

Wikimedia Foundation
1 Montgomery Street
Suite 1600
San Francisco, CA 94104
USA

2019-09-25

Dear Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees,

We hereby submit an application for a new Wikimedia Sister Project:

Wikimedia Journals (as per Wikimedia Commons) or **Wikijournals** (as per Wikibooks)

We believe that this proposal has a distinct and complementary scope to the foundation's current projects. It will be a valuable part of the movement's strategic direction and goals to be the essential and trusted infrastructure of the free knowledge ecosystem, and especially for attracting new expert voices to the broader Wikimedia movement.

Wikimedia projects have long interacted with academic journals. Here, we propose that there is scope for a Wikimedia Journal hosting platform as a fully developed sister project. We have demonstrated the demand and feasibility of such a project by developing the WikiJournal User Group since 2013.

This project would greatly benefit from the specialised platform, new technical features, and increased exposure that a sister project status could provide.

We have broad support from the Wikimedia community, as well as from potential future contributors to the platform and from a range of external partners.

Please find attached a summary of the application. A link to the proposal on Meta-Wiki can be found at:

- meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiJournal
- meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiJournal/Technical_wishlist

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The WikiJournal User Group

Wikimedia Journals

APPLICATION TO FOUND A NEW SISTER PROJECT

Background

Public trust in Wikipedia is high, yet it has long struggled to gain reputation and engage academic/expert communities. Similarly, the quality of much of its content is superior to other encyclopedias, yet highly variable from page to page.

As well as the first stop for information, what if Wikimedia could also be the last stop in some cases - with content considered sufficiently trustworthy to be citable? The process of independent peer review by external experts is a foundation of robust quality-control for information. This is what we have started to achieve with the WikiJournal project.

After hundreds of years, academic publishing is finally undergoing a rapid transformation.

The Open Access (OA) movement is revolutionising reader access to peer-reviewed research, but the publishing cost is still out of reach for billions of people who cannot afford 'article processing fees', which can be thousands of dollars for one paper.

A Wikimedia journal platform would not charge for any stage of publication, relying on volunteers and donations to run the entire project. We have shown how the WikiJournals can draw expertise from academic and professional communities who otherwise rarely contribute to the Wikimedia movement.

What has been done so far?

Combining academic publishing and Wikipedia has been done in several formats over the last decade.

- **Dual publishing:** In 2008 *RNA Biology* began requiring authors to also write a short Wikipedia page to accompany any article on a new RNA gene family. In 2016, *Gene* started a similar format.
- **Journal first publishing:** In 2012, *PLOS Computational Biology* created a format where authors write an article that is published in the journal and then copied directly to Wikipedia. They were joined by *PLOS Genetics* in 2016, and *PLOS ONE* in 2019.
- **Wikipedia first publishing:** In 2014, *Open Medicine* put the first Wikipedia article through academic peer review and publication, requiring an article processing fee.
- **All of the above:** Since 2014, the WikiJournal User Group has run a set of journals that specialise in these formats, hosted within Wikiversity (more in the Proof of Principle section below).

These formats have been generally done piecemeal by different stakeholders. A unified location would both support existing projects, and encourage the further development of similar collaborations between Wikimedia projects and established academic journals (see the Support section below).

Proof of principle

The WikiJournal User Group has been running just such a format since 2014 (official UG recognition June 2016).

→ wikiversity.org/wiki/WikiJournal_User_Group

The initial journal was *WikiJournal of Medicine (WikiJMed)*. This remains the flagship journal in the group, and has since been joined by *WikiJournal of Science (WikiJSci)* and *WikiJournal of Humanities (WikiJHum)*. The community so far includes approx 300-350 members including authors, editors, peer reviewers and discussion participants. The majority of authors and reviewers are first-time Wikimedia participants, bringing new expertise into the community.

Since its inception in 2014, WikiJMed published 29 articles and amassed 83 citations to its articles. WikiJSci published 15 articles and received 2 citation since the journal began in 2018. WikiJHum published 3 articles since 2018.

