



## Editorial

## Article-based publishing

Until now, articles accepted by the journal have typically waited three or four issues for publication. With Volume 81 in August 2012, the *Journal of Vocational Behavior* (JVB) moves to "article-based" publishing. This means that once we accept an article, and after proofing, it will be published in the current, open issue. Rather than the Editor composing issues, chronological flow will determine issue content. Each JVB issue will comprise all of the articles that have been accepted since the previous issue. With article-based publishing, authors will experience no lag-time in seeing their accepted articles published in final form. Rather, authors will find that their articles are published as quickly as possible once ready and readers will have earlier access to accepted articles. Moreover, researchers will be able to cite each article sooner, and in the manner most familiar to them, because it will have page numbers, instead of waiting on-line as "in-press" without page numbers, as has been JVB's practice.

The way readers approach JVB articles continues to evolve as scholars scan, sort, and browse in multiple ways. Many JVB readers only view articles individually, by online search. They will not notice the new publication process at all. But, our research tells us that authors will be (even more) delighted. The switch to publishing articles before compiling print issues makes JVB a better partner with authors and readers as they pursue their research and learning. Rather than hold to printing issues, Elsevier has moved beyond the traditional print-driven paradigm to digital-first publishing. Traditionally, for JVB the end-product has been a printed issue, published in a timely but not rapid manner. Moving to digital-first publishing makes an article—not issue—the end-product, and one that readers can access rapidly. Rather than assembling articles and then publishing them in a print issue, the author-centered platform publishes the articles electronically first in an open issue, and only later compiles them chronologically into a completed print issue.

Readers of print issues will notice the variable length of individual issues. JVB publishes six issues per year. With editorial planning and organizing, each issue was roughly 190 pages. The page numbers in future issues will be determined solely by the number of accepted articles since the prior issue. In addition, the Editor will retain some planning responsibilities in inviting and publishing special sections and issues on timely and important topics. Also, linking journal content and placing it in context will become increasingly important. Accordingly through appropriate channels, the Editor will offer readers occasional guidance by assembling the rapidly-published regular articles into topical reading lists and even virtual special sections and special issues. Furthermore, the Editor and Editorial Board will remain conscientious in maintaining the high standards for article quality that JVB readers have come to expect.

The Editor, on behalf of the Editorial Board, appreciates the encouragement and effort of JVB's Executive Publisher Dan Morgan and Elsevier in moving the journal from an issue-based platform to an article-based platform. I also wish to recognize the valuable guidance and important contributions of Journal Manager Ana Maldonado in moving JVB to article-based publishing. The digital-first, article-centered paradigm meets the needs of the increasing number of scholars who browse, search, read, and print articles on-line. In this regard, JVB downloads have increased from approximately 200,000 in 2007 to approximately 500,000 in 2011. Now, JVB readers will have even quicker access to downloading and citing the most recent content they choose. We believe that JVB authors and readers will find this new publishing style to their liking.

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Editor

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