

Chapter 1. Overview

Open Journal Systems (OJS) is an open source solution to managing and publishing scholarly journals online. It is a highly flexible editor-operated journal management and publishing system that can be downloaded for free and installed on a local web server. It has been designed to reduce the time and energy devoted to the clerical and managerial

tasks associated with editing a journal, while improving the record-keeping and efficiency of editorial processes. It seeks to improve the scholarly and public quality of journal publishing through a number of innovations, from making journal policies more transparent to improving indexing.

OJS Features

OJS includes the following features:

1. OJS is installed locally and locally controlled.
2. Editors configure requirements, sections, review process, etc.
3. Online submission, double-blind review, and management of all content.
4. Subscription module with delayed open access and non-open access options.
5. Comprehensive indexing of content.
6. Reading Tools for content, based on field and editors' choice.
7. Email notification and commenting ability for readers.
8. Complete context-sensitive online Help support.
9. Payments module for accepting journal fees, donations, etc..

What's New in 2.3.3

Some of the many new features in OJS 2.3.3 include:

- Article view enhancements. The old frame-based article view has been removed in favour of a less obtrusive way of [displaying HTML and PDF articles](#) and associated reading tools. This includes a new full-screen view option for PDF files, compatible with mobile devices.

The Reading Tools themselves have been [redesigned graphically](#), and have been moved into the [block display infrastructure](#) so that their placement can be easily configured.

- A new Citation Markup Assistant. Editors can use this new tool to [parse, edit and export](#) citations [provided separately by Authors](#) into NLM XML or citation style-specific formats for inclusion in article galleys. This new tool must be [configured by the Journal Manager](#) before it will work.

- A new book review solicitation and workflow plugin. OJS now includes a [Books for Review](#) plugin to help with the entire pre-submission book review workflow process. Editors can add books received from publishers; Authors can request them for review; book mailings can be managed; due dates and email reminders can be set; and reviewed books can be tied to author submissions. This plugin will be of help for any journal that wants to keep readers notified of new books in the field and correspondingly wants to encourage reviews.

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- A new way to deposit content into digital repositories. OJS now includes a [SWORD plugin](#) that allows authors and Journal Managers alike to deposit content into SWORD-compliant digital repositories such as DSpace and Fedora.

- New user management functionality. New features and updates include a new batch merge option to the Journal Manager's [Merge Users](#) function, allowing multiple accounts to be merged at once; refinements to the [Notify Users](#) functionality available to Editors; a new email confirmation step in the user registration process, to prevent broken emails from being added to the system; and more.

- A new Article View report. Journal Managers can now [generate a CSV report](#) on how many times article abstracts and galleys for published articles have been viewed or downloaded. The report provides separate counts for all galley types that the journal uses (PDF, HTML, DOC, ODT, etc.).

- Improved multilingual support for submissions. Journal Managers can now [configure which language\(s\) submissions are accepted in](#); Authors can [choose any enabled language](#) as their submission language; and Authors can optionally fill in submission metadata in all supported languages.

- New Refback enhancements. Journal Managers can now configure [exclusion settings](#) to limit refback clutter; and the Author's refback interface is now paged, for easier management.

- Control over publication of Masthead emails. Journal Managers can now control whether the emails of any group in the masthead are [publicly available or not](#).

For a full list of features and bugfixes, see [docs/RELEASE](#).

Viewing and Reading Overview

By default, Open Journal Systems is installed with a very simple, functional user interface. This includes a top header, a top navigation bar, a series of navigation blocks to the right, and a main content block in the middle of the page.

The following image is a screenshot of an OJS Demonstration Journal Table of Contents:

Figure 1.1. Open Journal Systems Table of Contents

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The next images show HTML and PDF versions of an article from the table of contents, including the Reading Tools in the right column.

Figure 1.2. Open Journal Systems HTML Article View

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Figure 1.3. Open Journal Systems PDF Article View

PDFs can also be view in a full-screen mode, for a more present, uninterrupted reading experience.

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Figure 1.4. Open Journal Systems PDF Article View -- Full-screen

Finally, it's worth noting that both HTML and PDF galley can be easily read on mobile devices, without the need of any special apps (aside from a web browser, of course).

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Figure 1.5. Open Journal Systems HTML on iPhone

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Figure 1.6. Open Journal Systems PDF on iPhone

The OJS interface can be extensively customized by uploading new stylesheets at the site, journal, and article level, and by various other journal-specific customizations. For the advanced user, the underlying template system can also be modified. As open source software, you are free to customize OJS as you wish.

System Requirements

A server environment meeting the following requirements is recommended:

- PHP support (4.2.x or later)
- MySQL (3.23 or later) or PostgreSQL (7.1 or later)
- Apache (1.3.2x or later) or Apache 2 (2.0.4x or later) or Microsoft IIS 6 (PHP 5.x required)
- Linux, BSD, Solaris, Mac OS X, Windows operating systems

Other versions or platforms may work but are not supported and may not have been tested. We welcome feedback from users who have successfully run OJS on platforms not listed above.

More detailed information on installing and administering OJS is available in the section on [system administration](#).

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Getting Help

If you need help with OJS, there are several resources at your disposal.

The Open Journal Systems platform has a help document that is contextually embedded within itself, with the relevant pages displayed depending on the page you are currently viewing. You can find this context-sensitive help by clicking the Journal Help link (typically located on the right navigation bar). You can also view the help document at <http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/demo/present/index.php/index/help/>.

You will also find relevant documentation on our [OJS Documentation page](#), and tutorials on our [Tutorials page](#).

Our [support forum](#) is an active place to find help with common and uncommon problems. We highly recommend you search the forum for past answers to questions, and post your own question if you can't find an answer.

Finally, our [development wiki](#) is increasingly becoming a storehouse of developer-centric information, including specialized documentation on extending OJS theme- and plugin-wise; information on translating OJS; and roadmaps and general software milestone information.

Community Contributions

The OJS team encourages contributions from the developer community. If you are interested in getting involved in making OJS even better, we welcome your participation.

Excellent examples of community contributions include the vast array of [languages](#) that OJS is available in; and our growing collection of third-party [plugins](#) available. We also welcome software testing and bug reporting contributions.

Test-Drive OJS

A demonstration journal utilizing OJS 2.2.2 has been set up online at <http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/demo/present/>.

In addition, potential users of OJS may take OJS out for a test-drive – as a Journal Manager, Editor, or a Reviewer – at a second demonstration journal site that has been set up for this purpose at <http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/demo/testdrive/>.

Log in using admin as the username and testdrive as the password, and select one of the available roles in the editorial process, and explore how it operates.

Also feel free to submit a test manuscript to see what authors experience, or assign submissions to reviewers, and log in as an assigned reviewer.

Please note that any changes made to the Test-Drive Journal will be cleared every Monday (8:00 GMT).