

Selected Characteristics of Print and Digital Journals

CMI staff contacted several publishers to determine which features were routinely included in their digital-format journals. Four publishers, accounting for 176 of the 280 study titles, provided such information: American Chemical Society, Elsevier, Institute of Physics and Wiley InterScience. This data provides a snapshot of the characteristics of some of the study journals, and might be helpful to use as a starting point for further study on whether presence of certain characteristics correlates with patron use and acceptance of digital journals.

Digital Journal Characteristics	American Chemical Society	Elsevier	Institute of Physics	Wiley InterScience
Title Level				
Supplemental issues included	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes, unless society partner requests otherwise
Issue Level				
Table of Contents included	Yes	No	Yes	No
Letters to Editor included	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Classifieds included	N/A	Unsure	N/A	No
Event Notices included	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Advertisements included	No	No	No	No
Instructions to Authors included	Yes	Yes	Yes, on journal home page	Yes
Datasets included	No	Unsure	Yes	At discretion of author (but usually No)
Product News included	Yes	Yes	Yes, on journal home page	No
Relative timeliness of print to digital	Individual articles available 2-11 weeks prior to print, depending on journal frequency	Articles in press available for some journals; some issues are available in entirety prior to print	Available in digital form prior to print	Early View issues are sometimes published several weeks ahead of respective print issue
Reporting				
Count successful, intentional user requests (ie, screen out likely duplicates)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Filter requests for images	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Filter log records with problematic return codes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes
Filter all identical PDF file requests occurring within 65 second time intervals	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, within 30 seconds as per Project COUNTER specifications
Filter all identical requests occurring within 10 second time intervals	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Take other measures to address possible overcounting, or handle issue in a different manner	Yes	Yes	Yes, filter out con-type user agents and requests for byte ranges	Yes, will be fully COUNTER compliant soon

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With the help of a committee of UC Librarians, CMI staff compiled a list of other journal characteristics that might affect patron use and acceptance of journals in digital format.

Additional Journal Characteristics to Consider	Applicable to Which Version	Possible Answers	Source of Information
Title Level			
Format Medium	Print, Digital	Digital, Print	Catalog
Journal Title	Print, Digital--same for both		Catalog
Publisher/Access Provider	Print, Digital		Catalog
Subject	Print, Digital--same for both		Catalog
Volumes Available (Number range of published volumes)	Print, Digital--same for both		Catalog
Volume Number (Year) Studied	Print, Digital--same for both		Examination
Frequency (Issues per year)	Print, Digital		Ulrich's, Examination
Moving Wall	Digital only	Yes, No	Catalog
Terms of Moving Wall	Digital only		Catalog
Articles per Year	Print, Digital		Examination
Supplemental Issues	Print, Digital	Number per year or None	Ulrich's, Examination
Indexed (within journal itself)	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
Index Organized by Subject	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
Index Organized by Author	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
Abstracting & Indexing Services	Print, Digital		Ulrich's, Examination
ISI Listed	Print, Digital--same for both	Yes, No	ISI
ISI Impact Factor (Measures how frequently the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year. Calculated by dividing the number of current citations to items published in the previous two years by the total number of articles and reviews published in the previous two years.)	Print, Digital--same for both		ISI
ISI Immediacy Index (Measures how quickly the average article in a journal is cited. Tells you how often articles published in a journal are cited within the same year.)	Print, Digital--same for both		ISI

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ISI Cited Half-Life (Number of publication years from the previous year which account for 50% of current citations received. Helps evaluate the age range of the articles cited from the journal)	Print, Digital--same for both		ISI
ISI Citing Half-Life (Number of publication years from the current year that account for 50% of the current citations published by a journal in its article references. Helps you evaluate the age of the majority of articles references by a journal.)	Print, Digital--same for both		ISI
ISI Source Data (Tallies the number of articles (original research and review articles only) and the number of references a journal published in the current year, and provides the average number of references per article. Since review articles are often more highly cited than original research articles, it is advisable to consider a journal's source data by document type.)	Print, Digital--same for both		ISI
Article Level			
Abstract as Separate File	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
File Format(s)	Digital only	Indicate all available formats: HTML, PDF, text, Postscript	Examination
Hypertext Links to Cited Works	Digital only	Yes, No	Examination
Graphics Included	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
Types of Graphics Present:			
Line Drawings	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
Graphs/Charts	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
Photographs	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
Graphic Colors	Print, Digital	B/W, Grayscale, Color	Examination
Maps	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
Animation or Moving Pictures	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination
Graphics Printout Simultaneous with Text	Digital only	Yes, No	Examination
Thumbnail Preview(s) of High-Resolution Graphics	Digital only	Yes, No	Examination
Sound	Print, Digital	Yes, No	Examination