

Methods Extends Free Access to Papers and Offers Optional Open Access Model

New Services and Opportunities for Authors and Readers

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Beginning in 2010 (Volume 49) *Methods of Information in Medicine* will implement important changes, which we are delighted to bring to the attention of authors and readers. After extending *Methods* from five to six issues per year [1], launching a Student Editorial Board [2] and introducing an online manuscript submission and peer-review system as well as the immediate online availability of manuscripts after their acceptance [3], additional strategic decisions for the future of *Methods of Information in Medicine* have recently been made.

Free Access to Manuscripts after 12 Months

Schattauer Publishing Company will make all *Methods* manuscripts openly available one year after publication. All *Methods* manuscripts which appeared one year or earlier before the current issue of *Methods* will be freely downloadable from Schattauer's *Methods* web site [4]. In addition, the *Methods* archive already provides free access to all articles from issue 1 of the 1999 volume to issue 5 of the 2008 volume.

This step provides broad accessibility to the interested readership of the journal. On

behalf of the readers and authors of *Methods* we are very grateful that, despite the financial risks, Schattauer has taken the initiative to make this major change possible.

Subscription Model as Default

Since *Methods* was founded in 1962 authors have not paid fees for having their manuscripts reviewed or, in the case of acceptance, published. *Methods* continues to be based on the subscription model as a default. Both Schattauer and the editors agree that the subscription model is an excellent way of publishing high-quality research that can remain independent of financial constraints to authors.

Immediate Open Access as an Option

However, several reasons exist why authors may opt to provide interested readers with immediate free access to their research. Meeting the demand for this option, authors, upon paying an article processing fee, will now also have the possibility to release their papers to the public after their publication. The article processing fees for the open access option will support the immediate release of the articles. Through adopting an open access option the publisher supports authors and readers in having immediate access to research findings. For details please access the web pages of Schattauer and of this journal.

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New Structure of *Methods* Issues

New *Methods* issues will in future typically have the following structure:

- original articles,
- original articles devoted to a special topic,
- review articles,
- white papers,
- editorials.

With this change we intend to further improve the attractiveness and readability of *Methods*.

Additional Feature

As an additional feature *Methods* has also introduced the option to submit addenda and appendices in electronic format to the publisher's website.

Continuing High Quality and Broad Scope

With these changes we again intend to continue what *Methods of Information in Medicine* has been known for since its launch in

1962: publishing high-quality original papers, reviews, reports, opinion papers, and editorials, stressing the basic methodology and scientific fundamentals of biomedical and health informatics and related disciplines.

As an official journal of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) and the European Federation of Medical Informatics (EFMI) *Methods of Information in Medicine* will continue to publish papers in the whole range of processing data, information and knowledge in medicine and health care, including research in traditional as well as in new areas of our expanding field. This includes topics such as health information systems and patient records; diagnosis and therapy in health care; biomedical data, signal, and image interpretation; clinical bioinformatics; clinical data analysis and statistical studies; knowledge-based systems; representation, reasoning, learning, and decision making; and simulation and modeling.

Good Medicine and Good Healthcare demand Good Information!

Acknowledgments

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Bergemann as the Publisher and Andrea Schürg as the Director for Journals at Schattauer that these changes have been made possible. The number of submissions to *Methods* continues to be high. Reviewing these manuscripts in a careful and timely manner puts an increasing burden on our Editorial Board members and reviewers. The considerable effort and time that they devote to reviewing submitted manuscripts ensures that only high-quality manuscripts are accepted for publication in *Methods*. We want to take this opportunity to express our thanks to them.

References

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3. Haux R. *Methods of information in medicine is changing – enhancing services to our authors and readers.* *Methods Inf Med* 2008; 47: 469.
4. <http://www.schattauer.de/en/magazine/subject-areas/journals-a-z/methods.html>. Last access: December 1, 2009.