

Open Journal Systems

Choosing a Management and Publishing Platform for the
'Transactions of AESOP'

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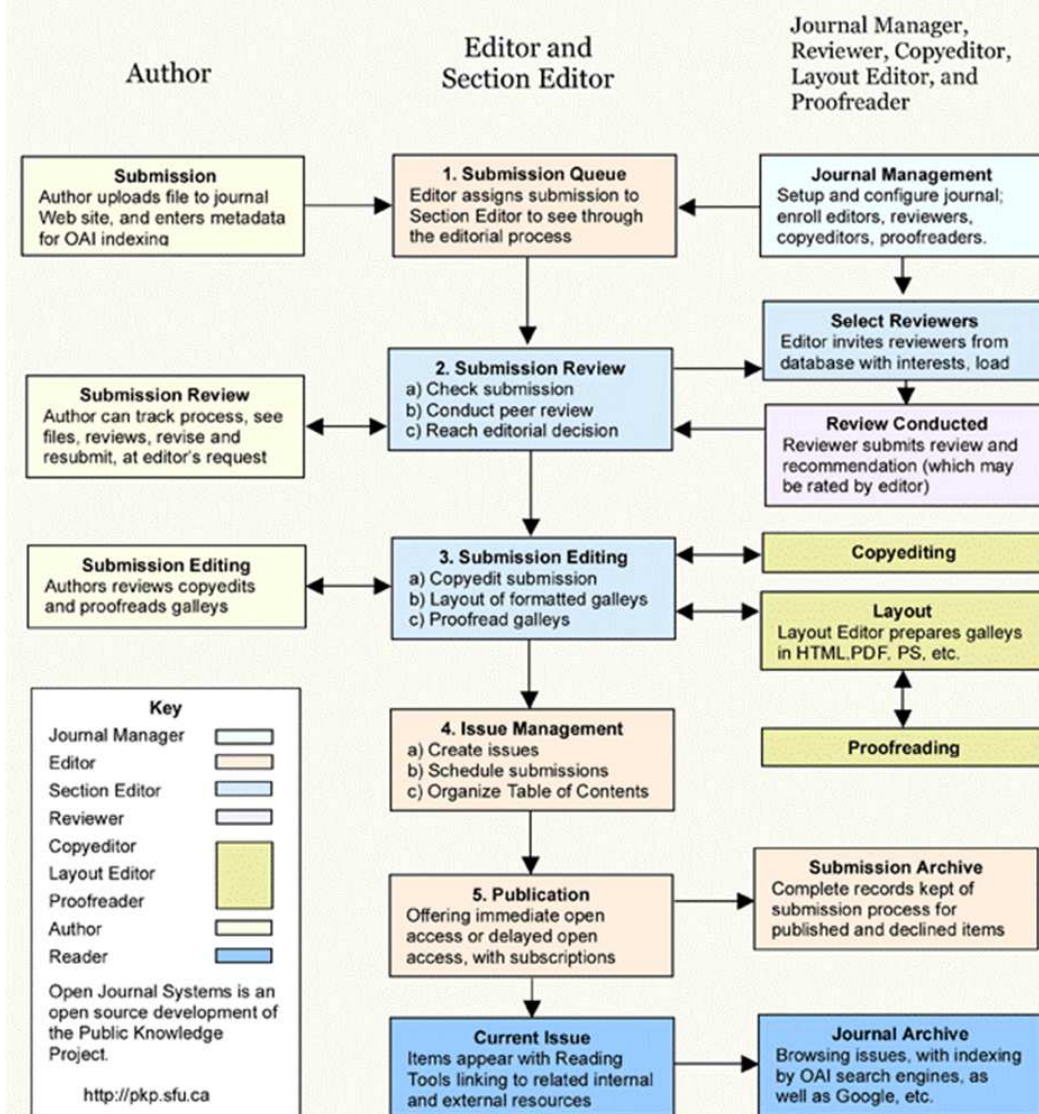
What I will present is

- A bit of background information on what is involved with publishing a journal like 'Transactions'
- The need to start making decisions regarding the infrastructure to be used for 'Transactions' (and PlaNext)
- The outcomes of research carried out in order to explore the e-options that could cater for Transactions' needs

Background

- AESOP decided to create 'Transactions of the Association of European Schools of Planning' (and YA 'Planext')
- 'Transactions' requires:
 - pipeline management,
 - publishing management and
 - dissemination management
- Other types of publication have a different configuration of requirements
- Most of the tasks have been automated or semi-automated using e-publishing platforms: Initial decision to use 'InPlanning' for all publications

OJS Editorial and Publishing Process



At the moment

- The AESOP Transactions Editorial Team (4 people) has been tasked to set up the journal (Open Access)
- In the absence of an e-platform the Editorial Team has to perform and coordinate all tasks manually: Issue 1 is in the process of layout editing ie 90% ready.
- Pipeline management: For 6 papers the needs of coordination generated dozens of emails between authors, editors and reviewers. This will grow exponentially as the journal picks up speed.
- Publication management: Subcontractors were used with success. Keeping tabs on how the pipeline progresses (various papers at various stages allocated to different editors) will be demanding as the journal picks up speed. Indexing functions (TOC, author, keyword, DOI) very demanding.
- Dissemination management: Currently using AESOP website as a repository. Second order indexing and bibliometric functions (for example citations, searches, hyperlinking by author or keyword and user statistics) not possible. Lock-in effects that will increase future costs.
- Security and archiving issues.

It is important to prepare for success

- a) be ready to manage the inflow and outflow of papers efficiently and effectively
- b) capitalise on it (in terms of journal desirability and reader penetration)
- c) do this at a minimum resource cost
- d) have an exit strategy

E-options (Open Access)

- Two categories of software solutions: Journal management and publication platforms (mainly OJS-based, some Hyperjournal) and Repository platforms (like e-prints) with some hybrid propositions (DpubS) (see Cyzyk & Choudhury, 2008)
- OJS the main technology, created by a multi-university initiative called 'The Public Knowledge Project' (PKP)
- OJS currently used by 8000 out of 9400 journals listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Superior in terms of: ease of use/workflow organisation, transferability, scalability, extensibility, user interface customisation, institutional support and development prospects, documentation, training needs, hardware/software and maintenance requirements, security, OAI harvesting, internationalisation, support/indexing
- Several OJS based 'packages' on offer: from free University or National Repository systems to paid-for hosting solutions.

Shall we go ahead...

...with selecting an OJS-based platform?