

Supporting Student Journals

Traditional & Innovative Approaches from Inside the Trenches

A Collaborative Conversation

Peter Potter
Virginia Tech Libraries

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Overleaf

Special thanks to:
Mason Boles & John
McKillip
Ball State University



Supporting Student Journals

The View
from Inside
a (Small) Library
Publishing
Program

Peter Potter
Virginia Tech



Painting “The Bookworm,” by Carl Spitzweg, ca. 1850.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carl_Spitzweg_021.jpg

Standing on the shoulders of
giants . . .

LIBRARY-BASED PUBLISHING FOCUS ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNALS

ASERL Webinar Series
July 23, 2013

Charles Watkinson
Director, Purdue University Press
Head of Scholarly Publishing Services, Purdue Libraries

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

http://www.aserl.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Perdue_Undergrad_Journals.pdf

Painting “The Bookworm,” by Carl Spitzweg, ca. 1850.

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E-Journal Publishing at Virginia Tech

- 40+ journals hosted since 1989
- Moved to OJS in 2012
- 10 active journals today
- 3 student journals
- More on the way
- Limited staff support



The Growth of Undergraduate Research Journals

Council on Undergraduate Research:

2012: 85 journals

2017: 237 journals



Data from Council on Undergraduate Research website 7/15/2012; Internet Archive Wayback Machine:

https://web.archive.org/web/20120715035519/http://www.cur.org/resources/students/undergraduate_journals/

#1 Challenge: Sustainability

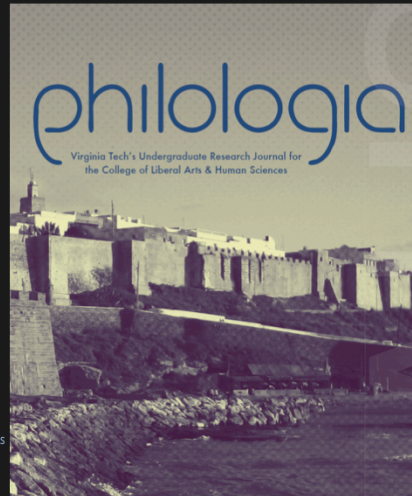
Day-to-day management

- Busy students with many commitments
- Yearly turnover in staff

Institutional support

- Faculty engagement
- Space to work
- College/Department funding
- Pressure to go digital only

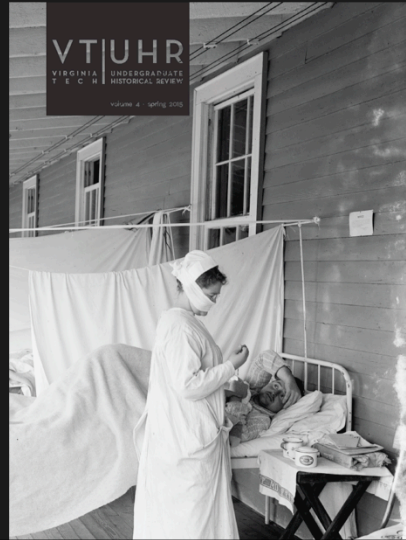
Philologia was created for the College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences at Virginia Tech and accepts liberal arts research from all thirteen Atlantic Coast Conference universities.



The Challenge for Libraries

- Print to digital transition
- Finding the right tools
- Hosting vs. publishing
- Varying levels of student expertise
- Increased expectations
 - Aesthetics
 - Multimedia
 - Tech support
 - Marketing

Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review is an annual journal that features peer-reviewed research by undergraduate historians at Virginia Tech.



Upping Our Game

- New tools
 - Platforms: OJS3.0, Ubiquity, PubPub
 - Writing tools: Overleaf
 - Training
- More service
 - Meeting the needs of student editors
 - Providing access to EDP services
 - Editorial oversight
 - Procedures & forms
 - Work space

SPECTRA is a graduate student-run, peer reviewed scholarly journal hosted at Virginia Tech. The journal features work of an interdisciplinary nature and is designed to provide an academic forum to explore controversial topics and take intellectual risks.



