

Open Journal System

Syed Mahmood Haider¹, Mehwash Kashif²

Citation: Haider S M, Kashif M. Open Journal System [Online]. Annals ASH KM&DC 2019;24:.

With the advent of modern era, novel expansions in the field of information communication technologies (ICTs) are rapidly succeeding. ICTs have been extensively used among all fields of life like educational, scientific, economic and research activities. These developments are replacing the scholarly work on paper to e-paper and thus providing valuable payback by improving the efficiency and output¹.

Open journal system (OJS) is a software used for the management of open access peer-reviewed journals publishing academic research². It was developed by "public knowledge project" (PKP) having general public license³. It is a very useful journal management system opt by many national and international journals, which not only helps to maintain the online release of journal contents but also manages the editorial work, which includes online submission of articles, multiple rounds of peer review, internal editorial assessments, tracking of manuscripts from submissions to final publication of scholarly research.

Its first version was released in 2002 until current version of 3.1.1 released in April 2018⁴. OJS is written in PHP i.e. personal home page, which is general purpose programming language, originally designed for web development. Its version 2.3 has been completely translated into 17 languages which include (Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish and Ukrainian, Arabic), with many additional

languages (including Chinese, Hindi and Vietnamese)⁴.

OJS has rapidly developed its user's community. Until mid-2015, it has been adopted by 8000 journals all over the world⁵. OJS offers an open source solution to manage publication of original research articles, which reduces publication cost and time. It is a straight forward and nimble system that is freely available and downloaded on the local web server. This system offers an easy, applicable and editorially managed system which reduces clerical dependent tasks of traditional journal publication system and maintains record keeping in an effective way. It also helps to improve and implement journal policies while improving transparent indexing. The efficiency of OJS has been established by a paper published in 2005, which stated that it is editor friendly; easily downloadable and time saving software for the editorial management of the articles and other content of the journal management system⁶.

The website of the journal serves as an editorial office of the journal. The OJS manages the labelling, filing, and tracking of the submissions along with creating a workspace for editors, peer reviewers, proof readers, and editorial staff. It also works as a time manager thereby reaching every desktop at the right time. In addition, it can be accessed at any computer provided with the availability of the internet connection⁵.

It has also provided reading tools in the feature component of OJS which help and guide the reader and provides an affluent reading milieu, encourage dynamic learning and amplify the echelon of significant commitment with journal content⁷.

In Pakistan, the higher education commission (HEC) had introduced and recommend the OJS system in the research community. HEC has made the use of this system mandatory for all the journals affiliated with it. Annals of Abbasi Shaheed and Kara-

¹ Principal, Karachi Medical and Dental College

² Department of Oral Pathology,
Karachi Medical and Dental College

Correspondence: Dr. Mehwash Kashif
Department of Oral Pathology,
Karachi Medical and Dental College
Email: mehwashkashif@gmail.com
Date of Submission: 14th June 2019
Date of Acceptance: 25th July 2019

