

My experience in QÜESTIIÓ and SORT*

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1 Short recent history

The remote origins of *Qüestiió* could begin in 1950 when Sixto Rios (1913-2008) founded the journal *Trabajos de Estadística*, called *Trabajos de Estadística y de Investigación Operativa* after 1967. This journal, edited by the CSIC (Madrid), published many original papers on statistics and operations research. After 1992, it was divided into two prestigious journals: *TEST* and *TOP*, edited by SEIO.

Probably influenced by the presence of *Trabajos de Estadística*, in 1960 Joaquim Torrens-Ibern (1908-1975) founded in the Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros Industriales (Barcelona), the journal *Cuadernos de Estadística Aplicada e Investigación Operativa*. This journal mainly published applications and translations of interesting international papers. The last volume appeared in 1972.

In 1977 Xavier Berenguer and other professors of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, founded in Barcelona the journal *Quaderns d'Estadística, Sistemes, Informàtica i Investigació Operativa, Qüestiió*. In 1992 the name was simplified to *Quaderns d'Estadística i Investigació Operativa*, but preserving the acronym *Qüestiió*. Without solution of continuity, the name *Qüestiió* changed to *SORT*, as it is explained below.

My work in *Qüestiió/SORT* started in 1991, but my collaboration began two years before, when the editor was Josep M. Oller. I firstly was Executive Editor and, since 2003, Editor-in-chief of *SORT*. My task finished in 2006. Thus I worked for *Qüestiió/SORT* during twenty years, the largest period serving both journals. With the assistance of Maria Cinta Pallejà, I managed about 500 (accepted/rejected) papers, including teaching papers and problems.

In August 2001 a group of professors (Cuadras, Gomez, Greeancre, Puig, Utzet), see the picture below, had an informal meeting in Tossa de Mar (Spain). We decided to internazionalize the journal and change the complicated name *Qüestiió* to a shorter one. After some discussion along several months, we chose *Statistics and Operations Research Transactions, SORT*.

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Figure 1: Puig, Greenacre, Gomez's housband, Gomez, Cuadras' wife, Cuadras, Utzet, Utzet's wife and Puig's wife, in Tossa de Mar (Spain).

2 Director and editors

The editorial board of *Qüestió* increased in efficiency along 1989-2002. We created the Executive Editors, who had the power of taking decisions on submitted manuscripts. The staff was consolidated in 2003 with *SORT*. The names and positions are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Director and staff of Qüestió and SORT.

<i>Qüestió</i>	Director	Executive Director	Executive Editors
1989-1995	E. Bonet	—	—
1996-2000	E. Bonet	—	C. M. Cuadras, E. Ripoll
2001	E. Bonet	C. M. Cuadras	T. Aluja, F. R. Fernández, G. Gómez, E. Ripoll
2002	E. Bonet	C. M. Cuadras	F. R. Fernández, G. Gómez, M. Greenacre, E. Ripoll
<i>SORT</i>	Editor-in-chief	Executive Editors	Production Editor
2003-2006	C. M. Cuadras	J. del Castillo, G. Gómez, F. J. Heredia, E. Ripoll	M. Greenacre

3 Distribution of papers

Qüestió/SORT published 296 original papers, each paper reviewed by two referees. In 1995 we published one invited paper. In 1996 we incorporated the sections of Biometry and Official Statistics. In Table 2 we report the number of original papers, the number of teaching papers, the distribution in statistics and operational research, and the problems proposed. Thus in 1994 *Qüestió* published 21 original papers, 18 on statistics and 3 on operations research, as well as 1 teaching paper and 6 problems.

Table 2: Distribution of papers in Qüestió/SORT.