Supporting Student Journals and Library Publishers

From an innovative
authoring & publishing
partner perspective

Shelly Miller



With contributions from
Mason Boles & John McKillip
Fine Focus
Ball State University



Photo permission: Fine Focus, John McKillip, Editor-in-Chief, Ball State University

As academic outreach lead for an innovative, academic authorship & publishing tool, I have recently experienced interest from undergraduate journal student editors in partnering with [Overleaf](#). Mainly, I have seen interest in creating a manuscript template that streamlines submissions and reduces cumbersome editorial & formatting processes. Additionally, the undergraduate journals are interested in being featured on Overleaf's publishing partner page for enhanced discoverability and international presence. After further conversations about these inquiries and taking a look at some supporting data regarding the growth of undergraduate journals along with growth in open access & research collaboration, I am beginning to detect correlations between these three areas related to scholarly communications.

Why should Libraries & Publishers care about authoring tools?

"We know from many existing studies that collaboration is a growing feature of modern research with more international collaboration than ever before."

~Ian Calvert &
Dr. Daniel Hook



https://figshare.com/articles/The_Connected_Culture_of_Collaboration_Report/4702642

Growth has been experienced not only in undergraduate research journals, but in more and more researchers collaborating. As a result, we are continuing to see more authors per paper. Additionally, collaboration continues to grow within and among institutions internally, externally, nationally, and internationally between researchers, Libraries, Publishing/Univ Presses, Grad Schools & Repositorians, and student journals to support collaborative research and publishing. Student journals may likely include collaborative efforts with faculty, international authors, Library Publishers, . New technology and authoring tools become key in supporting and simplifying these new collaborations and helping to provide professional-looking, easy-to-share, & discoverable outputs.

https://figshare.com/articles/The_Connected_Culture_of_Collaboration_Report/4702642

Photo: **Fine Focus** student contributor attending an international conference to raise journal brand awareness and solicit submissions.

The Growth of Open Access & LaTeX, Cloud-based Tool Use

Combination of organic & promoted worldwide growth in Overleaf users:

2015: 300,000 users,
3 million documents

2017: over 600,000 users,
over 8 million documents



"The growth of open access to research is a facilitator for increasing collaboration."
~ Dr. John Hammersley

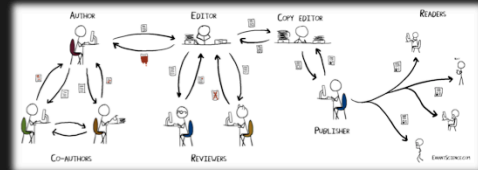


Growth of Open Access > Growth in Global Collaboration > Growth in use of Overleaf (effortless collaboration & seamless integrations)

LaTeX, Cloud Solutions

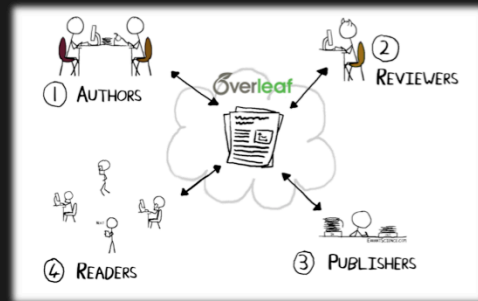
- Easy, simplified collaboration
- Authors can focus on content & research rather than formatting & tracking
- Quick edits via mobile devices
- International & interdisciplinary collaboration made easier

