The scope

There are many mathematical journals out there, some think perhaps too many. New journals are born almost every month. Only two things may ensure that a journal is well-accepted in the mathematical community: its quality and its scope. Although quality is the "sine qua non" in this respect, it is the scope that determines the readership of a journal. These days, the term readership of a mathematical journal is somewhat misleading. We are experiencing a paradoxical situation in which the number of published articles in mathematics is growing constantly, yet mathematicians do not even browse the journals where these articles are published let alone read them. Some follow only certain journals from a relatively small list. With internet tools, the whole electronic space is becoming a virtual journal where one can search for recent papers of interest.

When we started Ars Mathematica Contemporanea, we wanted to cover as much mathematics as possible, primarily from a discrete mathematics viewpoint. In the course of the first two years, we have published 40 papers in AMC. According to MathSciNet, papers in the first two volumes covered 24 MSC primary classes, under codes 05 (Combinatorics), 06 (Ordered structures), 20 (Group theory), 51 and 52 (Geometry), 57 (Manifolds and cell complexes) and 68 (Computer science). Almost three quarters of these were in 05 (Combinatorics), predominantly in 05C10, 05C50, 05C25, 05C12 and 52C30. On one hand, these figures show the leading role played by combinatorics (and graph theory in particular) in this journal. On the other hand, they also show that our main objective of linking discrete mathematics with other fields has been achieved too – notably with algebra (both linear algebra and group theory), topology (through topological graph theory and metric graph theory) and geometry. Although we intend to keep our focus in discrete mathematics, we do hope that in the long run the proportion of papers with primary classification other than 05 will increase to over 50 percent.

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