

Update on the *Journal of Extension* from the Editorial Committee
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Editorial Committee chair, on behalf of the Editorial Committee

In an [editorial](#) in the December 2020 issue of the journal, we announced a move to Clemson University Press and a new editorial model for the *Journal of Extension* journal. By now you have likely noticed that the journal has a new look. The website features a redesigned look that is carried forward on the article templates. There are several other changes that may not be as obvious but bear mentioning. Some of the changes were in the works before our publishing home moved, but they happened concurrently with the move to Clemson University Press. Others were made possible because of the move. All in all, 2021 has brought changes to the *Journal of Extension*.

- **Editors:** Drew Griffin, the new production editor, is based at Clemson University. Nine associate editors, all of whom are content specialists, were brought on to distribute the tasks of the review process.
- **Style guidelines:** With the release of the 7th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (the APA manual) at the end of 2020, *JOE's* style guidelines were reviewed and brought in line with current APA standards. A few journal-specific style guidelines remain.
- **Peer review:** All peer reviewed manuscripts are now reviewed by two peer reviewers. This is one fewer for Feature Article submissions and one more for Ideas at Work submissions. The process for Research in Brief submissions is unchanged. Tools of the Trade and Commentary remain as editor-reviewed categories, but they are now reviewed by one of the associate editors.
- **Templates:** We now have new manuscript templates that are more consistent with those used in related journals. Articles now have a cover page when downloading as a pdf.
- **Number of issues:** There are now four versus six issues per year.
- **Publish-to-print model:** Although the journal will be published four times per year, the articles will appear on the website as they are finalized rather waiting for the full issue to be completed. Ultimately, this change reduces time to publication. Because of this change, no page numbers will be assigned for articles.
- **Creative Commons Licensing:** The journal now uses Creative Commons Licensing (CCL) instead of authors assigning copyright to the journal.
 - The statement “This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 4.0 License” appears on the cover page of the article.
 - This license allows others to share freely, translate, remix, adapt, and build upon materials published in *JOE* on a non-commercial basis, provided that credit is given to the article's author and to *JOE* and that any derivative works are licensed under identical terms. Authors whose work is accepted for publication in *JOE* are required to grant permission to Clemson University Press and to EJI to publish the article under those terms.
 - CCL applies to Volume 59 and forward. *JOE* still holds the copyright to articles previously published before Volume 59.
- **DOIs:** Starting with Volume 59 (2021), articles are now assigned a DOI (digital object identifier). A DOI is a string of numbers, letters, and symbols used to permanently identify an article or document and link to it on the web. A DOI helps a reader easily locate a document from your

citation and serves to link your article to those you've referenced, which significantly increases discoverability and impact. This change will eventually apply to back volumes. **Authors:** Once authors create an account on the website, they are able to do the following:

- Submit manuscripts directly from the website.
- Track a manuscript's progress through the review process.
- Obtain article metrics after publication (e.g., number of downloads, download locations).

Advantages: There are additional advantages to being housed at a university press. There are other staff members who have been and will continue to support the journal behind the scenes, such as in web development, marketing, and promotion. Another advantage is that expenses were reduced, thus making the journal able to balance the budget.

Challenges: As a result of the transition the journal is experiencing several challenges. Thank you for your patience as we strive to continue to uphold the standards of excellence the journal has established.

- **Content migration:** All back volumes have not all been migrated to the new website. There are 58 volumes, and this is a big undertaking. We expect this migration to be completed by Fall 2021.
- **Error messages:**
 - Because content migration is still in progress, internet searches for articles can return an error message. In the meantime, all the back issues are available on an [archive site](#). The archives can also be accessed directly from the journal's website.
 - Another consequence is that the same error message will be returned if someone clicks on the link in any documents containing the old link.
 - Going forward, DOIs will create a permanent link. Therefore, we encourage those citing *Journal of Extension* articles or including them in their vita to check on the progress of content migration and update citations accordingly.
- **Manuscript backlog:** Because the transition to a new publisher and a new publishing model with associate editors occurred simultaneously, there is a backlog of manuscripts that need to work through the review process. This is a temporary situation, and we are taking several steps to alleviate it. We expect this situation to improve over the course of the year.

Mission: The commitment to the mission to publish a high-quality journal and to support author development remain unchanged.

If you have questions or concerns about the journal, please don't hesitate to contact Drew Griffin, production editor (journalofextension@clemsun.edu), or one of the editorial committee members. Theresa Ferrari, Ohio State University, editorial committee chair ferrari.8@osu.edu
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