refereed full-paper proceedings, then as she called them ‘soft’ or low-impact journals, then higher impact journals and perhaps finally developing ideas for book chapters or submitting a proposal for a book to major international publishers.

Most good research journals now have an ‘Impact Factor’ that indicates the relative impact of papers in that journal, ie, how widely papers in that journal have been cited in other researchers’ subsequent publications. These impact factors are published by Thomson’s ISI Web of Knowledge http://www.isinet.com/. You would be well advised to check the impact factor for any journal in which you are thinking of publishing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal (Publisher)</th>
<th>Impact Factor</th>
<th>5-Year Impact Factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment and Behavior (Sage)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Environmental Psychology (Academic)</td>
<td>0.943</td>
<td>2.370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment &amp; Planning D: Society &amp; Space (Pion)</td>
<td>2.086</td>
<td>2.505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Ecology (Springer)</td>
<td>1.253</td>
<td>1.721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape and Urban Planning (Elsevier)</td>
<td>1.953</td>
<td>2.557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Studies (Sage)</td>
<td>1.381</td>
<td>1.467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Thomson Scientific calculates an impact factor for almost 10,000 leading international journals, where Impact = citations to articles published in this journal in the past two years / number of articles published by this journal in the same period. Many journals subjectively considered high quality have impact factors around 0.5. Some, as you can see have impact factors over 1.0.
2 The one-year and five-year impact factors change often; these figures were accurate to June 2009; best to check what they are prior to submission.
3 Other journals may be appropriate for ‘implications’ papers, that is, for papers that draw out implications from your research for a professional audience. This is appropriate especially if – after publishing in peer-reviewed scholarly journals – you wish to communicate with practitioners and to have the results of your research influence practice.
**B-List: Recommended**
There are some we consider on the “B” list – all good journals, but more specialised, lower impact factors and/or only publish a moderate amount of EBS related papers – but there are *many* more that could have been included in this category. Let your ‘fingers do the walking’ and find other journals that are relevant to your work:

- **Environment & Planning B: Planning & Design** (Pion) 0.879 1.352
- **Journal of Planning Literature** (Sage) 1.308 2.406
- **Journal of Urban Affairs** (Wiley) 1.271 1.348
- **Housing Studies** (Routledge) 0.609 1.089

**C-List: Not Recommended at the Present Time**
There are others of which you may be aware and may think are reputable that we consider at the present time to be on the “C” list – because they are very good journals on architectural or planning research but do not publish much on the social sciences of architecture and planning, because they are not in Thomson’s ISI or because of other limitations:

- **Architectural Research Quarterly** (Cambridge; refereed, excellent on architectural research in general, but not much on EBS in particular and not in Thomson’s ISI)
- **Architectural Science Review** (Earthscan; excellent journal, accepts some EBS-type articles, but not in Thomson’s ISI)
- **Design Studies: International Journal for Design Research** (Elsevier; refereed, excellent journal especially on design methods and computing, but very thin on EBS and not in Thomson’s ISI)
- **IAPS Bulletin** (International Association for People-Environment Studies; accepts full articles, but not refereed)
- **Journal of Architectural Education** (Blackwell; refereed, excellent on pedagogy, history and theory, in Thomson’s Arts & Humanities, but thin on EBS and no ISI impact factor)
- **Journal of Architecture and Planning Research** (Locke; refereed, low impact factor and history of very long turn-around times)
- **MERA Journal** (Man-Environment Research Association, Japan; refereed, in Japanese with English abstracts only)
- **Places: A Forum of Environmental Design** (MIT Press; in Thomson’s under Arts & Humanities, but no impact factor)
- **The Journal of Architecture** (RIBA/Routledge; refereed, good on architectural research in general, but thin on EBS and not in Thomson’s ISI)
- **Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review** (University of California, Berkeley; refereed, excellent reputation, but not in Thomson’s ISI)

If you have other journals that you would like to recommend, please send the above information on them to Professor Gary Moore at g.moore@usyd.edu.au.