Traditional methods



Multiple versions Long email chains Different OS Format issues

Innovative cloud-based solutions



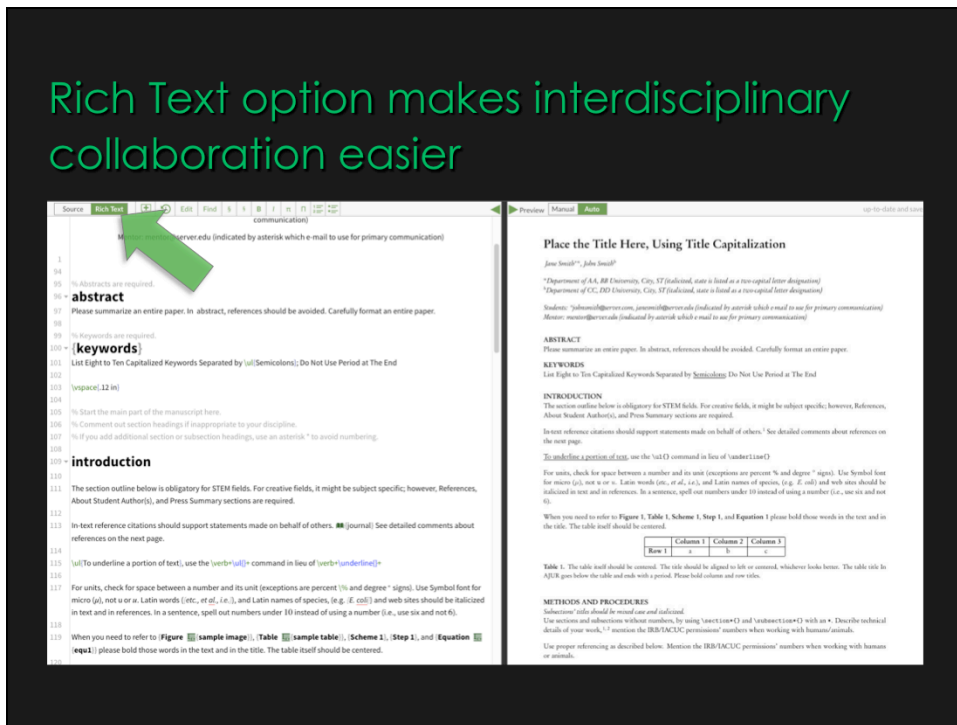
One version in cloud Easy sharing Platform agnostic Pretty output

Innovative cloud-based writing, editing & publishing tools like Overleaf provide one version of the document automatically saved in the cloud with easy sharing options. Tools like Overleaf are typically platform agnostic, meaning that collaborators can be using Mac, PC, Linux, etc. No time needs to be spent making sure everyone is using the same version of software or downloading versions of software on local machines. The document is collaborated on simply by accessing it via a browser of choice. Quick edits can even be made using a tablet or smartphone! Typesetting is done automatically in the background and formatting is preset per template used. Publisher submission systems and editorial workflows can also access the document in the cloud and add edits and comments and share easily back & forth with authors. Readers can enjoy pretty PDF/print ready versions of the published papers.

[illegible]

Feedback from Mason Boles of *Fine Focus*: ***“Editors can sometimes spend hours sifting through submissions while making sure that all papers follow the guidelines for formatting. Using Overleaf and a premade template, the author would save time and effort by using an established template for the journal instead of spending time in word processor applications trying to make sure everything matches exactly, the editors will save time, and the submissions themselves would require little to no time at all to prepare for publishing.”***

Rich Text option makes interdisciplinary collaboration easier



The mature Rich Text mode developed in Overleaf enables greater interdisciplinary collaboration on research and writing allowing an easier transition for researchers/faculty who are more familiar with using word processors.

