

## EDITORIAL

### Intangible Capital: Four years of growth as an open-access scientific publication

**Pep Simo**

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
(Spain)

[pep.simo@intangiblecapital.org](mailto:pep.simo@intangiblecapital.org)

**Jose M. Sallan**

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
(Spain)

[jsallan@intangiblecapital.org](mailto:jsallan@intangiblecapital.org)

#### **Abstract:**

This issue opens the fourth volume of the Intangible Capital journal, which makes its way towards the fifth year of publication. As usually, we start this volume by evaluating the previous one and tracing new directions. Among the main contributions during the year 2007, we consider important to highlight the following aspects: the renewal of the scientific indexation agreements, the platform change to OJS, the appointment of a new editor, new members included in the editorial board, the board of reviewers, the change towards a bilingual model, the new financing obtained and, the last but not the least, the work undertaken together with many scientific editors of open access Spanish journals for obtaining the positive evaluation of the CNEAI (National Commission for the Evaluation of the Research Activity) and thus, being a proof of scientific excellence.

**Keywords:** Intangible Capital, editorial, future directions

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**Título:** Intangible Capital: Cuatro años creciendo como publicación de acceso abierto

**Resumen:**

Con este nuevo número, la revista Intangible Capital, inicia el cuarto volumen avanzando hacia el quinto año de publicación. Como ya es tradición en la revista, iniciamos este nuevo volumen evaluando el anterior y presentando las nuevas direcciones. Como principales aportaciones del 2007, se destacan hechos relevantes como la renovación de convenios para la indexación científica de la revista, el cambio de plataforma a OJS, la inclusión de un nuevo editor, la nueva composición del *editorial board*, el equipo de revisores, el cambio a un modelo bilingüe de revista, la nueva financiación obtenida y el trabajo que estamos realizando gran número de editores científicos de acceso abierto en España para el reconocimiento por parte de de la Comisión Nacional Evaluadora de la Actividad Investigadora.

**Palabras clave:** Intangible Capital, editorial, líneas futuras

**1. Introduction**

According to the annual tradition, we open this new volume with an editorial which is aimed at presenting the research lines undertaken during the year 2007 (volume 3) and the main research proposals for 2008 (volume 4), going firmly to the fifth year of publication.

In general terms, 2007 was a year marked by fundamental changes. These changes went beyond the initial proposals suggested at the beginning of the year (cf. Simo et al., 2006); however, we have always tried to remain faithful to the four pillars that have been developed since 2006 and have been producing visible results: quality, prestige, social responsibility and economic feasibility. Consequently, we believe we should continue working in this direction.

The aim of this editorial is twofold: first, to underline the changes produced during volume 3 and second, to briefly highlight the main objectives set for this new volume. We would mainly like to emphasize relevant facts, such as: the renewal of the scientific indexation agreements, the platform change to OJS, the appointment of a new editor, new members included in the editorial board, the board of reviewers, the change towards a bilingual model, the new financing obtained and,

the last but not the least, the work undertaken together with many scientific editors of open access Spanish journals for obtaining the positive evaluation of the CNEAI (National Commission for the Evaluation of the Research Activity) and thus, being a proof of scientific excellence.

## 2. Reviewing volume 3

It is difficult to establish an order of importance of the changes produced during 2007. Nevertheless, we consider important to emphasize the most visible ones, namely the change in format and appearance. In order to avoid conferring more importance to an aspect than to another, we divided the most significant changes into the following sections: quality, prestige, economic feasibility and international diffusion.

### Quality

As we announced at the moment (cf. Simo et al., 2007), Intangible Capital assumed a stricter policy concerning research contributions and results, without eluding the constructiveness of the review process. This merit is attributed to the PhDs that form our board or reviewers (see table 1) and the new editorial board (see table 2).

Reviewer	Affiliation
Francisco Aliaga	Universidad de Valencia (Spain)
Marc Bonnet	Université Jean Moulin Lyon-3 / ISEOR (France)
Francisco Javier Carrillo	Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)
Rafael Juan Castañeda	Universidad de Sevilla (Spain)
Joaquin Luis Coimbra	Universidade do Porto (Portugal)
Ramon Companys	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
Albert Corominas	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
Manuel Espitia	Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain)
Miguel A. Fajardo	Universidad de Extremadura (Spain)
Vicenç Fernandez	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
Mercedes Garcia-Parra	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
Susana Iglesias	Universidad de A Coruña (Spain)
Ana Isabel Jimenez	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain)
Josep Maria Jorda	Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)
Raquel Lorenzo	GECYT (Cuba)
Cecilio Mar Molinero	Kent University (United Kingdom)
Juan A. Marin-Garcia	Universidad de Valencia (Spain)
Pablo Martin de Holan	IE Business School / INCAE (Spain)
Joan Mundet	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
Claudia Perlo	IRICE-CONICET (Argentina)
Juan Carlos Ramon-Solans	Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain)
Imma Rivas	Universidad Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
María Eloisa Gurruchaga	Instituto Tecnológico de Orizaba (Mexico)
Henri Savall	Université Jean Moulin Lyon-3 / ISEOR (France)
Albert Sunyer	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
Veronique Zardet	Université Jean Moulin Lyon-3 / ISEOR (France)

Table 1. Board of reviewers - 2007 (volume 3). Source: Intangible Capital

On the other hand, the systematization provided by the new OJS platform – that was introduced by mid-year (Sallan, 2007) - enabled a higher rigour and control in the peer review process. The appointment of J.M. Sallan as an editor of the journal enabled the diversification and specialisation of those tasks. Finally, the rules of publication were improved and template formats were created for homogenising the documents.

