

Editorial

Andreas F. Thoss*

Making steady progress

<https://doi.org/10.1515/aot-2018-0046>

Applied Optical Technology (AOT) was founded in 2012 as a platform for the publication of latest advancements in applied optical technologies. We intended to bring together academic researchers and industrial developers. The exchange of knowledge between industry and academia and between different fields of research has been a pivotal aim of this journal. This has been done for 7 years now and *AOT* has been gaining more and more attention which is measured in citations.

According to Scopus, a bibliometric service provided by Elsevier, *AOT* reached a CiteScore of 1.31 in 2017. The CiteScore measures average citations received per document published in their metric, as they explain their tool.

How does that compare to other journals in the field? The *Review of Scientific Instruments* ranks at about the same (1.32), whereas *Applied Optics* (1.84) and *Optical Engineering* (1.12) do a little better and a little worse, respectively. Of course, they publish much more content. The smaller numbers of publications make *AOT* more vulnerable to the success or failure of single papers. But so far, the average citation numbers for *AOT* publications have steadily grown and it looks as if *AOT* has arrived in the community.

1 Open Access

One question that comes to my desk every year is the question of Open Access. Would it be helpful for the visibility of *AOT* publications to make all papers available for free reading? It would certainly drive usage, we have seen this with free articles in *AOT* and with other Open Access journals. But it requires payments by the authors to cover regular editorial costs. For *AOT* these article processing charges are currently set to 2000 Euro by our publishing partner De Gruyter.

Looking back at the past 2 years it is obvious that some academic authors have funds to cover these costs and use these funds to buy the Hybrid Open Access that

*Corresponding author: Andreas F. Thoss, THOSS Media GmbH, Berlin, Germany, e-mail: athoss@web.de

De Gruyter offers. Their articles are not only free to read but are published with a full CC BY NC ND license. But until now, most authors from industry do not have regular funds for publication. And hence, *AOT* has to stay as a subscription-based journal.

2 A few words about editorial quality

Peer review (PR) is a cornerstone of editorial quality management. For those who are not familiar with this procedure: Every scientific paper that is submitted to *AOT* goes first to an editor. If the paper matches the scopes of the journal and if it is written in an appropriate language, the editor does a similarity check (to exclude plagiarism) and finally, starts the peer review process. For this process at least two independent experts are invited to deliver a detailed comment on different aspects of the paper. Usually, the author will not hear about who these experts are (single-blind PR). After both experts have concluded their comments an editor will make a decision and send the verdict to the corresponding author.

Just a few weeks ago, German journalists uncovered a number of predatory publishers who were not conducting serious peer review [1]. And the problem is huge: They discovered that more than 5000 German scientists have published in predatory journals in recent years. It should be noticed here that *AOT* follows a strict peer review process and adheres to best practice in scientific publishing.

3 Welcome to Associate Editor Allen Yi

The editorial team of *AOT* has been strengthened by the addition of Allen Yi. Allen is Professor for Integrated Systems Engineering at Ohio State University. He received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Boston University in 1993. He subsequently joined Corning Precision Lens as a staff scientist. In 2002, Professor Yi joined Ohio State University.

His research activities have been in the general area of precision engineering with a focus on high volume optical fabrication, freeform and microoptics fabrication

as well as micromachining processes for medical and biomedical device fabrication. Professor Yi's current research interests include compression molding of glass optics and injection molding of high precision polymer optics.

He has acted as author, reviewer and as guest editor for *AOT* and now he is very warmly welcomed as Associate Editor to our editorial team.

Andreas Thoß

Publisher

Advanced Optical Technologies

References

- [1] "Tausende Forscher publizieren in Pseudo-Journalen" Till Krause, Katrin Langhans, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* 19.7.2018, www.sueddeutsche.de/wissen/wissenschaft-tausende-forscher-publizieren-in-pseudo-journalen-1.4061005.



Andreas F. Thoss

THOSS Media GmbH, Berlin, Germany

athoss@web.de

Andreas Thoss studied Physics and received his diploma and PhD degrees from the Free University Berlin in 1995 and 2003, respectively. For both degrees, he did research at the Max-Born-Institute Berlin on the field of ultra-short and ultra-intense laser pulses. From 1996 to 1999, he worked as a development engineer for medical laser systems with Aesculap-Meditec (now ZEISS Meditec) in Jena. In 2003 he joined the international publishing house John Wiley & Sons. There, he gathered comprehensive experience as a publisher, editor and commissioning editor in the areas of book, journal and online publishing. Among others, he co-founded the journals *Laser & Photonics Reviews* (2007) and the *Journal of Biophotonics* (2008). Since its foundation in 2010 he has managed THOSS Media, where he co-founded *Advanced Optical Technologies*.