

IRPPS Editoria Elettronica: an electronic publishing web portal based on Open Journal Systems (OJS)

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Abstract.

This paper presents IRPPS Editoria Elettronica, an e-publishing service developed by the Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies (IRPPS) of the Italian National Research Council (CNR). Its aim is reorganize the Institute scientific editorial activity, manage its in-house publications and diffuse its scientific results. In particular this paper focuses on: the IRPPS editorial activities, the platform used to develop the service, the publishing process and the web portal developed.

Introduction.

In the last few years the development of sustainable economic models based on open source technologies for the management and dissemination of publishing activities represents a great opportunity for research institutions to improve the diffusion of their scientific information [1]. The wide diffusion of “*electronic publishing*” in the scholarly community is leading libraries to play a key role in the improvement of innovative systems for the dissemination of scientific research results, with the aim of increasing the quality of products and reduce cost of publications. This is particularly evident considering the widespread diffusion of open access journals published by academic and research Institutions.

In Italy, the Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies (IRPPS) of the National Research Council (CNR) is carrying out a project with the aim of developing an e-publishing service based on Open Journal Systems (OJS) with the aim of managing the GL collections. To its development an analysis of IRPPS current practices of publications was carried out considering types of documents and contents to be selected for future e-publications as well as monographs and/or digitization of previously published or unpublished works that have represented important achievements of IRPPS research results. A new editorial plan was designed in collaboration with the internal scientific community to define roles of the changed publishing process as well as editorial policies aimed to improve the scientific quality and visibility of IRPPS research products.

At the moment the IRPPS editorial group has developed a prototype customizing the OJS features to the Institute needs with the aim of: a) reorganizing its scientific editorial activity; b) managing its in-house publications; c) diffusing its scientific results. In this paper, after a brief description of the products edited by the Institute, the attention is focused on the platform used to develop the web portal, on the publishing process based on OJS and on the web portal developed.

IRPPS editorial products.

Table 1 shows IRPPS editorial activity since its foundation (i.e. 1981), highlighting for each scientific editorial product the number of publications in Italian and English, the years during which the product has been published, the frequency of publications and the ISBN or ISSN code if applicable. The Institute has planned and carried out its editorial activities, closely connected to the diffusion of its scientific results, as well as open to the external research community. All of these were “in-house publication” or grey literature. Some of them (Working Papers and Monographs) were published with continuity, while others (for example Conference proceedings series) were published not regularly or for specific scientific events organized by the Institute.

Table 1. IRPPS in-house publications (1981-2012)

Title	#	Language		Published		ISBN/ ISSN	Freq.
		EN	IT	From	To		
<i>Monograph</i>	12	4	8	1982	2012	Yes	Ad-hoc
<i>Working paper</i>	118	28	90	1981	2012	Yes	Ad-hoc
<i>Report on the demographic situation in Italy</i>	5	5	0	1983	1994	No	
<i>Conference proceedings</i>	3	0	3	1984	1992	No	
<i>Series documents and reprints</i>	3	0	3	1984	1986		
<i>Demotrends journal</i>	21	11	9	1997	2005	Yes	Quarterly
<i>Quaderni di Demotrends (Suppl. to Demotrends journal)</i>	7	0	7	1997	2007	No	
<i>Report on Welfare state in Italy</i>	11	0	11	1995	2012	Yes	Annual
<i>Other</i>	27	7	15	1981	2003	No	
Total	207	55	146				

IRPPS e-publishing service.

Products.

At the moment the “IRPPS Editoria Elettronica” portal publishes two series: *IRPPS Monographs* and *IRPPS Working Papers*. In particular:

- *IRPPS Monographs*, already published with irregular periodicity in a paper format from 1984 to 2002, restarted its publication in 2011 on an electronic and open access format. Monographs are released through the Institute web site and printed upon request. Concerning the content, *IRPPS Monographs* publishes essays, proceedings of conference organized by the Institute as well as digital versions of volumes already published.
- *IRPPS Working Papers* have a similar publishing process. A paper based format distribution started in 1981 and migrate on the Institute web site in 2002. Aim of this product is to examine emerging topics and to diffuse projects results and ongoing researches. Moreover, papers are published on an open access format and subjected to an internal evaluation process. *IRPPS Working Papers* are reserved to researchers of the Institute, sometime in collaboration with external researches.

Both Monographs and Working Papers are freely accessible and apply the creative commons version 3.0 licensing [3].

