

## Interview with Prof. Vinod Aggarwal, University of California at Berkeley, Editor of *Business and Politics*

Prof. Hoshino: I am speaking today with Professor Vinod Aggarwal, professor of political science at the University of California at Berkeley and Affiliated Professor at the Haas School of Business. Because you are also Editor-in-Chief of *Business and Politics*, I would like to know the editorial policy of the Journal and its history.

Prof. Aggarwal: I started *Business and Politics* in 1999. I thought there was a gap between people who were studying business and political issues and decided it was useful to focus on the relationship between government policy and business policy. So I started this journal in 1999 with Carfax publishers. We had about 30 editorial board members and our board members are professors from Business Schools, Economics, Political Science, and Law Schools. We also have Associate Editors who are specialists in different areas and who help manage the journal. And then we have an Assistant editor who works with me, who is a graduate student. We change part of our Editorial Board every three years. *Business and Politics* is published three times a year. In 2004 we switched to electronic publishing with Berkeley Electronic Press. The journal is now published electronically and we have about 400 libraries subscribing through the Berkeley Electronic Press.

Prof. Hoshino: Is Berkeley Electronic Press is a rather new company?

Prof. Aggarwal: Yes, it's about 7 years old.

Prof. Hoshino: How much is the subscription?

Prof. Aggarwal: It's 215 dollars per year for an academic subscription and \$645 for corporations.

Prof. Hoshino: Is there any price for an individual subscription?

Prof. Aggarwal: We don't really have many individual subscriptions, because our focus is on library subscriptions and individuals can get articles through their library. And for about \$7000 dollars you can get all the journals. So many libraries subscribe to this overall package.

Prof. Hoshino: We have a different way of doing this for our journal: Japanese Journal of Administrative Science. There is a government organ, named National Institute of Informatics by the Japanese government, which re-

ceive journals and put them into their database named GeNii\* available globally. We can ask them fee per page or make it free for users. We selected free per page and free for registration. They make PDF file free if we send them the journal itself. But the problem is that the papers in our journals are mainly published in Japanese language. Only some are in English, like the issue I gave you, but that's exceptional. Usually, many papers are written in Japanese. Maybe 1 out of 10, 10%. That's a big disadvantage of our journal in a sense.

Prof. Aggarwal: And the advantage here is that you can, for example, browse, and you can look at any issue, you can open any issue.

Prof. Hoshino: How many papers do you publish in your journal?

Prof. Aggarwal: We publish about 5 or 6 papers three times a year.

Prof. Hoshino: And your own paper, you can get it published even in your own journal?

Prof. Aggarwal: I only published there once. But everything is refereed.

Prof. Hoshino: How many referees do you usually have?

Prof. Aggarwal: Two and sometimes three. We use editorial board members plus outsiders. It's a blind review. It varies a lot how long it will take. Normally it would be two months. We put a lot of pressure on the editors to be quick. Sometimes it takes four months. But we try to do it quickly. And sometimes we reject the papers in-house. If they are not good we don't send them to the referees to save the referees time, so the editorial board members meet and hear what other people have to say if the paper is not good for this journal. Or if it is inappropriate for the journal, then we say you should publish it in some other journal. Sometimes we have papers that are not even business and politics, but some strange paper on some issue, so then we say no. So these are the associate editors who work with me.

Prof. Hoshino: And what is the acceptance ratio of the papers?

Prof. Aggarwal: About 15%.

Prof. Hoshino: Thank you for your time.

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\* GeNii is NII Scholarly and Academic Information Portal, which includes four databases CiNii (Search for papers, theses, etc), Webcat Plus (Search for books, magazines, etc), KAKEN (Search for research subjects) and NII-DBR (Search for specialized info). See <http://ge.nii.ac.jp/genii/jsp/index-e.jsp>