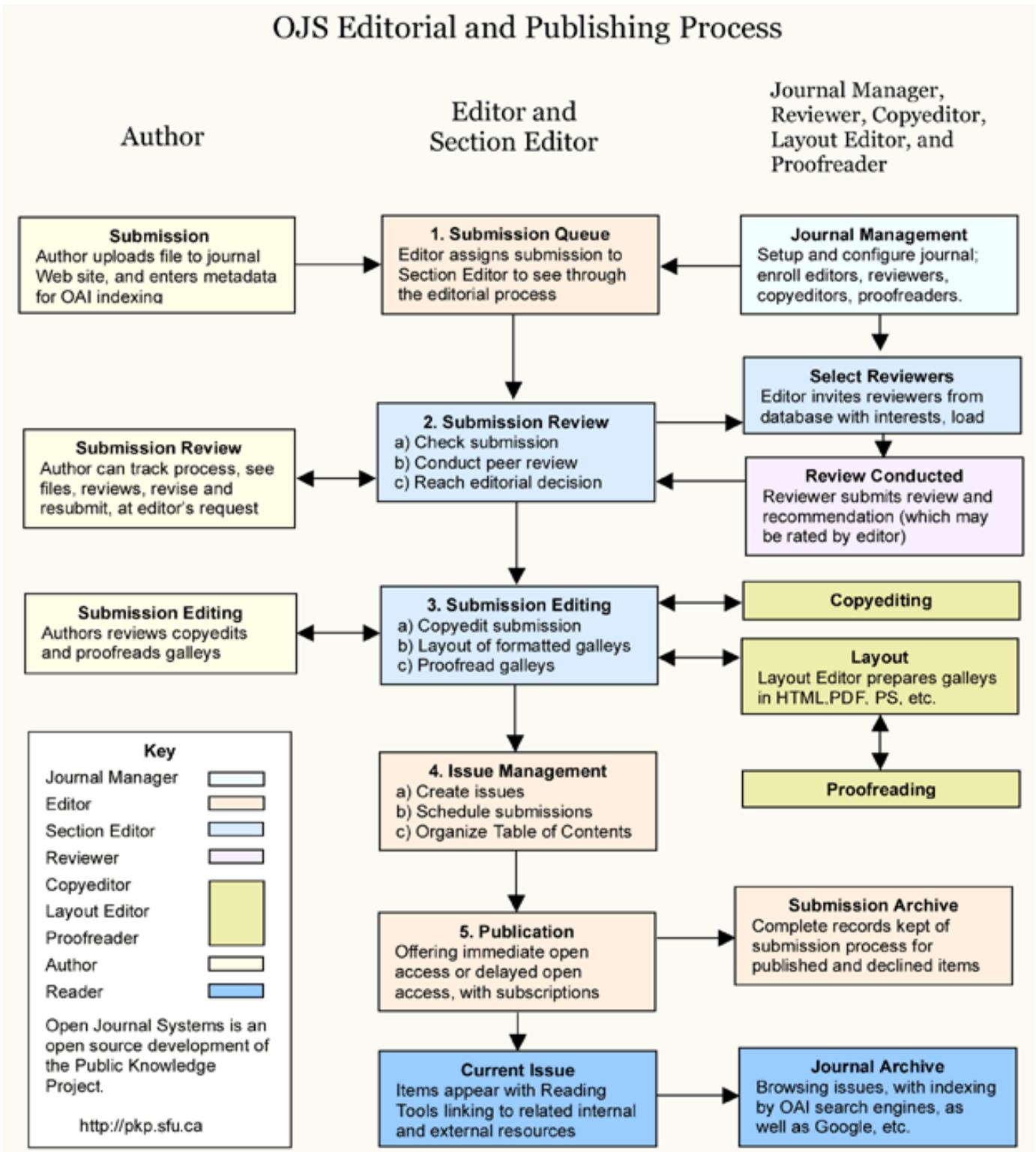


Fig 1. OJS editorial and publishing process

chi Medical and Dental College had also adopted this system since 2019 and is launching it soon, which provides the doorway to new research articles, and other contents for the journal submitted to the journal.

Figure 1 has specified a brief view of the journal management system by OJS⁸.

OJS is divided into three section; the author section, editor and section editor section, journal manager, reviewer, copy editor, layout editor and proof reader section.

Through author section, the authors can submit their research work online after creating their accounts.

The authors enter and upload the metadata on the journal's website. The content is then forwarded to editor and section editor section. This section is divided into five subsections. The submission queue, submission review, submission editing, issue management and publication. In the submission queue, the content was listed in a queue and editor assigns submission to the section editor (assistant and associate editors) for initial assessment and review which evaluates the fulfilment of requirements of submission and other details. Then the editor assigns the content to the subject specialists (reviewer/s) according to the topic and content of the submitted manuscript. The OJS has already listed reviewers in its database and reviewers are selected from the list in the reviewer section. The reviewers are asked to perform the review in specified time and send comments to the editor. In the light of reviewer comments, the decision is made to continue the processing of the content and /or to reject or transform it to some other content type of the journal, such as short communication, letter to editor etc. If the manuscript has been accepted for publication, it is sent to copyeditor for copyediting, layout editor for layout making and proof reader for proof reading in the journal management section. This work submitted to the section editor. This is followed by the step of journal issue management, which creates issue, schedule submissions and organizes the table of content supervised by the editor of the journal. This is preceded by final step of publication which offers immediate open access or delayed open access to the journal's issue content.

The author section has submission, submission review and submission editing sections by which the authors can keep track record of the stage of the manuscript and its further proceedings. They can also resubmit their revised manuscript,

and get access to the copy edit and proof read galleries of their submissions.

OJS has submission archive section in which editor can maintain the record of accepted, published and declined submissions.

Readers can gain access to the current issue and journal archives in which they can get access to the current and previously published articles.

Hence, OJS is a very useful journal management system, which should be adopted by journals to get great benefits.

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