
EDITORIALS

IDEALFirst: electronic pre-publication for the EJSO

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The internet has transformed the projection of the *EJSO*. Through the IDEAL website, it can now be assessed instantaneously and worldwide.¹ The success of the journal, the pressure on our publication schedules and the growing demand for electronic pre-publication, encourages our further innovation.

The integrity of the *EJSO* remains founded upon the printed edition. New electronic publication methods allow us to unbundle the constituent articles in each issue without compromising the journal. Our publishers have been innovative in developing and testing an extension of the IDEAL model, IDEALFirst. This allows electronic posting of each and every article as soon as the final proofs of an article have been completed and authorized for publication by the Editorial team. This is usually well in advance of the print issue. Each paper is then published on the IDEAL website,^{W2} where it can be accessed by IDEAL subscribers, abstracted, indexed and cited with the same copyright status as has the printed version. Publication is not delayed by the preparation of other articles. The printed article appears in the journal in due course.

The key to this process is the development of the Digital Object Identifier, DOI.^{W1} The DOI is a common and open international collaborative standard. It assigns each electronic item of intellectual property, such as an

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IDEAL and IDEALFirst thus dramatically extend the access of the worldwide clinical and scientific community to the work of our authors both in time and place. We are a journal both of reference and communication. We intend that our new initiatives will underpin the dramatic growth in our impact factor and further encourage and support our authors.

REFERENCES

1. Rew DA. Worldwide publication of the *EJSO*: the IDEAL way forward. *Eur J Surg Oncol* 2000; 1: 3–4.
- W1. www.doi.org (for information on Digital Object Identifiers).
- W2. www.idealibrary.com/