Proposal

Alignment with Wikimedia principles

Fully free: A Wikimedia journal platform would support OA journals with no subscription costs to readers *and* no article processing charges for authors (platinum open access). This would include supporting existing journals and for potential new journals. It also removes a significant barrier by scholars and academics in Global South towards contributing and disseminating knowledge related to Global South to a worldwide audience.

Open community: The WikiJournal User Group has open elections. Additionally, the platform would also be a space where established journals could set up spaces, either for publishing works intended for integration into other Wikimedia projects, or simply running platinum open access journals. The platform would also have a community of editors able to assist and advise across journals.

Quality knowledge: The one constant across all hosted journals is robust peer review by external experts. It also ensures accuracy, completeness, up-to-dateness and balance in the content and prevents fringe theories, pseudoscience or unsupported information. This also brings in knowledge from people who would not otherwise contribute or review contents for a Wikimedia project, addressing the existing systemic bias for groups that are underrepresented in publishing and Wikimedia projects.

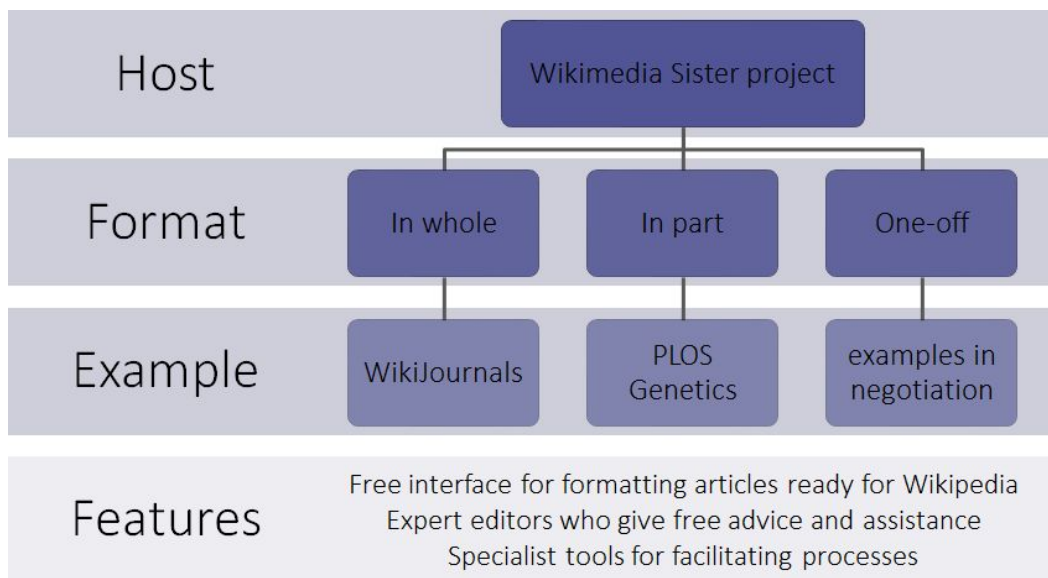
Egalitarian: For contributors, anyone can post a preprint article and submit it to a participating journal on the platform; all authors are treated the same whether professor or student. For peer reviews,

anyone can comment on an article (although there must be at least two external expert reviewers for an article to be considered for publication). Editors of the WikiJournal User Group are openly elected based on their professional experience, publishing experience, and open knowledge experience.

Transparency: Open and auditable processes are prioritised throughout the journals. Peer reviews are available to read and most reviewers also choose to reveal their identity. Articles are posted as preprints before publication and are viewable throughout the revision process. Journal processes, ethics statements and guidelines are collaboratively developed. Open discussion on strategy for the WikiJournal User Group is held on the main discussion pages.

Specifics

The platform would host academic journals. Some journals would be hosted in their entirety on the platform including existing journals (e.g. *WikiJMed*, *WikiJSci* & *WikiJHum*), potential future journals starting up or migrating to the platform. Some journals would be hosted in part (e.g. the ongoing topic pages format of *PLOS Comp Biol*, *PLOS Genetics* & *PLOS ONE*). Some journals may also be hosted for one-off articles or issues.



