
EJMS (Electronic Journal Management System)

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Abstract

EJMS is a web-based manuscript submission and peer-review system for scholar societies and institutions. Its advantages are conciseness of menu windows and preliminary manuscript evaluation function. The last one allows journal editor to ask some editorial board members or referees of their first-glance opinion on a submission. EJMS may be integrated into a large package of vendor services helping the authors to improve the quality of manuscript and offering the innovative production workflow to publishers.

1. Introduction

Electronic Journal Management System (EJMS) is a web-based manuscript submission and peer-review system for scholarly journals and conference proceedings. The EJMS allows submitting original and revised manuscripts, inviting referees for peer-review, referees conduct reviews, upload reports and suggest decision recommendations. Finally, editors make final decisions.

EJMS is produced by VTeX company, located in Vilnius, Lithuania. The company provides LaTeX-based publishing solutions and data services to the scientific community and science publishers (see <http://www.vtex.lt> for details.) The EJMS is fully integrated into VTeX **LaTeX-based production cycle**—the process from the creation of the manuscript till the final electronic product.

EJMS was initiated by an agreement between VTeX and IMS—Institute of Mathematical Statistics (about

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4000 members; <http://www.imstat.org>), and developed in 2004-2007 by VTeX.

Integration of EJMS into the complete LaTeX-based production cycle proved to be very effective in collaboration with scientific institutions. The possibility to utilize such integration launches the synergy effect, that allows to optimize the flow of metadata between the separate workflow elements.

2. The main features and advantages

The main features of the EJMS (see Fig. 1):

- It allows authors to submit and track their manuscripts and revisions online.
- It allows editors, associate editors and referees to manage and review submissions as well as generate reports online.
- It provides wide spectrum of peer-review workflow configurations.
- It uses e-mail to communicate within system users. An expandable set of e-mail templates is available. Reminders are generated according to the rules elaborated by the Editorial Board.

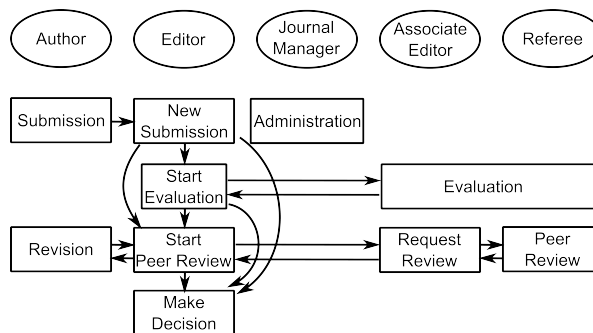


Figure 1. EJMS principal scheme and roles.

- It allows editor's assistant (Journal Manager) to proxy into the system and perform the tasks on behalf of users who may be holding-up a manuscript or refuse to use the system.
- It provides both "blind" and "double-blind" peer-review options.

The EJMS contains the same fundamental feature set and service level as major commercial products, but can be distinguished by some specific advantages:

- *Conciseness of menu windows.* User's screens are not overloaded by multiple buttons and comments.
- *Preliminary evaluation* is available if it is worth to start the peer review or submission should be rejected immediately.
- *Possibility to integrate* EJMS into a large package of vendor services (see Fig. 2).

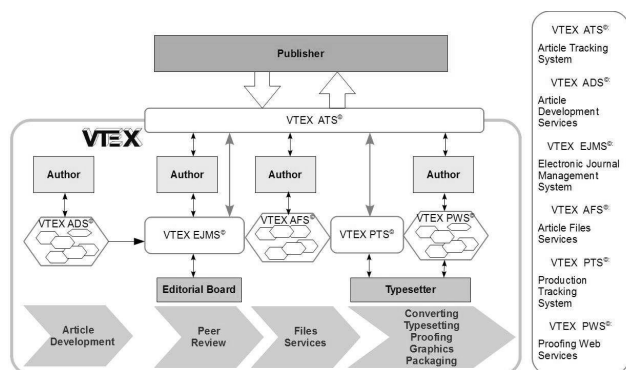


Figure 2. VTeX production workflow.

3. Publisher's and Editorial Staff's Benefits

- The online system improves the *record keeping and efficiency* of editorial process. Everything is in one place.
- The system can be *accessed from any computer* on the Internet and works on multiple platforms.
- Increased submission turn-around *speed*.
- *Reduced administration time and costs.* Instead of paying to separate journal editor's assistants a smaller centralized editorial assistance becomes preferable. One journal manager can easily manage several journals of a scholar society or institution.

- Online submission allows the *regional journals to become more international.* "Internationalization" as well as increase of submission volume usually causes increase of paper quality and overall journal's rank.

4. Lessons Learnt

- Launching a new journal, editorial staff training is necessary. VTeX always provides the EJMS demo version.
- The success often depends on Journal Manager qualification.
- Many users—many opinions. Very often system users have different opinion on how the user interface should look like.
- Particular attention should be paid to the referees part of the peer-review system. The referees work not so often with the system, therefore their workplace should be very convenient and easy to use.

5. EJMS Future

- Online conversion from LaTeX and Word.
- Automatic check of art quality.
- Tool for authors for tagging the bibliography.
- Tool for authors for checking the references with reference databases.
- Automatic link to check a submission for plagiarism.

References

VTeX. EJMS tutorial, 2007-2013. URL <http://www.e-publications.org/ejms/docs/tutorial/>.