

Prestige and impact Archives of Budo for scientific research of the martial arts

Authors' Contribution:

- A** Study Design
- B** Data Collection
- C** Statistical Analysis
- D** Manuscript Preparation
- E** Funds Collection

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Source of support: Departmental sources

Received: 15 March 2010; **Accepted:** 23 March 2010; **Published online:** 31 March 2010

Abstract

Archives of Budo after nearly five years since the first article appeared (2005) has been included for coverage in the Thomson Reuters – Science Citation Index Expanded focus on: Sports Science & Medicine. The unique value *Archives of Budo* (mainly depends on the fact that annually the journal accumulates at the most scientific articles of martial arts) proves that despite the large number of downloads of individual articles, there are few citations of these papers recorded by the Journal Citation Report. The fact that in any other journal of Sports Science & Medicine evaluated by Thomson Reuters in which appears annually as many publications on the martial arts as at *Archives of Budo* is proof that only a few scientists engaged in this issue. The term “budo” in the title of the journal is used in a broad sense, because it is addressed to “the global reader”. We mean well-educated people from different parts of the world who read scientific publications. Probably many, if not most, associate “budo” with the specific martial arts regardless of the origin (i.e. with the Japanese *judo*, Chinese *kunk fu*, Korean *taekwondo*, Brazilian *capoeira*, the Israeli *kravmaga* etc). Anyone who deals with *budō* in the strict meaning (combined with tradition and culture of Japan) we encourage to study book *Budō: The Martial Ways of Japan*.

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Impact Factor – irrespective of the limitations emphasized in numerous publications – is a major, widely accepted criterion for quality evaluation of scientific journals. Established by Science Citation Index Expanded evaluation criteria of a scientific journal are for the editor-in-chiefs and editorial boards the basic recommendations which should be respected to meet suitable journal standards (scientific and editorial). In effect – journal which complies with the standards and other formal requirements can be included by Thomson Reuters in the system of the evaluation [1–3]. *Archives of Budo*, what we are proud to announce at website, after nearly five years since the first article appeared (2005) has been included for coverage in the Thomson Reuters – Science Citation Index Expanded focus on: Sports Science & Medicine.

This achievement we mainly ascribe to the authors of publications, which appeared since 2005 in the *Archives of Budo*. In a manner of speaking, psychological barrier has been broken, which associate the phenomenon of martial arts, mainly with the popularity of these forms

of exercises among youths, as well as an attractive good of electronic media and cinema. Although experts may not be surprising that for many years the issue of martial arts (self-defense, combat sports, etc.) is an area of exploration of many detailed sciences (anthropology, biomechanics, physiology, psychology, sociology, etc.) and is the subject of interdisciplinary researches. However, monitoring of download statistics available for each article let us observe that all papers arouse permanent interest (furthermore, detailed statistics – available for publisher – proves that topic of scientific papers interest readers from all continents). Hitherto the most studied article [4] downloaded 3,009 times, until 30 March 2010 (30 August 2009 was 2,154 downloads).

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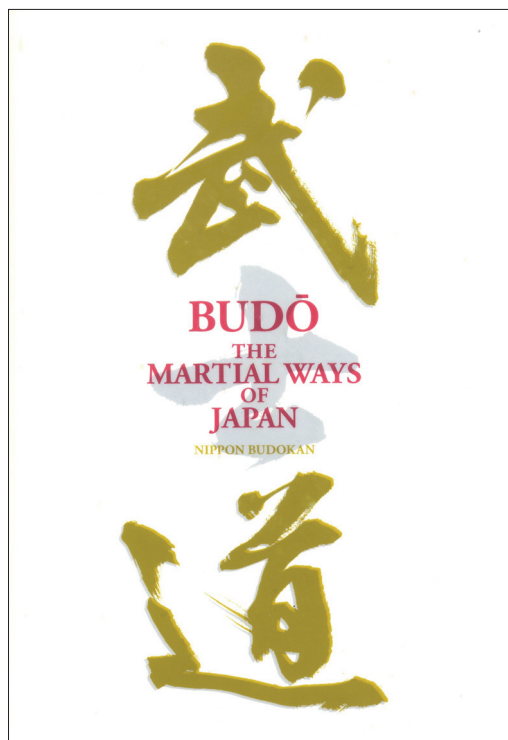
Thomson Reuters in which appears annually as many publications on the martial arts as in *Archives of Budo* is a proof that only a few scientists engaged in this subject. On the one hand we are satisfied that the authors prefer to publish their scientific papers at the journal specializing in the unique problems of martial arts, instead of publishing them in a journal with high impact factor. On the other hand it is clear that the development of Impact Factor for narrowly specialized journals is very difficult – we discussed this issue further in the *Journal of Human Kinetics* [5]. In a comfortable situation are scientists dealing with many biomedical fields (i.e. genetics, pharmacology, neurophysiology, etc.), since there are many professional journals in which scientists cite each other.

We are in opinion that there is no better or worst science, the science is one. In competently professing science cannot be a place neither to the pride, nor to complexes. Having the appropriate distance to own research achievements and other scientist, and the attitude of humility toward the immensity of issues worthy of careful scientific analysis, we believe that well-founded scientific statements generated by researchers of martial arts will have an increasing impact on the scientific perception of reality. Moreover, will surprised applications in the most distant scientific specialties and in many areas of practice. However, it is easy for inconsiderate interpretations. For example, citing article from the American dental journal [6] written by Zbigniew Borysiuk [7] referring to fencing researches does not automatically associate these results with the practice of dentistry. Borysiuk evaluated reaction and movement time with tactile, acoustic, and visual stimuli in advanced and novice fencers. Garner and Miskimin based on this data show that a mouthpiece improves exercise outcomes. The study's goal was to further elucidate the possible benefits of wearing a mouthpiece in regard to athletic performance, specifically improved reaction time.

Modest fifth anniversary of *Archives of Budo* is a good occasion to emphasize that the term “budo” in the title of the journal is used in a broad sense, because it is addressed to “the global reader”. We mean well-educated people from different parts of the world who read scientific publications. Probably many, if not most, associate “budo” with the specific martial arts regardless of the origin (i.e. with the Japanese *judo*, Chinese *kung fu*, Korean *taekwondo*, Brazilian *capoeira*, the Israeli *kravmaga* etc). Another story is when the “global reader” immerse in the content of articles published in *Archives of Budo*, perhaps see a fundamental difference between the perception of martial arts training (especially sport forms) and the actual value for the development of physical,

moral and social rights, for development and maintenance of somatic and mental health. Probably associate that these effects are possible only through competent training under direction of a true Master, whose attributes are unchanged for hundreds of years – the knowledge, honesty, sensitivity, kindness, wisdom, but also motor skills specific to the martial art [8]. Paradoxically motor skills are the factor, which in some sense directly authenticates the modern Master, despite of the fact that education today is the primary criterion.

The dilemma is much deeper and concerns the concept *budō* in strict meaning, which is combined with tradition and culture of Japan. Professor Yōrō Takeshi, as one of the introduction editors of the excellent book *Budō: The Martial Ways of Japan* [9], says: “*Budō* embodies the physical techniques that developed in the traditional Japanese cultural paradigm. Most people accept that the *budō* arose from the experiences of mortal combat by *bushi* warriors, but I do not believe the process was as simple as this summation suggests” [9, p. 9].



Anyone who deals with *budō* in the strict meaning we encourage to deeper study of *Budō: The Martial Ways of Japan*. The book contains *Glossary of Budō Terms* (p. 312–327), which we acknowledge as official Japanese terminology, which will use authors of articles published in the *Archives of Budo*.

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