

PKP OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEMS:HOW A PORTABLE, OPEN SOURCE JOURNAL MANAGEMENT/PUBLISHING SYSTEM CAN IMPROVE THE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION PROCESS AND THE GLOBAL VISIBILITY OF SCHOLARS

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The Public Knowledge Project has been working for a few years now on a software called Open Journal Systems – OJS, now currently in version 1.1.7, which is implementing many languages including English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. OJS assists with every stage of the publishing process for refereed journals, from managing submission reviews through to online publication and indexing. Through online management Systems, finely grained indexing for accurate searches, and by providing a supportive context of relevant resources for each article, OJS seeks to improve both the scholarly and public quality of refereed research.

OJS is made freely available to journals worldwide for the express purpose of making open access publishing a viable option for more journals, as open access publishing can increase a journal's readership as well as its contribution to the public good on a global scale. It can be downloaded from the PKP and IBICT/MCT websites and installed on a local (Windows and Linux) web-server. It requires mild technical expertise on the part of the journal editors and management staff, and very little expertise on the part of authors, reviewers and readers. Editors can organize the journal's management system and website around their current policies and practices by simply completing a series of templates, while selecting options for peer reviewing, journal sections, publishing patterns, and other features. PKP and IBICT/MCT staff are ready to help editors, as well as learn from their experiences in improving this management system.

IBICT/MCT's involvement with the project began because of its scientific journal, the *Ciência da Informação*. The editorial team was in an urgent need to improve and speed up the communication and publishing process with authors, reviewers and the external desktop publishing team. The discovery of OJS opened doors to not only improve that communication process, but also reduce workflow, costs with secretarial duties and the stress of one single person dealing directly and personally with hundreds of people to publish in four months a journal of great quality and a resource to many scholars and researchers. *Ciência da Informação* receives during the submission period over 100 articles, possessing a record of over 150 possible reviewers, a number that continues to grow, but a very small Editorial staff.

After the first look, a Development Team was appointed at IBICT/MCT to study the software and implement the translation to portuguese, as well as specific features desired by the Editorial Team. Following the philosophy of Open Source projects, the Development Team created a direct link to the PKP Development Team, with the set mind to improve the system, implement important features for generic scientific journals and avoid the development of a local system that would be independent, and more difficult to update. However, it is also a belief that IBICT/MCT Development Team is capable of developing a local software, based on OJS, tailored to the specific needs of national editors. More importantly, these editors will be in need of support, that

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the Public Knowledge Project Team may not be able to provide, as well as training. IBICT/MCT is an institution committed to provide open source solutions to the scientific community, much like the Public Knowledge Project, which is the main purpose of this joint venture.

After a few months of hard work, the Development Team reached a translation that was close to perfection. Minor details are still needed, while other journals may desire to change some of the copy, but the the main goal was reached. Some minor bugs have been corrected in the current version, awaiting the release of a complete new rewriting of the code for version 2.0.

The most important fact is that OJS certainly improves the quality and the speed of the editorial process, as well as access to scientific information, making available to the general public articles of unrivalled quality for public research.

The workshop will include a demonstration of the following OJS features:

1. ONLINE SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES, REVIEWS, AND OTHER ITEMS

Authors can upload their papers, as well as data sets, research instruments, and source documents through the journal's Submissions section. On uploading their submission, they are helped to index their papers and data to ensure the widest possible readership of their work (see Indexing below). They can submit their papers, figures, and appendices in a variety of file formats, including Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or RTF (Rich Text Format). And they can track the progress of their paper through the editorial process.

2. ONLINE MANAGEMENT FOR EACH STAGE OF PUBLISHING

After setting the options for the journal, the editors are able to manage and track the journal sections and structure, editorial and review process, and the ordering and publishing of each issue. The journal management Systems helps editors guide a submission through the normal sequence of journal publishing, while providing a complete record of all transactions, as well as prompts and help boxes to guide editors. Each step includes notification and acknowledgement emails that can be edited and sent directly from OJS.

3. COMPREHENSIVE INDEXING OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

With the assistance of authors, as well as automated Systems, each article is provided with a metadata record of bibliographic information that also includes the article's discipline, subject, coverage, and type. This indexing is adheres to the Open Archives Initiative protocol for metadata harvesting, and thus forms part of a globally distributed Systems for scholarly resources that can be collectively searched through the PKP Metadata Harvester for all PKP sites, OAIster for all OAI registered sites.

4. RESEARCH SUPPORT TOOL FOR EACH ARTICLE PUBLISHED

A Research Support Tool (RST) accompanies each article in the journal. RSTs are tailored to specific disciplinary areas and provide links from the article to related and relevant resources both inside and outside of the immediate realm of research. In this way, the RST provides new and experienced readers of research with a wider context for interpreting and situating the work they are consulting. See About the RST.

5. EMAIL NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTARY FOR READERS

Readers can sign up for email notification of the table of contents for each issue creating the equivalent of a subscription list for editors. They will also be able to post comments to articles, join in discussions or establish a personal portfolio of selected works.

After the demonstration, there will hopefully be enough time for open questions and discussion on the software, open access and open source, as well as installation guidelines, issues and suggestions for improvement.

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

1. IBICT/MCT involvement in the project
 - a. Translation of the System
 - b. Issues involving Open Source
 - c. i18n implementation issues
2. Brief Explanation of OJS
 - a. What it can do
 - b. What it can't do

DEMONSTRATION

3. Demonstration of the Software - Overview
 - a. General Features
 - b. Installation
 - c. Administration
 - d. Submission
 - e. Reviewing
 - f. Editing
 - g. Publication
 - h. Customization

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

4. Open Discussion