<i>Qüestió</i>	Vol.	Papers	Teach.	Stat/OR	Probl.	Content
1989	13	12	0	7/5	30-33	
1990	14	10	3	5/5	34-36	
1991	15	15	3	8/7	37-41	
1992	16	9	1	6/3	42-46	
1993	17	18	2	14/4	47-50	
1994	18	21	1	18/3	51-56	
1995	19	13	1	11/2	—	One invited paper
1996	20	26	2	23/3	57-63	Biometry, Off. Stat.
1997	21	16	2	16/3	64-67	Abstracts 1987-1997
1998	22	23	0	19/4	68-73	
1999	23	22	1	19/3	74-83	
2000	24	21	0	18/3	84-87	
2001	25	21	0	18/3	88-91	
2002	26	20	3	17/3	92-98	Research groups
<i>SORT</i>						
2003	27	12	—	10/2	—	
2004	28	14	—	13/1	—	
2005	29	14	—	12/2	—	One invited paper
2006	30	9	—	9/0	—	Two invited papers
Total		296	19	240/56	69	

4 Most cited papers

Table 3 reports a partial list (possibly some outstanding authors are missing) of the most cited papers in *Qüestió*, according to Google Scholar. This source is rather inaccurate, but may give an approximation of the impact of each paper. For comparison, we also

include the maximum times cited by a paper of the same (first) author, according to the Web of Science, and the so-called h-index.

Let us recall that a researcher has index h if h of k papers have at least h citations each, and the other $(k - h)$ papers have at most h citations each. For example, the number of citations of the ten most cited papers published by C.M. Cuadras and appearing in the Web of Science, is: 31-29-19-16-14-13-11-10-9-7. Clearly, $h = 9$.

The relation between citations in *Qüestió* and these two indicators is rather weak. In general, the research impact of the authors of *Qüestió* follows independent ways.

The three most cited papers are:

1. C.R. Rao: A review of canonical coordinates and an alternative to correspondence analysis using Hellinger distance *Qüestió*, 19, 23-63, 1995.
2. M.P. Galindo Villardón: Una alternativa de representación simultánea: HJ-Biplot. *Qüestió*, 10, 13-23, 1986.
3. J.M. Mateo-Sanz, J. Domingo-Ferrer: A comparative study of microaggregation methods. *Qüestió*, 22, 511-526, 1998.

Table 3: Most cited papers in *Qüestió* and the Web of Science.

Author	<i>Qüestió</i>	Web of Science	h-index
C. R. Rao	39	322	31
M. P. Galindo	21	18	5
J. M. Mateo-Sanz	13	67	6
E. Benavent	12	72	9
W. Kruskal	7	100	11
M. Clar	7	2	2
J. M. Bernardo	6	273	9
J. M. Oller	6	38	6
D. R. Cox	5	24143	72
H. Neudecker	5	152	11
G. Gomez	5	41	8
D. Defays	5	41	4
M. J. Bayarri	5	76	6
J. Castro	5	28	3
N. Nabona	5	27	5
J. A. Pacheco	5	4	2
A. Montanari	5	4	2
L. Escudero	4	38	8
C. M. Cuadras	4	31	9

5 Anecdotes

My long activity in *Questiío/SORT* gave place to some anecdotes, not all pleasant. However the task has been quite interesting. Some anecdotes are:

- I had been the supervisor scholarship of X. Berenguer, one of the founders of *Questiío*.
- In order to publish a teaching paper by an influent author, we created in 1986 the Section of Problems and Teaching Papers.
- One author submitted a manuscript, but the results could be found in a paper published in 1957.
- Two authors submitted a manuscript, but exactly the same results had been obtained in 1960.
- One author submitted the first version of one manuscript with acknowledgements to the reviewers.
- Several times we received manuscripts which were submitted simultaneously in other journals. We were aware of this double submission after the complaints of the reviewers.
- One paper was published before completing the period of reviewing. It has no date of acceptance.
- One submitted manuscript was sent to a reviewer who wrote a report longer than the manuscript.
- Several problems published in *Questiío* had more quality than some submitted papers.
- We rejected a manuscript because a proof of a result was incomplete. The author answered that if he was able to get the complete proof, then he could not submit again the manuscript to *Questiío*.
- I was asked to be editor of *TEST*. I declined as I was editor of *Questiío*.

6 Impact factor

All the efforts in keeping an acceptable quality in *Questiío/SORT* had a reward. *SORT* has an unofficial 2009 Impact Factor of 0.167. When this index will be official, we expected to receive many interesting manuscripts for publication in *SORT*.

References

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- Cuadras, C. M. (2006) La Estadística, un instrumento para el progreso de la sociedad. *Boletín de la SEIO*, 22 (1), 29-38.