
Rethinking Distribution and Design: A New Look for the *Journal of Health and Human Services Administration*

Alexander C. Henderson
Marist College

Hillary J. Knepper
Pace University

With this first issue in volume 43, the *Journal of Health and Human Services Administration (JHSA)* has moved to an online-only publication format. The decision to cease printing paper copies of *JHSA* was made over the last year and with a great deal of deliberation. Several factors were considered in these discussions, including reader preferences for article access, primary methods of locating scholarly content, institutional demand for printed copies of the journal, and related distribution and logistical considerations. Notably, our new online-only format also allows for an improved reading experience with an updated and more visually appealing full-page layout for the journal. In addition to a contemporary presentation, this allows for more flexibility in presenting larger or more complex tables and figures. Importantly, this change to an online-only printing does not alter our rigorous peer-review processes and adherence to ethical standards in publishing.

Surveys of journal readership and purposeful conversations with authors, editorial board members, and the broader scholarly community revealed a declining trend in journal access through printed paper copies, and an increasing use of electronic database access through both institutions of higher education and through membership in the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). Those with access to both print and electronic formats indicated that electronic versions were preferred, and that they often did not engage with printed versions of the journal given the relative ease of searching and retaining digital copies of articles. Likewise, institutions of higher education have also changed preferences for use and storage of scholarly journals. Declining access to printed versions of journals has resulted in a general movement toward online journal formats (Breeze, 2017; DeGroot and Dorsch, 2001; Perry, 2018; Phelps, 2016) and in efforts to reduce the environmental impact associated with printing and mailing issues (Baker, 2019). Academic library trends further evidence the changes at higher education institutions regarding preferences for use and storage of journal resources (Latimer, 2018). In line with this trend,

fewer college or university libraries are requesting printed copies of *JHHS*A, preferring the digital online-only opportunities for access.

Importantly, several journal characteristics will remain unchanged. *JHHS*A has published articles online for a number of years, and this change allows for the continued rapid dissemination of research via an online platform. Likewise, our peer-review processes remain unchanged, and all articles will continue to receive the same attention from journal editors and peers during review processes. *JHHS*A adheres to the guidelines of The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and the same strong ethical standards and core practices will still apply. At the same time that we are moving to an online-only platform, *JHHS*A will also start issuing CrossRef digital object identifier (DOI) numbers for all new articles, which allows for easier identification and access to articles.

As *JHHS*A moves to its online-only format with volume 43, it is responding to changing access demands and the needs of the scholarly communities focusing on health care and human services. We are excited for these new changes, and for the truly important contributions that *JHHS*A authors make through their contributions to practice and theory.

Alexander C. Henderson
Marist College
alexander.henderson@marist.edu

Hillary J. Knepper
Pace University
hknepper@pace.edu

References

- Baker, G. (2017). Help us embrace sustainability by forgoing print. *Financial Analysts Journal*, 73(4), 6–7.
- Breeze, J. (2017). Dispatches from the editor: Is the end of the print military medical journal inevitable? *BMJ Military Health*, 163(6), 365.
- De Groot, S. L., & Dorsch, J.L. (2001). Online journals: impact on print journal usage. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, 89(4), 372.
- Latimer, K. (2018). 2050: A library space odyssey. Planning the future library. *Legal Information Management*, 18(4), 203–209.
- Perry, G. (2018). Foreword to the final print edition of *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 42(2), 1.
- Phelps, S.F. (2016). Education and criminal justice faculty value electronic serials over print to support professional activities. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 11(4).