

## Editorial

### *IJPD* goes 'Online Early'

The introduction of online submission and review of all *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* (*IJPD*) manuscripts has proved to be a welcome innovation. I would like to take this opportunity to summarize our early experiences with this facility and to outline the journal's future plans for electronic publishing.

The online system, provided by Scholar One, is known as 'Manuscript Central' and it appears to be working well. It has automated several functions, previously left to the Editor, and has greatly facilitated communication between the reviewers and the editorial team. During the first 4 months of operation, exactly 103 manuscripts were submitted. In previous years, our annual submission was approximately 170 papers, thus it is anticipated that this year we will see a remarkable 76% increase in submissions.

From 1 April 2006, the *IJPD* will also be introducing Online Early publication of manuscripts. Online Early is Blackwell's publication in advance-of-print workflow whereby manuscripts are available online via Blackwell's 'Synergy' before being published in the traditional way, in print. The Online Early version of the article is considered the final, published product and will be identical to the subsequent printed version. The only difference will be that the printed version will contain page numbers and volume/issue information; the content will be entirely unaltered. For copyright purposes, the online PDF article is considered the definitive version rather than the full-text HTML version. This development will thus result in a shorter acceptance-to-publication time period and an overall faster rate of publication.

So how will this new system work? Once an article has been accepted, it is copy-edited, typeset, corrected by authors and returned to the typesetter on an individual basis. This differs from the previous approach whereby accepted manuscripts were accumulated until an issue make-up deadline and were then all corrected and returned to the typesetter in single large batch. In the new system, final articles, known as 'electronic deliverables', will be sent to the relevant electronic content quality controller, who will process them and enter them onto Synergy. No corrections or changes can be made to the article from this point onwards. Changes could not be made to a printed page after publication, thus Online Early articles are treated in exactly the same way. When the issue compilation stage is reached, the Editor-in-Chief provides an ordered list of manuscripts that are to appear in the issue. The typesetter then produces a set of issue-revised proofs that contain volume, issue and page numbers, but are otherwise identical to the articles already on Synergy in the Online Early area for that journal. The completed issue is then placed online, and the respective Online Early versions of papers, included in the issue, are simultaneously removed. By definition, the Online Early articles have no volume, issue or page numbers. They are therefore cited using their digital object identifier (DOI) number. A correct citation would take the format: Smith A, Jones B (2004). A paper on teeth. *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* doi: 10.1111/j.1234-4321.2004.01234.x

With the introduction of this service, we hope that we can attract the highest calibre of manuscripts for the benefit of our subscribers.

GÖRAN DAHLLÖF  
Editor-in-chief

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