

First Year of Online Journey: JMOA, ISSN and Indexing!

This is the anniversary issue of the online Journal of Maharashtra Orthopaedic Association [or JMOA as we affectionately call it] and I am glad to take this opportunity to write this editorial.

A journal is a medium to distribute knowledge and is also a medium to credit back the work to the authors and the institutions. Publishing a journal Online guarantees the use of a very strong distribution medium. In last one year more than 3000 people from more than 50 countries in the world have accessed the JMOA. This specific and up-to-date record keeping is another advantage of online publication. However the most important issue is to bring the credit back to the authors, in terms of "Citations". Citations are when an article by one author is referred to by other authors in their papers. This can be only possible if the papers from JMOA show up in popular search engines and Indexes. We all have used search engines [Google, PubMed] and we know how non-specific they are and how difficult it is to specify things to it. Thus JMOA can get clouded by blogs, medical websites, other journals, unless it has an individual online identity. ISSN number or International Standard Serial Number is a number that is an international standard to define identity of an online publication. This record is maintained in the bibliotheque museum in Paris and is currently the very basic necessity of any publication in the world to be recognized as an individual entity. With JMOA receiving its unique ISSN number, now all articles of JMOA will have an individual online identity. All articles will also be enlisted with ISSN bodies both Indian and international. This first step in shaping an online identity of JMOA is successfully achieved.

For indexing of journal articles, a lot of details are important including names of all the authors, institutes of all the authors, details of corresponding authors, keywords of the article, title of the article etc. To have the search engines enlist or Index an article, it should be in a proper format and with all key data [metadata] formatted into the article in the defined format. Only when the articles of a journal are in a format does the proper enlisting [indexing] of the article can be done which will help in other researcher find the articles easily and 'Cite' them. To do this there are defined standard of which Dublin Core is one of the most respectable. We shall now be creating a DC metadata for all the future issues of JMOA. Also one of the most frequently used standards is Google Scholar, which will also be enabled for all the future issues. This will help JMOA not only define itself but also refine itself in the world of Academic Orthopaedic Journals. The articles and authors of JMOA will be easily searchable and will show up in specific searches and can be widely viewed and cited.

With an online identity and a search enabled format, JMOA is at its strongest than it ever was and with these tools it can fulfill its promise to the authors of wide distribution, higher visibility and citations. We at JMOA are committed to take it to new heights and the next step is to improve the quality of the articles and also to improve our peer review process. With time and with co-operation from all MOA members we will be able to maintain the pace of development of JMOA and also improve the academic content.

With this, I leave you to enjoy the First anniversary online issue of JMOA.

Dr Ashok Shyam
Associate Editor JMOA
Sancheti Institute for Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, Pune.
Indian Orthopaedic Research Group, Mumbai.
Email:drashokshyam@yahoo.co.uk

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