Article Level Publishing FAQs

As you will be aware, over recent years, reader behaviour has become primarily focused on digital access, with the journal's content now overwhelmingly discovered at article level as opposed to browsing of online or print issues. This change in reader behaviour is driving us to implement new workflows.

In the past, articles have been typeset and published online in issue 'batches' (as part of an issue-based workflow). From 2017 onwards, Emerald will begin transitioning journals to an article-level workflow, whereby individual articles will be typeset, proofed and published online as the Version of Record within an average of 32 days of acceptance. Articles will still be collated into issues in advance of print publication, but this commitment to publish fully edited, typeset, proofed and citable versions of articles within a short timeframe will greatly improve our service to authors, who tell us that speed of publication is an important factor in deciding where to publish, as well as increasing the impact of the research published in the journal.

The transition will be managed in a phased manner taking into account the characteristics and needs of individual titles.

FAQs

How does this affect EarlyCite?

EarlyCite will become the typeset version of the article and this should appear online within 32 business days of article acceptance, provided that copyright transfer and author proofs are returned. These articles will not be assigned to a volume or issue number and will therefore be paginated in isolation to all other articles in EarlyCite. The final version of a journal issue will be referred to as the 'Compiled issue', which will collate the relevant number of papers from EarlyCite and compile them into an issue with continuous pagination.

Does this mean EarlyCite now functions in a different way?

Yes, EarlyCite content will no longer be assigned to a volume or issue number, however it will be the author proofed, typeset version of record, fully citable by DOI. Each article will be available to readers more quickly upon acceptance than Emerald's current EarlyCite offering.

Will issues continue to be scheduled?

Yes, issues will continue to be scheduled and published. These will be known as 'Compiled Issues'. Only articles that are already published in EarlyCite or already in-progress within Production can be selected to be part of a Compiled Issue. The due dates for 'Complied Issues' remain the same as the current journal issue schedule as supplied by the Content Editor.

How will issues be compiled?

Reader behaviour is primarily focused on digital access with journal content now overwhelmingly discovered at article level as opposed to browsing of online or print issues. This change in reader behaviour has been the driver in this new workflow implementation and therefore papers will be assigned to issues based on chronological acceptance date, thus improving speed to publication.

Can the journal still run Special Issues?

Special Issues will continue to be commissioned. Articles accepted for Special Issues will appear online in EarlyCite once they have been copyedited, typeset and proofed, provided they are accepted on a continuous basis prior to the scheduled Compiled Issue production date. They will then be batched into a Special Issue when the scheduled Compiled Issue production date is due. If articles are immediately accepted prior to the scheduled Issue production date, then they will instead proceed directly to a Compiled Issue.

When should I publish special issues?

Wherever possible, special issues should be published before the last issue of the year to lengthen the citation window.

How will this affect my article budget for the year (if I accept a full volume's worth of content, can I no longer assign any papers)?

The aim of article level publishing is to prevent a large backlog of papers building up, which is what causes the lengthy time to publication. Editors should continue to accept content for publication on an ongoing basis. It is expected that journal acceptance rates will be in line with article publication targets. Your Publisher and Content Editor will continue to monitor the content pipeline and agree with you any necessary and appropriate article growth to ensure that a backlog of accepted content does not accumulate.

What about pagination budgets?

The pagination budget for a journal volume will still apply, so when you have utilised your allocated page budget for the volume, you will not be able to publish any additional papers within that publication year.

Will author proofs still be supplied?

Yes, author proofs will be provided prior to the article being published on EarlyCite. Proofs will not be reissued to authors when articles are compiled into an issue as only the pagination will change at this point.

Will the way I use ScholarOne be affected?

Yes, you will no longer be required to assign papers to individual issues. When articles are accepted, they will be moved straight into the Production process for publication by the Content Editor. The acceptance e-mail sent to authors will be updated to reflect the move to article level publishing.

Will I still be required to write an Editorial?

Online readership and the discovery of articles on an individual level has seen the more traditional Editorial decline in impact and readership in recent years. With that in mind, Editorials are no longer required as part of the article level publishing workflow; however in exceptional cases they can still be included and guest editors may wish to provide these for special issues where relevant. Please liaise with your Publisher to discuss how this will affect your journal.

What about Non-Article Content (NAC)?

Non-Article Content (NAC) such as regular column pieces should be supplied via e-mail to the Content Editor ahead of the scheduled Compiled Issue deadline. These pieces no longer need to be submitted to ScholarOne.

Book reviews and Editorials are an exception to this, they must still be submitted to ScholarOne for DOI and copyright assignment.

NAC will not pass through the article level workflow and will therefore not be EarlyCited, it will be published online when the Complied Issue is loaded to EmeraldInsight and included in the print publication. The exception to this is extended Editorials which count as article content.

Will you still supply print copies?

Emerald will continue to supply print copies to print subscribers.

When will this affect my journal?

Journals will be added to the article level publishing workflow based on suitability. The process of transition onto the article level publishing workflow will begin in 2017.