A Wikimedia Journals platform with unique site identity and branding would be useful even if it had only the same functionality as Wikiversity. However, there are several unique features that would be extremely valuable to both the current WikiJournal User Group, as well as potential future journals moving to the platform. These include:

- Automation of repetitive manual tasks (e.g. assigning DOIs and formatting PDFs for published articles)
- Specialised back-end extensions (e.g. automated email reminders to external peer reviewers, tracking of peer review process across articles)

- Bringing work performed off-wiki back on-wiki (e.g. peer review submission forms and tracking of anonymous peer reviewer identities)
- (Prioritised list: meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiJournal/Technical_wishlist)

Name and location

Depending on the foundation’s preference, the following domain names:

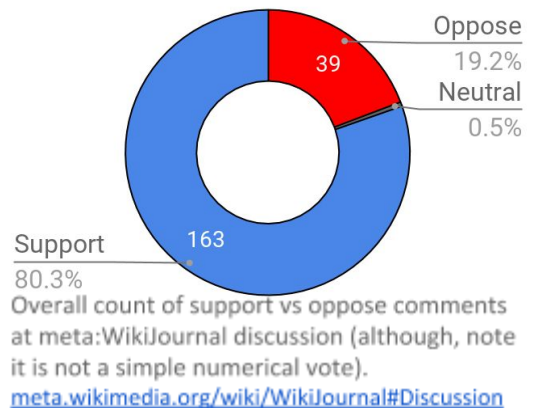
- wikijournal.org or wikijournals.org (similar to wikibooks.org)
- journals.wikimedia.org (per commons.wikimedia.org)
- J.wiki (per w.wiki)

The current journals hosted on wikiversity are called ‘WikiJournal of X’, however it is expected that other journals without ‘WikiJournal’ in their name will use the platform. The platform functionality is therefore more important than its name. The platform name is also completely compatible with replacement with “Wikipedia Journals” in the event that the “leading with Wikipedia” brand proposal progresses.

Support

Wikimedia community

We believe that we have broad support from the Wikimedia community at large as well as a critical mass of existing contributors. The community discussion on Meta-Wiki raised multiple points in favour and opposition of the proposal. In addition to discussion comments, there were 198 comments that included a support / oppose / neutral vote (chart to right). We believe the main opposing points in that discussion have been responded to.



Open access groups, scholarly societies and academic journals

Multiple academic journals have expressed an interest in copying one or more of the publication models (see background section above), but have previously been restricted by the technical hurdles. The previous and proposed work of the project has also received positive feedback when presented at academic conferences.

Organisations noting support of the application:

- PLOS (Public Library of Science)
- FOK (Free Our Knowledge)
- SCCAP (Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology)
- HGAPS (Helping Give Away Psychological Science)
- Science for All

Letters of support attached

Supporting statements from academic publishers, scholarly societies, and OA organisations are attached to this letter.

→ tinyurl.com/WikiJournal-support-letters

Publishing is still a billion dollar global industry, largely funded by tax-payers and controlled by a small number of for-profit publishers. It is dominated by researchers from the Global North for topics on relevant to Global North. There is therefore potential for a Wikimedia journals sister project to be a source of donations from organisations, universities, governments, research groups and individuals.

Further information

→ Signpost article: wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikipedia_Signpost/2019-06-30/In_focus

→ Kurier article: de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Kurier/Ausgabe_6_2019

→ Wikimania

presentation:

drive.google.com/file/d/1ZQ3AsK1H_kAYuJQ8082xCuPgQyYmJDje/view

→ WikiJSci editorial: doi.org/10.15347/wjs/2018.001

Letter of support for proposed Wikimedia Sister Project: Wikimedia Journals

Dear Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees,

Since March 2012, [PLOS Computational Biology](#) has been publishing ‘Topic Pages’, which are peer-reviewed review articles that are simultaneously published on Wikipedia. This initiative was followed by the launch of ‘Topic Pages’ on [PLOS Genetics](#) in April 2017 and on [PLOS ONE](#) in January 2019.

