

Summary of the 2015 EMUG Meeting

By Alison McGonagle-O'Connell
Marketing Manager
Aries Systems Corporation

The 13th annual meeting of the [Editorial Manager User Group](#) (EMUG) took place at the Hilton Back Bay Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts on June 18 and 19. The meeting set a new EMUG attendance record at 134 total attendees, including many ISMTE members wise to take advantage of the member discount offered by Aries, the developer of Editorial Manager.

As the “new” face at Aries this past year, it follows that this was my first EMUG experience. What struck me most was the level of enthusiasm and engagement that appears to be part of the very fabric of EMUG.

Right away, the excitement of repeat, “frequent flyer” attendees became visible as old friends greeted one another, and veteran customers quickly found their way to their Account Coordinators and other staff members. It was also quite impressive the way that new members of the user group, including myself, were immediately brought into the fold, invited to participate in popular sessions like Feature Workshops and Feature Presentations, where attendees discuss their wish list for new EM functionalities with peers and Aries staff, and later with the entire meeting. See the box below for a sample of some of this year’s wish list items.

Example “wish list” items for the Aries development pipeline arising from EMUG Workshop sessions. Aries invests more than \$6M per year in new technology.

- Improved highlighting of incomplete steps
- People-focused correspondence view
- User-controlled ordering of action links
- File size restrictions customizable by item type
- More flexibility for the Suggest Editor functionality
- Improved visibility of invited authors
- Additional options for sharing reviewer comments
- Warnings regarding partially saved work
- Enhancements to automatic editor reminders
- Enhanced Technical Check
- Reviewer Stats merge fields
- Enhanced support for PDF form uploads
- Predetermined letter attachments
- Drag and drop ordering of alternate reviewers
- Streamlined submission linking
- Simplified EAR report renaming
- Customizable reviewer invitations by article type
- Availability of reviewer support directly in the user interface
- Integration with membership databases
- Ability to set default contact method to e-mail only
- Option to save an EAR report to the Editor menu
- Cross-journal configuration tool for roles and article types
- Track changes to enable editing of submitted reviews

Also highly rated by attendees is the annual EM Boot Camp—a training session run by Dianne Gullo of Client Services. “I really needed a refresher and the boot camp provided that,” said Manjit Kaur, Journals and Publishing Solutions Manager at University of Nebraska Press. “[The team] did such a good job at presenting the information in a useful and understandable way.”

During a general session, Tony Alves, director of product management at Aries, presented a review of features in EM versions 12.0 and 12.1, including:

- Extended support for FundRef, including subagencies
- Interactive Grids within Search Submissions (see video for a demonstration)
- EM Ingest Service (which warranted its own breakout session—more on that later)
- Global editing of letter templates (see Figure 1)
- Editor Chain automation
- Portal-wide People Notes

Global editing of letters was on a past EMUG attendee’s Feature Workshop wish list, serving as a fine example of the goals of the meeting, and the value placed on customer feedback shared at EMUG.

In a breakout session on standards and identifiers called “Got ID,” Aries Business Analyst Michael Di Natale spoke about the “virtuous

cycle of ID” as the give and take between standards like ORCID, Ringgold, and FundRef, and how implementing these standards simplifies the collaborative work between vendors, funders, and publishers for the greater good of the research community. Di Natale was joined by guest speakers Alice Meadows, director of communications at ORCID, and Interim Publisher Helen Atkins of PLoS.

“Editorial Manager allows publications to collect ORCID IDs, FundRef IDs, and Ringgold IDs during the submission process automatically without adding to the author’s burden,” said Di Natale. He explained that implementing these features will provide cleaner data which will allow publications to function faster and more accurately. With widespread adoption of these standards, publications can quickly assess and process article processing charges, funders can see where their money is being spent, and researchers will be able to share and track their body of work.

Data Analytics Specialist Michael Hambloch, from Aries’ German office, returned to the States to reprise his very popular improvisational Enterprise Analytics Reporting (EAR) triple session. And he did not disappoint.

“The EAR session was fantastic,” said Hambloch, describing the experience of working with a large group of attendees consisting of very new and highly experienced users as an exciting challenge: “you don’t want to overwhelm new users or bore the experienced ones.”

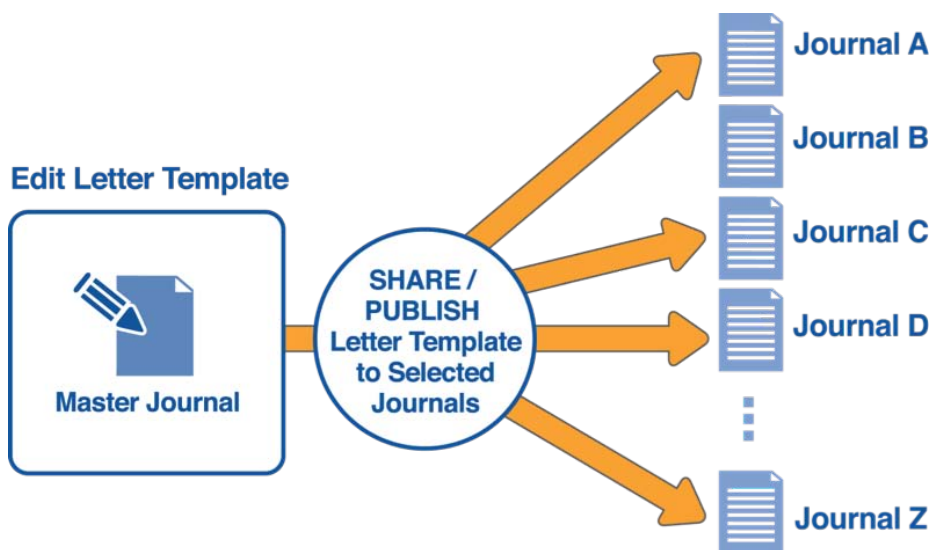


Figure 1: Infographic of Global Letter Template editing functionality, new in Editorial Manager version 12.0.