Open Journal Systems (OJS)

Open Journal Systems (OJS) [4-6] is a suitable software that manages both editorial activities and open access scientific publications. In particular it supports the editorial workflow, from manuscript submission to publication including the peer-review process, it facilitates the e-publishing of different types of editorial products, from serials to monographs, thus allowing the reduction of journal's operating costs.

Editorial workflow.

The whole editorial workflow, based on the OJS one, is depicted in figure 1.

Every author can upload his/her contribution directly through the IRPPS Editoria Elettronica portal. The author is requested to register both as author and/or reader (in order to be informed on the publication of new reviews). Once the registration is done, the author is directed to the Home page, where he can find the different roles of the user in the review (e.g. Author, reviewer, etc). By accessing as “author”, the user is directed to the submission page, where he can upload his article. The process consists of 5 steps and it is entirely guided. IRPPS Working Paper and IRPPS Monographs are associated with guidelines for authors concerning bibliographical and formatting standards to follow.

To make sure that propositions are correctly submitted, and that their format is appropriate at the moment of publication, the administrator and the editor of the review have conceived a checklist with submission requirements to be accepted by the author before moving towards the next step. If the author cannot satisfy one of the requirements for some reasons, he can accept the request and give explanations to the editor in the comments section. Furthermore, if he/she encounters any difficulty during the submission, he/she can still contact by email the system administrator or the editor.

For every single proposition, the editorial process is made of a submission process and a revision process, followed by the decision of the editor of accepting (or refusing) the publication. If it is accepted during the process of revision, the submission moves through the editing phase, which consists of copy-editing, layout creating and draft correcting. After that, the publications of working papers or monographs in one of the proposed files are programmed.

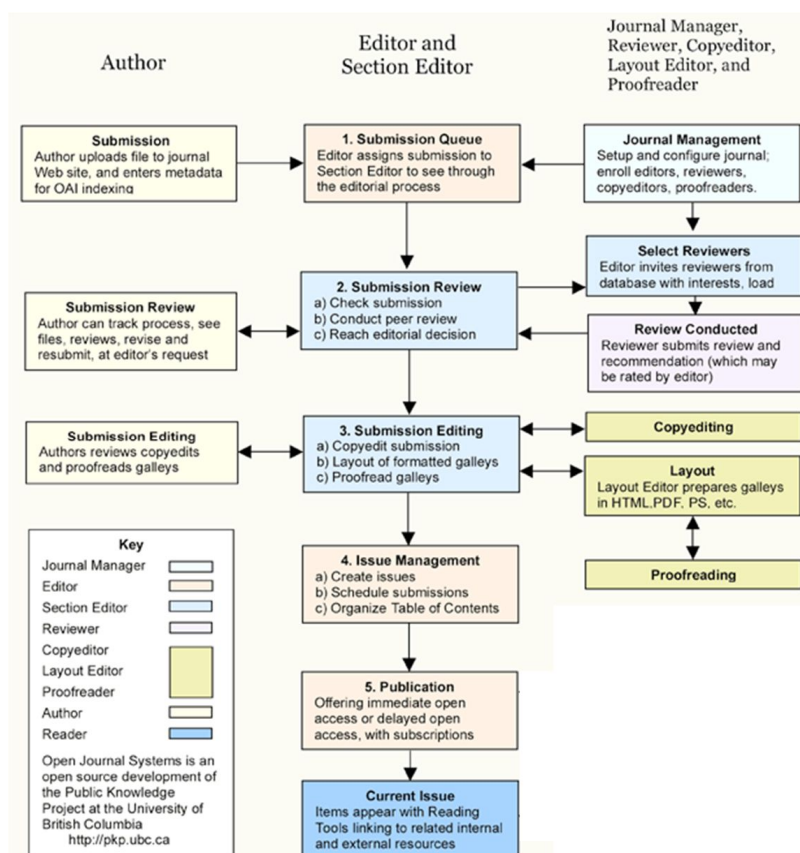


Figure 1. IRPPS Editoria Elettronica editorial workflow based on OJS one.

The task of the editor, who can access all the submissions, is to oversee the editorial process and to take care of the section that controls accepted submissions and those referring to the editing phase (in the editorial process). Most particularly, the editor manages the submission, opens the submitted file, makes sure that the text is appropriate for the submission and that it has been proposed for the appropriate section (otherwise, the editor can send an email to the author to communicate that the contribution cannot be reviewed).

Moreover, the editor controls the contributions, in order to verify the presence of mistakes and make sure that the propositions are edited along with the guidelines. The editor is also the draft corrector. He can modify or update data insert by the author during the submission process. Data insertion and revision are important for the index of working papers or monographs.