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Topic pages are two-stage publications that are bi-directionally linked:

1. A peer-reviewed ‘Topic Page’ article in one of the participating PLOS journals, which is fixed, peer-reviewed openly via the PLOS Wiki and citable, giving information about that particular topic.
2. The finalized article is then submitted to Wikipedia, which becomes a living version of the document that the community can refine, build on, and keep up to date.

The Topic Pages project has been driven by the aim to provide authors with credit for their contributions to improving the scientific content within Wikipedia. It also overcomes the static nature of scientific publishing by linking a time-stamped version of the peer reviewed literature to the ‘living’ page on Wikipedia to allow updates to be completed as the field advances.

The present format for the PLOS Topic Pages on the [PLOS Wiki](#) is associated with technical limitations in terms of the original drafting of the manuscripts, as well as for the peer reviewers in providing their comments. It is our view that the proposed sister project would overcome most of these challenges and should allow us to extend the Topic Pages to cover more research areas, and thus to provide more updated topic pages on specialized subject areas to the main Wikipedia.

We therefore lend our support to this project, and would intend to collaborate with the Wikimedia Journals platform in the publication of the PLOS Topic Pages.

Yours sincerely,

Joerg Heber, Editor-in-Chief, *PLOS ONE*
Clare Stone, Acting Chief Editor, *PLOS Medicine*
Rebecca Kirk, Associate Editorial Director, Community Journals
Jason Papin, Editor-in-Chief, *PLOS Computational Biology*
Gregory Barsh, Editor-in-Chief, *PLOS Genetics*
Gregory Copenhaver, Editor-in-Chief, *PLOS Genetics*

05/09/2019

WMF Board of Trustees
Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.
1 Montgomery Street
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USA

A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE WIKIMEDIA JOURNALS APPLICATION

Dear Wikimedia Foundation Board of trustees,

We are writing this as a note of support for the “WikiJournal” proposal at this link:
<https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiJournal>.

About us: Project Free Our Knowledge aims to increase the adoption of open research practices through collective action in academia. Our platform does this by allowing participants to pledge to publish open access (choosing their own target mix of green, gold and platinum) to instantiate these practices as a new cultural norm.

Why we endorse this proposal: We are excited to see the work already done by the “WikiJournal User Group” in forwarding platinum open access. In particular, we are in favour of the following aspects:

- High transparency in the process
- OA without charging authors
- Interactions with other platforms (e.g., ORCID)
- Supporting early-career researchers and under-represented minorities

We think that the proposed “Sister project” would forward the work they are already doing and allow for expansion of the model. This model has the potential to be a valuable help in making the scholarly publishing system freer and more open, while increasing public exposure and trust in scholarly research.

Yours sincerely,



Cooper Smout
Founder, Free our Knowledge

Re: Letter of Support for the Wikimedia Journals Application for Sister Project Status
September 11, 2019

Dear Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees,

We are writing this as a note of support for the “WikiJournal” proposal at this link:

- <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiJournal>.

The Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (SCCAP) is an international society focused on improving the mental health of children and families through education and provision of better mental health services. We are a nonprofit organization (501c3), and a division of the American Psychological Association (APA).

We are committed to sharing information through Wikipedia, Wikiversity, Wikimedia, and the Open Science Framework, as well as through curated websites (such as EffectiveChildTherapy.org) and traditional peer reviewed publication models. We have supported a variety of projects and initiatives to work towards increasing the amount and accuracy of information about psychological science on Wiki platforms.

Why we endorse this proposal: We are enthusiastic about the preliminary work already done by the “WikiJournal User Group” in forwarding platinum open access. Notable strengths include:

- Having a clear author byline increases the feasibility of having academic authors contributed to the projects (i.e., authors can list it on their CV as research, versus service or teaching)
- Having a DOI ties in with the rest of the publication tracking ecology
- The high Altmetrics will be increasingly attractive to authors, and they already show the value added of putting information here in terms of reaching broader audiences
- The path to get content upgraded on Wikipedia,
- Enhanced functionality of “native” online publication (e.g., rotating and animated figures, sortable tables, live hyperlinks to data, code, and resources that enhance transparency and reproducibility).
- High transparency in the process
- Open Access without charging authors, eliminating a cost barrier for participation
- Interactions with other platforms (e.g., ORCID)
- Supporting early-career researchers and under-represented minorities

Perhaps the single most important aspect of this project is advancing a hybrid model that retains the open-access and ease of updating that are core features of Wikipedia with ways of acknowledging authorship, documenting scholarly contribution, and having peer review to accelerate the process of getting scientifically accurate and balanced (NPOV) information to the global community.