Reflecting on the session, Hambloch noted that “reporting is becoming a bigger and bigger issue and...people get more and more engaged with it and want to learn more about it. This was also reflected by the number of people that participated in the session this year.

“Also, given the increase of metadata that travels with submissions, and people, across all systems involved nowadays, reporting is becoming an area in and of itself within in this industry. I’m looking forward to next year’s session being even bigger and better.”

Jayne Marks, vice president of journals publishing at Wolters Kluwer, gave the keynote address at the close of day one titled “The Future of Scholarly Journals Publishing.” One memorable takeaway was Marks’ observation that print is not dead, based on evidence of physician requirements, student preferences, and pharmaceutical industry journal advertising spend. Marks also stressed that the article is not just an article anymore, it’s one part of a larger research ecosystem, a theme well connected to several of the breakout sessions including Open for Business, Got ID?, Transfer That, and more.

After hearing Aries CEO Lyndon Holmes’ view of the future in the event’s opening remarks, and

Marks’ predictions in the afternoon, attendees were treated to an opportunity to confer with a psychic from Boston’s Tremont Tearoom during the cocktail and dinner reception. Many attendees lined up to learn even more about what lies ahead.

Day two opened with another of the event’s most popular sessions—the submission partner forum. This portion of EMUG was dedicated to the EM Ingest service that had been alluded to in Tony Alves’ presentation. In this session, Aries Vice President of Sales and Marketing Richard Wynne talked briefly about what EM Ingest is, and how it works (Figure 2). He then handed over the microphone to Matias Piipari, the developer of the [Manuscripts](#) app, one of the innovative new author tools that have signed on to flow manuscripts into submission queues using ingest. Also presenting during the session were Submission Partners, including Don Samulack from [Editage](#), and Mary Anne Baynes from [Overleaf](#).

EMUG wrapped up with Tony Alves sharing a presentation on what customers may expect from versions 12.2 and 13.0. While the discussion concerned planned items that may still change, some of the exciting features include integration with the [CRedit](#) “contributor roles” taxonomy

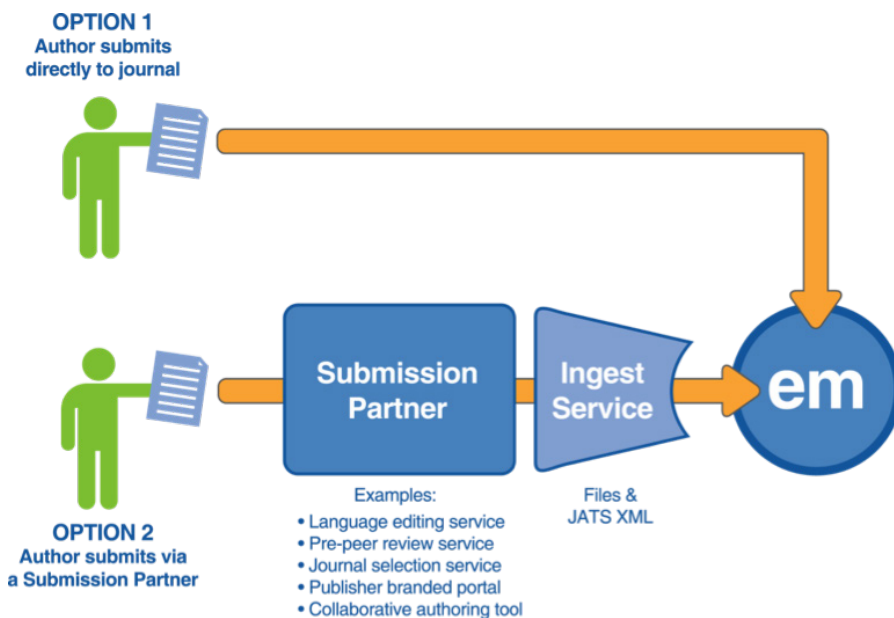


Figure 2: Infographic of EM Ingest Functionality, rolled out across Editorial Manager Deployments in version 12.0, featuring submission partners Editage, Overleaf, and ManuscriptsApp.

for authors, inclusion of more interactive grids, enhanced PDF watermarking, integration of the International Union of Crystallography check-CIF tool (for verifying the completeness of crystal structure data files), reviewer discussion forums, and more.

While the future may have been a focal point for EMUG 2015, attendees and participating staff indicated positive experiences at the event on their feedback forms. Stay tuned for details on attending European EMUG in January and EMUG 2016 next year.



Figure 3: EMUG photo collage. Clockwise: Annual attendee giveaway mugs; Aries CEO Lyndon Holmes presenting; Attendees collaborating with Aries staff and each other in Feature Workshops; View from the Hilton Back Bay, Boston in June 2015.