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EDITORIAL

Continuous publication: ready, set, cite!

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INTRODUCTION BY THE HONORARY EDITORS

Disseminating the latest in research as soon as possible has long been a key objective of scientific publications, increasingly so in the past 15 years with the surge in online publishing formats. From the start of 2013, *BJR* moved to continuous publication to ensure that the version of record of each article is published as soon as possible.

In this guest editorial, our Head of Publishing Sophia Anderton and Publishing Editor Laura Harvey explain continuous publication and reflect on the first six issues of *BJR* published under this model and the impact on *BJR* authors and readers.

CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION: READY, SET, CITE!

As part of a year of exciting changes for *BJR*, the journal moved in January to a continuous publication model. Six issues into this new publishing model, we reflect on the benefits this brings to our authors and readers.

Continuous publication focuses on publishing individual articles as opposed to the more traditional issue-based publishing. Once an article is in its final form, after editing and proofreading, it is immediately published online as the version of record straight into an issue. There is no delay caused by waiting for a group of manuscripts to be gathered together for a given issue. This drip feeding of articles means that issues are built up gradually throughout the month.

Although *BJR* is still published every month in issue format, continuous publication means that articles are available quicker than ever before. We are now proud to announce

that after a paper is accepted for publication in *BJR*, it appears in its final format within only 4–6 weeks.

In fact, you can also read articles from the moment they are accepted. *BJR Papers in Press* is where, if the authors agree, the final author version of an article is published online before it is expertly edited, proofread and typeset by BIR staff.

FINAL CITATION FROM THE START

Articles appearing in 2013 issues onwards are now cited using a volume and article identifier rather than a traditional issue and page number, e.g. articles should be cited in the following format:

Halligan S. CT colonography for investigation of patients with symptoms potentially suggestive of colorectal cancer: a review of the UK SIGGAR trials. Br J Radiol 2013;86:20130137.

Older articles can still be cited using page numbers. Citation formats for all articles are clearly shown at the top of the article to be cited ([Figure 1](#)).

The citation that is given at the *Papers in Press* stage is the final citation, and readers can formally cite papers in *BJR* from that point onwards.

ALERTS

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Figure 1. The citation format is clearly shown at the top of the article to be cited.