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# Journal of Orthopaedics, Trauma and Rehabilitation

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## Editorial

### Electronic Publications: The Way We Go



Five years ago, when I was invited to write the Editorial for the journal, I raised a question on the development of our journal: "Should we go for electronic publication?"<sup>1</sup> Now, as the Editor-in-Chief, I am happy to tell you the answer: "Yes!" We are moving towards electronic publication. I would like to update our readers about recent developments in our journal.

In recent years, the number of open-access journals has been increasing. Based on a study by Laakso et al,<sup>2</sup> since 2000 the average annual growth rate of open-access journals and articles has been 18% and 30%, respectively.<sup>2</sup> What is the advantage of being an open-access journal? Obviously, journal articles will be circulated freely through the Internet and more people will be able to read them. Another study by Kristin Antelman reported that freely available articles in open-access journals have a greater research impact in some scientific fields.<sup>3</sup>

Following this trend, our peer-reviewed journal became a subsidized, open-access journal this year. The Hong Kong Orthopaedic Association and the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons pay for all publishing costs incurred by the journal. Authors do not have to pay any article processing charges or publication fees. Readers can access and download our articles from ScienceDirect without charge at any time and from any place. This has broadened the distribution of our articles and allows researchers worldwide to access the study results of our authors.

Another major change in our journal is the adoption of a new publishing workflow called *article-based publishing*. In traditional publishing, an article has to wait for the completion of the entire issue before it can be published. Considering the rapid development in the field of medicine, this waiting time is too long. With the shift toward electronic publishing, article-based publishing allows an accepted article to be finalized and published without having to wait for completion of a journal issue. This will shorten

publication time and the authors can use the completed citations much earlier.

We also introduced a new feature called *AudioSlides* for accepted articles. AudioSlides are short, 5-minute presentations in which authors explain their paper in their own words with the aid of a slide show. This short presentation can be reviewed on our website. With the popularity of Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and other social media, people now prefer audiovisual information rather than plain text. Short audiovisual introductions to articles meet the demands of current readers.

The journal will not be able to improve further without support from its authors and readers. If you have any comments concerning our journal, please contact us.

#### Conflicts of interest

The author has no conflicts of interest.

#### References

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