



J-Reading has been awarded “Class A” by ANVUR

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It gives me great pleasure to write the editorial for this number of the Journal, and all the more so because this May ANVUR (Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca/National Agency for the Evaluation of the University System and Academic Research) ranked J-Reading among class A journals. This is highest class category foreseen in Italy for sectors like that of geography which are not considered bibliometric.

ANVUR is a public body of the Italian Republic, monitored by The Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR), which is responsible for the evaluation of university activities in Italy, among which the quality of research findings and scientific journals. In the Agency’s description, class A periodicals “are those with ISSN, recognised as excellent at international level owing to the thoroughness of the proofreading procedures and the diffusion, esteem and impact in the scholarly communities of that sector, also shown by the presence of the journals in national and international databases”.

This important recognition is due to the fact that J-Reading meets all the parameters that a scientific journal must have, but it is above all the result of the firm conviction of the value of the dissemination of research, which is an

indispensable prerequisite for being put to the test of scientific rebuttal. It is worthwhile mentioning some of the reasons put forward by the ANVUR experts in support of its awarding a class A to J-Reading:

“J-Reading has earned a solid reputation:

- for the importance of the contributions by distinguished Italian and foreign scholars;
- because it is the only geographical periodical in Italy exclusively in English and with a dual modality: online, with free access, and a printed version on demand;
- because it promotes analysis, interpretations and proposals aimed at valorising the relationship between research and didactics in geography, dealing with a number of features, whereby it follows the most recent debates in today’s context of the subject of geography;
- for the quality of the Scientific Committee and the Review Committee, made up of internationally renown Italian and foreign experts;
- for the thorough peer reviewing procedure, guaranteed by the number and authoritativeness of the referees and the meticulous anonymity of the readers and

authors (double-blind), language refereeing included”.

However, the greatest merit attributed to the journal is represented by the achievement of this recognition just a few years from its creation, as highlighted by ANVUR in its assessment.

In fact it was certainly not at all expected that J-Reading would have achieved such recognition in such a short time following its first issue.

This excellent result has been possible thanks to the high quality of the Scientific Committee and Review Committee and to the number of people who believed in this editorial project, starting from the two foreign associate editors Joseph Stoltman of the Western Michigan University and Sirpa Tani of the University of Helsinki and the two Italians, Cristiano Giorda of the University of Turin and Cristiano Pesaresi, who, working at the same university as myself, the Università Sapienza of Rome, takes care of the contacts with abroad and the international circulation of communications and is strongly involved in the editing and proofreading activities of the numerous contributions.

This success is also thanks to the many persons working in different ambits in one way or another: from the Members of the Scientific Committee, Editorial Board and the Review Committee to all the authors of the contributions published in these years. I think that the importance of group work must be stressed, since the responsibility for choosing and selecting the contributions to be published on the basis of their scientific and methodological precision can be best expressed if it can avail of the valuable backing of the members of the scientific community.

A further added value is also given by ESRI and ESA (European Space Agency), which took up the idea of backing this initiative from the very start.

We are fully aware of J-Reading's main function: to bring the published contributions to the attention of the widest spectrum of experts and researchers possible, as the selection made by the journal cannot (and must not) replace the judgement of the scientific community. In this sense ANVUR's recognition represents the opinion of the Italian scientific community with

respect to the capacity that J-Reading has so far demonstrated in carrying out this function to the best of its ability.

Nor must we forget the objective of presenting each single article in the best possible editorial format, in terms of graphics, clarity and accessibility. The journal makes use of Open Journal Systems (OJS) for this, an open source software that guarantees a thorough process from the submitting of the article to its online publication, thus promoting its wide web visibility with wide-ranging circulation. Moreover, on the AIIG website (<http://aiig.it/j-reading/>) the entire compacted numbers are published one by one, in browsable format, so as to allow the consultation of the assembled issues.

We are also fully aware that it is necessary to make further progress, also on the strength of the international dimension that the journal has set out to represent from its birth and which is part of its mission. A confirmation of the validity of its work is made indispensable also at international level: for this reason J-Reading has begun the procedure to obtain indexing in the Scopus database, which is one of the biggest and most prestigious reference databases for peer-reviewed periodicals and would give further prestige to J-Reading, enabling it to be included in an even wider circuit of international consultations and citations.

Our hope therefore is to reach a position on the international stage at the highest levels, continuing to work in the light of the network of exchanges and collaboration, fostering synergies on different subjects-issues and topics of discussion and the interpretative analysis of common elements and phenomena, along with the support of various geotechnologies in research, didactics and their fruitful integration, which were given scope right from the word go. At the same time there is a strong commitment to establishing increasingly interdisciplinary relationships, which are already under way as shown by the different contributions in the numbers of the journal published to date, in order to start a series of scientifically rigorous and multi-faceted initiatives and to meet the needs expressed by the big international projects requiring multiple ideas advanced by the complementary sectors of research.