

EDITORIAL

ScienceDirect: our next step in electronic publishing

The Internet has transformed the *EJSO*. In a few years, we have developed a global reach with a much enhanced impact factor and an intercontinental author base. A key component of this growth was the IDEAL electronic system, through which Harcourt, our former publishers, promoted the contents and abstracts of the *EJSO*, and made available the full text of the journal to subscribing institutions worldwide (1, 2, W1, W2). Our new publishers, Elsevier Science, are now integrating IDEAL into Elsevier's own electronic journal publication system, ScienceDirect (W3, W4, W5).

The technological revolution in publishing has yet to run its course, but a sustainable model for publishing in the Internet age is now apparent. Journals will continue to appear in print and to be funded by subscription. Paper remains by far the most advanced medium for communicating text across the eye-brain interface in a durable, comfortable, flexible and portable pattern. Journal content will then be made available electronically and commercially to non-subscribers in an economic but profitable model, using the huge geographical reach, spontaneity and near instantaneous accessibility of the Internet. Journal content, references and related resources from within and across publishing houses and academic bodies will be linked to provide a seamless flow of material at the speed of thought for readers and researchers.

ScienceDirect is an electronic resource and digital library for the 1500 scientific journals and more than two million articles now published by Elsevier. These are available in their entirety to institutional and individual subscribers, and to occasional users on a fee per item basis. The system thus brings additional resources for investment in the *EJSO* and utility for our subscribers.

Some 1500 titles, two million articles and 40 million abstracts are accessible and the listings are available free to all users of ScienceDirect. ScienceDirect is also linked

to an expanding suite of bibliographic databases; to another one million full text articles owned by collaborating publishers using a system known as CrossRef; to a scientific search engine, scirus.com; to a series of major reference works with full text access; and to subject collections with direct links between texts, abstracts and references.

The *EJSO* will also remain accessible on the IDEAL website for the time being, and directly through our newly listed Internet address, ejso.com. As with IDEALFirst, our articles will be available in citable electronic form following acceptance and proof preparation, and in advance of print publication. The journal remains focused on a strategy of providing a worldwide reach for scientific publication across the many inter-related disciplines of cancer surgery. Our accessibility on the Internet enhances our appeal and our usefulness to our readers and authors. The electronic revolution goes on.

David A. Rew

*Consultant Surgeon and Honorary Senior Lecturer,
Southampton University Hospitals,
Southampton SO14 0YG*

REFERENCES

1. Rew DA. Worldwide publication of the European Journal of Surgical Oncology: The IDEAL way forward. *Eur J Surg Oncol* 2000; **26**: 4–5.
2. Rew DA. IdealFirst. *Eur J Surg Oncol* 2001; **27**: 123.

Web References: [http://www.](http://www.idealibrary.com/)

- W1. idealibrary.com/
- W2. europe.idealibrary.com/
- W3. sciencedirect.com
- W4. info.sciencedirect.com
- W5. elsevier.com