<b>Editorial Board</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Francisco Aliaga	Universidad de Valencia (Spain)
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Francisco Javier Carrillo	Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)
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Albert Corominas	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
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Cecilio Mar Molinero	Kent University (United Kingdom)
Pablo Martin de Holan	IE Business School / INCAE (Spain)
Joan Mundet	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain)
Henri Savall	Université Jean Moulin Lyon-3 / ISEOR (France)
Veronique Zardet	Université Jean Moulin Lyon-3 / ISEOR (France)

Table 2. Editorial Board. Source: Intangible Capital

## **Prestige**

The prestige of a journal is closely related to the quality of the published articles, and there is no doubt that the advancement in this direction should be judged and assessed by the scientific community. As far as we are concerned, we put all our efforts into a substantial increase in the number of scientific databases that now include our journal, out of the rigour of the editing and the evaluation process.

In that sense, it is important to underline the fact that there are large periods of time between the moment of requesting the evaluation until the communication of the results. We are now involved in various evaluation processes and we hope to be able to communicate the results soon. Moreover, the agreements with Redalyc (<http://redalyc.uaemex.mx>) have been renewed. This determined a substantial improvement in the accessibility of the data bases, by offering interesting statistical information regarding the papers. We believe that Redalyc will gradually become a reference database in Latin America.

On the other hand, more than fifty editors of Spanish open-access scientific journals (<http://www.erevistas.csic.es/portal/>) have written a letter addressed to the CNAI ([http://www.cafyd.com/carta\\_CNEAI-v74.pdf](http://www.cafyd.com/carta_CNEAI-v74.pdf)), requesting the recognition of the research activity of those who submit their papers to journals that are

already evaluated within the e-journals project. In that sense, it is worth mentioning that Intangible capital is a member of the e-journals project.

Although this letter has emphasized the contradictions occurred in the Spanish case, we are aware that this is a common problem in many countries that negatively affects the evaluation of their scientific productivity. Beyond the own interest of the editors, we believe that this is an issue of general interest for all researchers. For this reason and apart from the pressure we could exert, we strongly encourage our readers and authors to spread the content of the letter and to do all their best for improving the scientific evaluation systems, which are often contradictory.

### **Economic feasibility**

One of the main problems of open access journals is ensuring the economic feasibility. At the beginning of the last year, we revealed our preoccupation concerning this issue. Therefore, BlogIC was created as an initial measure, transcending pure economic concern. In spite of the fact that a year after its creation it can be noticed that this initiative had little success, we still believe it worth maintaining it, as it improves the positioning and the visibility of the published papers.

Finally, we would like to highlight the subvention provided by the Department of Management of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC - <http://www.upc.edu/>), which has become the main financing source of the journal. This subvention assures the feasibility and stability of our journal.

### **International diffusion**

The main activity undertaken during the last year for promoting the international diffusion was the openness of our journal to the whole scientific community and to a large number of readers, by converting Intangible Capital into a bilingual journal that publishes articles in English and / or Spanish. Besides the inclusion of the journal into scientific databases for assuring the visibility within the scientific community, we have been maintaining a PageRank Google of 6/10 that assures a good positioning in the network.

With concern to the accesses and the visited pages, we can find similar results as in 2006 (see Figure 2), albeit a slight decrease produced in the last issues, which

was due to the platform change and to the provisional shortage of the journal links. During the last months of the year, we gradually updated all broken links of the distinct platforms in which the journal appears.

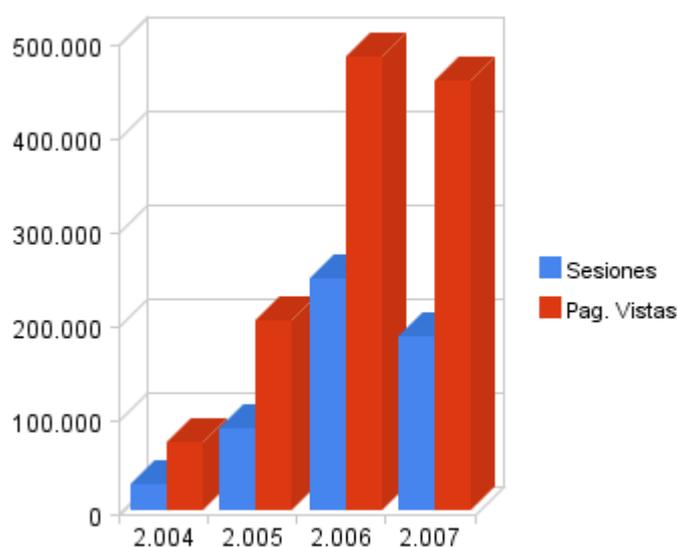


Figure 1. "Sessions and visited pages". Source: Intangible Capital

### 3. Conclusions and directions for 2008

Taking a global view upon the whole year 2007, we can conclude asserting that it was a year marked by intense work that substantially contributed in improving the publication process. Volume 4 begins with the same impetus and, in spite of the fact that we expect fewer changes; we will keep working for improving the international visibility, the prestige and the quality of our journal. Our work will be focussed on expanding the editorial board and on following external evaluation processes with the aim of indexing the journal in internationally-valued scientific indicators. In this way, we hope to increase the journal diffusion within the scientific community, in order to receive and publish a higher number of quality papers in each issue.

We also have every intention of publishing statistical data related to the journal, such as: number of papers received, acceptance and/or rejection means. These data could not be published so far due to the platform change and to the lack of compatibility between the old and the new data base.

The first editorial of 2007 ended wishing for next year to exceed the expectations related to the desired outcomes. Looking retrospectively and objectively, it can be asserted that this wish came true. For this reason, we would like to thank everybody who feels alluded to when reading these lines. We are convinced that we will soon collect the fruits of our labour.

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