Promoting the WikiJournals / Wikimedia Journals to “Sister project” status would advance the work they are already doing and allow for expansion of the model. Having the journals as a sister project would make them more visible, create a different level of infrastructure support, but also provide more clarity to

the scholarly community that the journals exist as a “thing” with many familiar processes combined with exciting new potential. We would be glad to continue to work together to accomplish these goals.

Best regards,



Eric Youngstrom, PhD

President, on Behalf of the Executive Board

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Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology - SCCAP53.org



Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology
Division 53 of the American Psychological Association



103 Westchester Place
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

<http://hgaps.org>

Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees
Re: Application for Sister Project Status for Wikimedia Journals

16 September 2019

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to offer enthusiastic endorsement of the application for “sister project status” for the Wikimedia Journals Project, on behalf of Helping Give Away Psychological Science (HGAPS.org).

HGAPS is a nonprofit (501c3) organization dedicated to disseminating psychological science to the general public. The organization was founded as a student service club at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as incorporated as a charity in North Carolina with the IRS confirming 501c3 status in early 2018. The organization has grown rapidly, involving more than 100 students and a dozen faculty at prestigious Departments of Psychology, and attracting a dozen small grants in the space of five years. Our supporters have included the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology, the Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, the Association for Psychological Science, the Society for Clinical Psychology, the Society for Quantitative and Qualitative Methods, the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, the Society for International Psychology, and the American Psychological Association. Our most successful approach has been to use the grant support to buy food for weekly meetings during the semester, pay for travel awards for students to present work at conferences (proselytizing Wikimedia at a variety of scientific meetings), and do summer sprints on focused projects.

We have partnered with the WikiEdu program, and run several “classes” with them, helping track our contributions. We have had ~ 200 people complete the Wiki Edu and WikiWings trainings. The initiative has started or edited more than 250 pages on Wikipedia and Wikiversity, generating ~232,000 words of additional material and accruing more than 75 million page views to date. Our most visible contributions have been public health initiatives in response to community violence (including the shootings in Parkland, FL, Santa Fe, Squirrel Hill...), suicide prevention (13 RW: What we wish they knew), and hurricane and flooding response, in addition to our original focus on evidence-based assessments for mental health issues. Our projects and products have received considerable positive feedback.

Throughout the many iterations, the biggest challenge has been getting content experts in psychology to engage with the projects. The barriers are many, including age differences in comfort editing and posting material online (“Digital Natives” are more facile and less self-conscious), as well as perceptions that Wikipedia editing counts as “service” at best, and not teaching or research (which are the more valued legs of the pedestal of an academic career at most institutions).

Our view is that the Wikimedia Journals offer a crucial hybrid model. They retain features that are essential to engage academics:

- (a) They have a clear by-line, documenting authorship.
- (b) Peer review is an explicit feature of the process, which not only helps with public credibility and Wikimedia’s goal of NPOV, but elevates the work for the purposes of promotion and tenure review.
- (c) The products have a DOI, and they are indexed in an increasing number of database.
- (d) There is a stable “version of record” that preserves the curated, peer-reviewed work



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<http://hgaps.org>

At the same time, the Wikimedia Journal articles have several unusual and promising features:

- (a) They are open access, with no publication/subvention fee
- (b) The reviews are transparent
- (c) The articles are much easier to update than traditional reports
- (d) Electronic articles also offer a wealth of functionality that is missing in traditional paper format:
 - a. Direct links to web resources and pages
 - b. Sortable tables
 - c. Animated figures – GIFs, pivot tables, Shiny R objects, etc.