The layout editor has the role of formatting the contribution (create the title page and the back-title page), and uploading on the portal the final version. When the layout curator uploads a file in the draft format, the system identifies the file extension (e.g. PDF; HTML), and gives information on

its weight and original name. The label appearing in the summary of IRPPS Monographs or IRPPS Working Papers gives the reader the types of format available for the contribution. The layout editor can upload one or more files for each draft format, delete un-uploaded files, and delete information with the file name.

The published papers are accessible over the web page as depicted in Figure 2.

The screenshot shows the IRPPS Working Papers website interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the text "IRPPS Working Papers" in white. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT, LOG IN, REGISTER, SEARCH, CURRENT, ARCHIVES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, and PORTAL HOME. On the left side, there is a "User" section with fields for Username and Password, a "Remember me" checkbox, and a "Log In" button. Below this is a "Journal Content" section with links for "Browse", "By Issue", "By Author", "By Title", and "Other Journals". There is also a "Search" section with a search box and a "Search" button, and a "Language" section with a dropdown menu set to "English". The main content area is titled "IRPPS Working Papers" and contains a paragraph about the series, its ISSN (2240-7332), and a "Table of Contents" for papers published in 2012. The table lists four papers with their titles, authors, and links to abstracts in Italian PDF format.

IRPPS WPs published in 2012	
Table of Contents	
Gender inequality and housework (IRPPS WPs n. 47) <i>Adele Menniti, Pietro Demurtas</i>	ABSTRACT PDF (ITALIANO)
Democracy and participation: the Delphi methodology (IRPPS WPs n. 46) <i>Tommaso Castellani, Adriana Valente</i>	ABSTRACT PDF (ITALIANO)
Comparative analysis of two case studies on Genetically Modified Organisms research in Italy and the UK (IRPPS WPs n. 45) <i>Valentina Amorese</i>	ABSTRACT PDF (ITALIANO)
Stories of scientists perception of the public and their impact on the development of biotechnology research on Genetically Modified Organisms in Italy (IRPPS WPs n. 44) <i>Valentina Amorese</i>	ABSTRACT PDF (ITALIANO)

At the bottom of the page, there is a logo for the Institute for research on populations and social policies of the CNR, the ISSN number 2240-7332, and a brief description of the IRPPS Working Papers series.

Figure 2. Example of Editoria Elettronica web page, listing the WPs published during the 2012.

Future plans

In the future, IRPPS will continue to involve internal scientific community. The new service can represent an alternative especially for authors looking for some publication channels that can increase their visibility and impact, especially on the web.

IRPPS is thinking of providing a new online edition of Demotrends, a journal published by the Institute for 7 years (from 1997 to 2005). Demotrends was focused on the dissemination of high quality information on the topics in which the Institute is involved. It was indexed by the ACNP, the Italian Union catalogue of serials. The journal closed in 2005 due to budget restrictions.

Another editorial plan concerns the digitization of previously published or unpublished works that have represented important achievements for IRPPS research results. For instance one project deals with the reprinting of the First report on the demographic situation in Italy, published for the first time by the Institute in 1985. Another important product was the Atlas on population aging in Italy published in 1991 and never reprinted. The e-publishing service can be an occasion to digitalize these publications and make them available in the portal.

Moreover, other plans concern the implementation of PKP (Public knowledge project) module for conferences organized or hosted by the Institute (Open Conference Systems) and the adoption of the new software recently released by PKP to manage monographs now published through OJS (Open Monograph Systems).

Finally, to improve the quality and visibility of the IRPPS scientific research various indexing procedure requests has been carried out in more closely disciplinary archives, such as REPEC (Research Papers in Economics) [7], for *IRPPS Working Papers*, and OAPEN (Open Access Publishing in European Networks) [8] for *IRPPS Monographs*. At the moment both Monographs and Working Papers are indexed by Google and Google Scholar portals.

Conclusion

The e-publishing services represent a sustainable -but not totally free- model: they need qualified personnel to be involved in various stages of project design and management. These services can improve the editorial quality, and also contribute to a larger diffusion and visibility of the scientific research products. For this purpose, the involvement of the internal scientific community is important, in particular the young researchers, who have been growing in a technological and rapidly changing context, can benefit from these new publishing services. Moreover, libraries can also become sites where a research can still be open to new perspectives, where their role is not limited to the management of list of references, but have a key role in supporting the scholarly communication chain. In this context, a redefinition of the role of libraries arises. Thanks to the progress in technology and open access, they can nowadays take advantage from new services and instruments allowing a better answering to users' needs (e-publishing services, projects of digitalization, etc.).

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