

## EDITORIAL

# Embracing change and innovation in JEPM publishing

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As we approach the end of 2023, it is with great pleasure and anticipation that I address our esteemed readership, authors, and reviewers of the Journal of Engineering & Processing Management (JEPM). Since assuming the role of Editor-in-Chief assistant in 2018, I have witnessed remarkable transformations in the landscape of scholarly publishing. Over the past six years, JEPM has consistently strived to enhance its standing in the academic community and improve author satisfaction. Our primary objective has always been to serve the JEPM community better and achieve the highest standards of contemporary scholarly publishing. To this end, we have implemented several changes, the most visible one was certainly adoption of  $\LaTeX$  for PDF composition in 2019 after change in article layout made in 2018. I can say that JEPM will provide its community with even more innovations that are on the horizon. Perhaps the most significant developments in the past six years have been our publishing transitions. In 2018 JEPM adopted Open Journal Systems (OJS) after several years of providing just PDF of articles via Joomla page not optimized for scholarly content.

The OJS brought many improvements, those the most important are those related with visibility of articles. OJS is very good platform in that sense and helped JEPM but soon many limits of OJS started to impair future development of JEPM. This issue of JEPM is the first one published on the new Opus Journal Platform. This migration represents a quantum leap in JEPM publishing infrastructure, offering numerous benefits to all stakeholders in the publication process. The Opus Journal Platform provides

a substantially improved experience for authors and enables more rigorous quality control throughout the entire publishing journey. Moreover, it equips JEPM with the flexibility to adopt new practices and reach the pinnacle of scholarly publishing standards.

One of the most important aspects of this transition is how much better the Opus Journal Platform handles metadata. The enhanced metadata management capability of the Opus Journal Platform not only adds value to future content but has also significantly improved the discoverability of our previously published articles. During the transition process, our dedicated team added extra information to all our older articles that wasn't used before. As a result, our entire corpus of published work is now more easily discoverable through various indexing and aggregating services, thereby increasing the visibility and impact of our authors' research.

We know it's important to balance new ideas with stability. That is why we're taking slow and steady approach to our JEPM improvements. That way we hope to make sure our authors, reviewers and editors don't feel overwhelmed by these changes.

But we also need to talk about the challenges facing scholarly publishing as a whole. Ethical malpractices by authors and reviewers, coupled with the rapid introduction of AI technologies, pose significant risks to the integrity of academic publishing. These dangers are particularly acute for smaller scholarly journals like JEPM, which lack the extensive technical and logistical infrastructure of larger, well-established publishers. To address these challenges and ensure JEPM's continued relevance

and credibility, we are adopting a proactive approach. We recognize that the only way to avoid being left behind is to implement practices and tools that support each actor in the publishing chain – editors, authors, reviewers, and readers – while simultaneously protecting against bad actors such as paper mills. We firmly believe that the Opus Journal Platform provides the best value for JEPM in this regard, offering robust tools for quality control, plagiarism detection, and ensuring ethical publishing practices.

As we're going through these changes, we're sticking to our promise to give our authors the best possible value. We understand that the success of JEPM is intrinsically linked to the quality of research we publish and the satisfaction of our contributors. To this end, we are continuously exploring ways to streamline the submission and review processes, reduce turnaround times, and provide constructive feedback to authors.

In the coming months, you'll start to see gradual improvements in different parts of how our journal works. These will include enhanced peer review management systems, more comprehensive author guidelines, and increased transparency in our editorial processes.

Finally, I want to say a big thank you to our authors, reviewers, editorial board members, and readers for their continued support and contributions. Your dedication to JEPM is what drives our journal forward. We are excited about the future and the opportunity to serve JEPM community on the best possible way. We know these changes might take some getting used to for our community. But we're sure that the long-term benefits will be worth any short-term disturbances. Our editorial team is ready to help and guide everyone through this transition, and we'd love to hear feedback from our authors, reviewers, and readers as we keep improving our processes.