The main barriers to realizing the potential are that academics tend to perceive Wikimedia editing as a “service,” not a research endeavor, and they get frustrated by edits and reversions. The Wiki Journals offer a pathway to bridge the two communities.

Elevating the Wiki Journals to sister project status is crucial in terms of branding and visibility, making this effort a peer to the other projects. It also will pay dividends by upgrading the infrastructure and support, creating a better user experience as the next wave new contributors engage.

I am glad to talk further. My email is eay@unc.edu, and eyoungstrom@hgaps.org; my cell phone is 216-410-7975.

Best regards,

Eric A. Youngstrom, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
HGAPS, Inc.



SCIENCE FOR ALL

18th September 2019

WMF Board of Trustees
Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.
1 Montgomery Street
Suite 1600
San Francisco, CA 94104
USA

A Letter Of Support For The Wikimedia Journals Application

Dear Wikimedia Foundation Board of trustees,

I am writing this letter on behalf of 'Science for All' in support of the "WikiJournal" proposal at this link:
<https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiJournal>

What is 'Science for All'

'Science for All' is an international not-for-profit organisation which exists to facilitate the learning, sharing and creation of knowledge. We enable people to share knowledge and ideas, use the scientific method to create new knowledge and support more people to get involved in shaping the future of human knowledge. Learn more at ScienceForAll.World

Why we support this proposal

Staff at 'Science for All' have been working closely with the "WikiJournal User Group" and feel the work has global significance at an important time in human history. We are able to share knowledge in new ways, which everyone can access and create – however, **trust is more important than ever**. This work gives a chance for anyone to have their knowledge peer-reviewed, for free – with anyone able to access it. Combining this process with embedding it into Wikipedia will mean that **millions of people will be able to access trusted, peer-reviewed knowledge** which can be created by anyone, with **money not being a barrier** to creation or access.

In addition – we are working with the WikiJournal User Group to implement 'Standardised Data on Initiatives (STARDIT). It is a proposed way of developing terminology to report 'interventions', 'research', 'projects' and other similar words that describe any kind of 'initiative' or action, **standardising data about initiatives and reporting impacts in multiple human languages**. The WikiJournals will be the first in the world to have this novel metric, and will become global leaders in transparency about research, and who was involved.

The WikiJournals are at a critical moment in history, and need support. They have the potential to take a leading role in the growing global Open Access movement. Support from Wikimedia Foundation at this moment in time will ensure these journals will be leaders in creating and sharing life-saving and globally significant research for everyone, anywhere.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Nunn

Director and founder, on behalf of **'Science for All'**

Created by 'Science for All' on 18.9.19 - Contact info@scienceforall.world or visit scienceforall.world

Science for All

Email: info@scienceforall.world

Visit: scienceforall.world

Twitter: [@scifall](https://twitter.com/scifall)

Facebook: [Science for All](https://www.facebook.com/ScienceforAll) and

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Wikimedia Foundation
1 Montgomery Street
Suite 1600
San Francisco, CA 94104
USA

2019-11-01

RE: Wikimedia journals sister project

Dear Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees,

In addendum to our previous letter on 2019-09-25, an additional note of support for the proposal has been received from ORCID that we would like to forward to you. Please find this attached below.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The WikiJournal User Group



17 October 2019

WMF Board of Trustees
Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.
1 Montgomery Street, Suite 1600
San Francisco, CA 94104
USA

Dear Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees,

On behalf of ORCID, I am writing to support the WikiJournal proposal, available at this link: <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiJournal>.

ORCID's vision is a world where all who participate in research, scholarship, and innovation are uniquely identified and connected to their contributions across disciplines, borders, and time. We care deeply about enabling researcher control over what and how their information is shared, and transparency of information source.

The WikiJournal proposal is exciting to us because of its focus on researcher control and transparency. We laud the use of persistent identifiers to enable attribution of authors, editors, and peer reviewers, and persistent links with their contributions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Haak'.

Laurel L. Haak, PhD
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