



Manuscript Exchange Common Approach (MECA)

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What's the Problem?

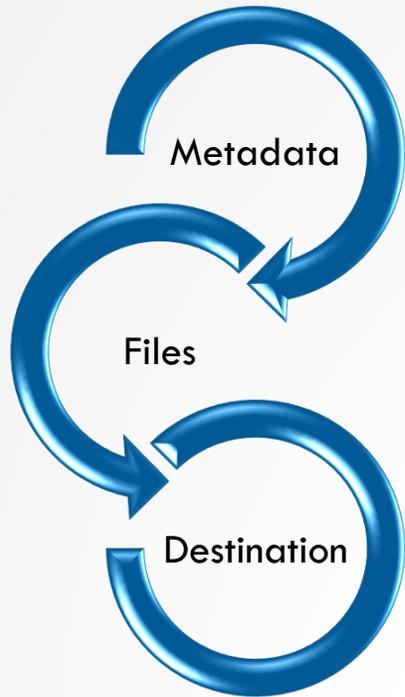
Problem

- Authors are irritated at time, effort, **delays when re-submitting articles**
- Reviewers' time is wasted when **reviews are re-done or replicated**
- New publication flows demand **transfers to/from preprint servers**
- Each workflow system has to **implement separate interfaces** to each other system – inefficient to work “pairwise”

Opportunity

- A **common approach to moving manuscripts** solves the above use cases, but can also solve some additional workflow problems!

All we need is for a group of competitors to collaborate!



- A group of vendors and publishers
 - HighWire: BenchPress
 - Aries: Editorial Manager
 - eJournalPress: eJPress
 - Clarivate: Scholar One
 - PLOS: Aperta



- Develop a common approach
 - Not software, not a central service, not a database
 - Recommended best practices
 - Non-proprietary, CC-BY
- Hope for wide adoption
 - Outreach, NISO, JATS4R, JATScon

Use Cases

Manuscript transfers across boundaries:

Journal

- Submission System to Submission System (primary)

Preprint

- Preprint System to/from Submission System (primary)

Syndication: Import from...

- Authoring Systems to Submission System (primary)

Syndication: Export from...

- Submission System to Various Services (secondary)

Project Areas

- Vocabulary
- Packaging
- Tagging
- Peer Review
- Transfer Information
- Identity
- Transmission

Project Areas – Vocabulary

- **Goal:** To provide a **standard nomenclature**
- Provides a baseline for understanding
- Includes 4 Use Cases
- Includes Term, Definition, Synonym, ‘Often-confused-with’ alternatives, and Examples
- Includes 70+ Terms
 - Publishing terms like ‘Author’, ‘Review’, ‘Downstream Processing’
 - Technical terms like ‘BITS’, ‘Interoperability’, ‘Mime Type’
- Can be updated over time

Project Areas - Packaging

- **Goal:** simple, flexible, standard way to **assemble files**
- Zip File
- Team will register a new 'mime type' and file extension for the package
- One manuscript per zip file
- Package contains:
 - **Manifest.xml** * (new DTD for file manifest)
 - **Transfer.xml** * (new DTD for source/destination, contact, and security information)
 - Article.xml (JATS-compliant)
 - PeerReview.xml (optional - JATS-like)
 - Source files

* Required Item

Project Areas - Tagging

- **Goal:** To be able to pass **submission information** from system to system
- **Article.xml** (file in JATS format – Green DTD compliant)
- Defines minimal required data*
- Only the highest revision of the submission is written to the XML
 - Article Identifiers (Manuscript Number, UUID, DOI)
 - Article Title *
 - Article Type, Category, Classifications, Keywords
 - Corresponding Author* and Co-Authors (with affiliations)
 - Related articles, Preprints
 - Funding Information, Custom Metadata
 - Figures, tables, supplementary material

Project Areas – Peer Review Data

- **Goal:** To be able to pass **review information** from system to system
 - Questions/Answers
 - Ratings
 - Comments
 - Annotations
 - Red lines / Marked up files
- **Privacy**
 - Reviewer names/contact information can be redacted
 - Based on sending journal's privacy policy
- **Reviews.xml** (file is similar to JATS)
 - Decided information does not belong in article.xml
 - Multiple reviews & revisions in one file
 - DTD has ~16 tags/elements
- Just a starting point
 - Looking for feedback and/or refinements

Project Areas – Transfer Information

- **Goal:** To be able to pass **transfer information** from system to system
 - Source Information
 - Service Provider
 - Contact Information
 - Publication Type, Title, Acronym
 - Destination Information
 - Service Provider
 - Contact Information
 - Publication Type, Title, Acronym
 - Security Information
 - Authentication Code
 - Processing Instructions
- **Transfer.xml** (new DTD)

Project Areas - Identity

- **Goal:** Unique, **consistent identity** across systems
- Unique identifier
 - When manuscripts are passed from system to system
 - Article number, but not journal specific
- DOI was considered
 - Need for something without a DOI “prefix” or implied source
- Universally unique identifier - UUID
 - Type 1
 - Date, time, MAC Address, random number
 - d6bf8782-30f7-4cd7-82a8-94ff62352ac4
 - Guarantees no collisions across vendors
 - Support found in many standard coding libraries

Project Areas - Transmission

- **Goal:** Simple, consistent way to **send the information** across systems
- FTP until January 2018 / SFTP (FTP over SSH) in 2018
 - Phase 1
 - Asynchronous
- Potential future development – move to API (REST, SWORD)
 - Provide status message to sender
 - Synchronous
 - Influenced by specific use cases

Action Items & Timeline

2017

- Present to organizations and communities of interest
 - JATS-Con, CASRAI, SSP, OASPA, Force11, STM, ISMTE, CSE, ALPSP...
 - Authoring platforms, composition vendors, repositories, preprint servers...
 - Q 1&2
 - Gather input from these interested parties
 - Input via manuscriptexchange.org
 - Expand the Working Group
 - Looking to include diverse set of stakeholders
 - Interested? Look at manuscriptexchange.org or email info@manuscriptexchange.org
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- Q 3&4
 - Host Informational Webinars
 - General and Technical sessions planned for July/August
 - Build trial/pilot/reference implementation
 - Refine approach and documentation

2018

- NISO application, if appropriate
 - Will need community volunteers to participate in that process
- Vendor and Supplier Implementations



Want to Participate?

- Webinar(s) to be scheduled this summer for publishers and implementers

- Additional Information on our web page:

www.manuscriptexchange.org

- Contact us – comment on documents/plans, volunteer:

info@manuscriptexchange.org