Identifying Workflow Problems in Production

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American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

Making effective communication, a human right, accessible and achievable for all.

204,000 members:
• audiologists
• speech-language pathologists (SLPs)
• speech, language, and hearing scientists
• audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel
• undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in communication sciences and disorders

https://www.asha.org/
ASHA Journals

- American Journal of Audiology (AJA)
- American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology (AJSLP)
- Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research (JSLHR)
- Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools (LSHSS)

New in 2019:
- Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups

Glossary

- **Continuous publishing**: article-based workflow, publish when ready
- **Newly Published**: ePub Ahead of Issue
  - First publication event
- **Pub lag**: from acceptance in peer review to Newly Published
- **Grouped content**: thematic forums, special issues
  - Issue only
  - Excluded from pub lag
- **JPS**: Journal Production System from eJournalPress
Identifying an Increase in Volume

Issue-Related Reports and Inventories

Issue Contents for Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research: Volume, Issue, Date

2019 CSE Annual Meeting | 05.07.2019
Inventories and Summaries

Articles Published: 2010–2018
Pages Published: 2010–2018

Identifying Challenges in Production
# Pub Lag Reports

## Manuscripts Received for Issue: Volume XX; Number X; Month/Year
For Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research

**Report: Manuscripts Received (Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research)**

**Generated 04-18-2019**

- **Manuscripts Received for Issue:** Volume XX; Number X; Month/Year
- **For Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research**
- **13 manuscripts**

### Manuscripts Received for Issue: Volume XX; Number X; Month/Year

For Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research

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**Averages for all articles**

- Days: 165.08
- Months: 5.50
- Standard Deviation: 114.00
- Standard Deviation: 3.80
- Days: 125.77
- Months: 4.19

**Averages excluding problematic articles**

- Days: 175.80
- Months: 5.49
- Standard Deviation: 130.00
- Days: 175.80
- Months: 5.49

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## By Task and by User: Duration Reports

### Task Durations by Received in Production Date: 01-01-2019 to 05-05-2019

For Tasks: Proofreading

**Summary Data**

- Total Duration in Days: 4348
- Average Duration: 28.24
- Standard Deviation: 12.07

**Detailed Data**

- Total Duration in Days: 4348
- Average Duration: 28.24
- Standard Deviation: 12.07

**Task Name**

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- **Copyediting**
- **Proofreading**
- **Production Editor review**
- **Author review**
- **Revised proofs**
Challenge #1

Too much time and energy spent on copyediting and proofreading
A Revised Approach to Editing

- Ideology
  - Allowing author voice to shine through
  - Focus on meaning, clarity, consistency
- Cleanest author proof
  - Fewer stages of review and queries
  - Moving the sending of the author proof to later in the editing process
- Freelance editing to editing company
  - Centralized
  - Predictability
  - Less administrative burden
- Reassessing Production Editor role
  - Project management skills

Challenge #2

Production stalls when articles arrive with incomplete or incorrect materials
Assisting Production in Peer Review

• Peer-review team
  • Revised checklists and schedules for follow-up
  • More predictability, less administrative burden

• Clearer requirements
  • Necessary elements (disclosures, copyright forms, figure quality)

• Permissions
  • Training to better identify potential permission problems
    • Field-specific: Stimuli and prompts from scales and measurements
  • Focus in every stage of review

• Production held until files complete*

New Problem: Time Between Acceptance and Production

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Manuscripts Received for Issue: Volume XX; Number X; Month/Year
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2019 CSE Annual Meeting | 05.07.2019
Helping Peer Review

- Better author, editor, and reviewer resources
  - ASHA Journals Academy
    https://academy.pubs.asha.org
  - ASHA Author Services
    https://authorservices.pubs.asha.org
    (translation and editing services)
- Conditional acceptance?
  - Not accepted until files complete

Challenge #3

Competing priorities and projects take time away from day-to-day production tasks
All Hands on Deck

- Regular status meetings to identify and predict delays
- Workload reports
- Ongoing pub lag reports and summaries
- Open, honest discussion of challenges faced
- Assistance from colleagues and vendors
  - Highly configured systems
  - Clear training materials and resources
  - Collaboration between project team and production team

Looking Forward
Ongoing and Future Projects

• Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups
• Open Access Billing Payment System (BPS)
  • Direct, streamlined
  • Easy tracking and reporting
• Internal and external training resources

Thanks!

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