



April 2016

Open Access Journals as Global *Agoras*

Dear IJAHP Reader:

The ancient Greeks used to congregate in the *agora*, a central open space or square in their city states, to listen to statements from the council or military bosses or to simply discuss politics as needed. The *agora* was the center for discussions by the free thinkers in the city. Our global knowledge society does not have this physical open space, but the web and in particular open access journals, fill this need for a central conversational cyberspace where scholars, interested in similar topics, can exchange ideas through their essays and research studies.

Why is this relevant to our journal? When a potential author submits a paper to a journal, s/he is joining a conversation in this modern *agora*; therefore, it is expected that this author will be familiar with what is being discussed and the different ideas and arguments surrounding the topic. There is nothing more frustrating for a journal editor than to realize that a potential author is not aware of the ongoing conversation about the chosen topic in the current journal. The effect is similar to someone interrupting a conversation to say something that was already said a few minutes ago. There have been several discussions concerning the ethics of requesting potential authors to cite papers from the same journal. At *IJAHP*, we do not condone this approach. However, we do expect potential authors to be familiar with the ongoing *IJAHP* conversation about the topic of choice as this shows their suitability to join our specific *agora* to discuss the particular selected topic.

Thanks for your support and enjoy this issue!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Enrique Mu". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Enrique Mu, PhD
IJAHP
Editor-in-chief