Mason Boles interview quote: ***“Overleaf, or LaTeX in general, can seem intimidating to a new user. I know this because I was intimidated about a year ago when I started writing in Overleaf. I could imagine that a new user would be too uncomfortable to attempt a scientific paper in LaTeX without the knowledge of the code to get through. But, this is where the template comes to save the day. The hope is that, with a pre-built template with clear instructions, little to no knowledge of LaTeX would be necessary at all. We would just need to show our authors how powerful the tool is and how easy it is to use.”***

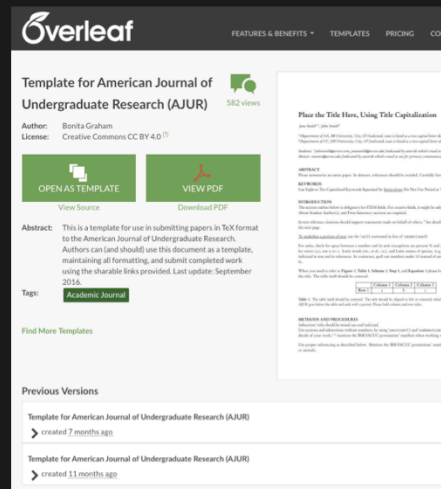
Helping meet the needs of student editorial teams

- Challenges

- Learning curve with LaTeX-based, cloud-based writing/editing tool
- Designing suitable LaTeX manuscript template w/ guidelines along w/ regular school work load

- Benefits

- Visibility of journal brand on Overleaf for aspiring scientists to discover as an outlet for their research/writing
- Customized, pre-formatted journal templates featured with increased discoverability
- Interdisciplinary, international collaboration made easier
- Multiple seamless integrations
- Professional-looking output



Challenges/Benefits quote from Mason Boles interview:

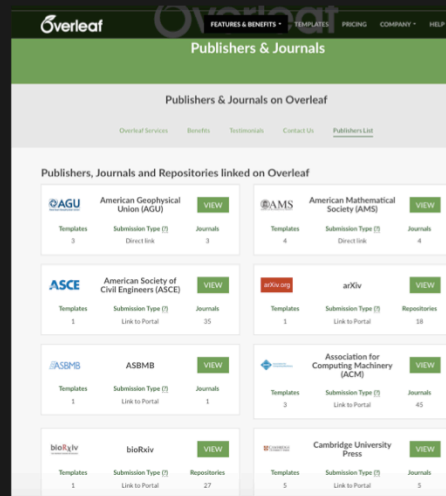
“As someone who is not extensively knowledgeable in LaTeX code outside of using Overleaf, I have found it to be quite challenging to develop a template suitable for Fine Focus authors. I have realized that being able to produce a paper in Overleaf and creating a template which will be easy to use for our authors are completely different in nature. Being involved with a regular school load doesn’t help the issue, but I have studied other templates in order to obtain an understanding of templates and assist with this goal.”

Fine Focus, international undergraduate journal growth

“Overleaf provides an amazing gateway for scientific writers to view an impressive list of journals to submit to just by clicking one button.

As a user of Overleaf, I was able to find outlets for my work just by viewing who had a partnership with them. I thought it would be a great chance for Fine Focus .”

~ Mason Boles
Student Project Manager, *Fine Focus*

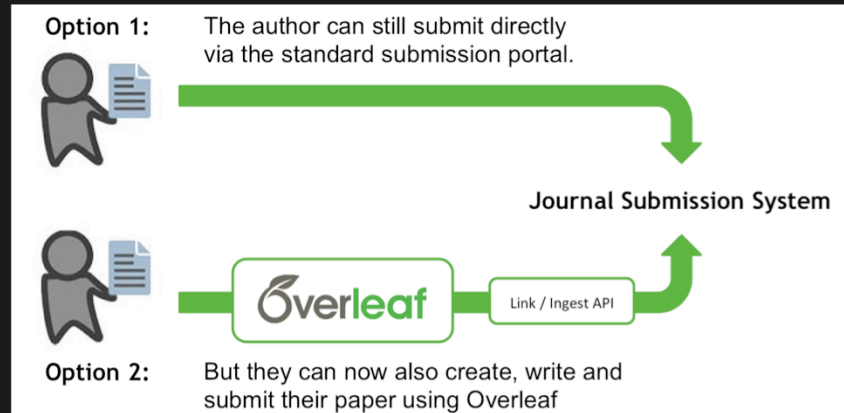


Mason Boles on how *Fine Focus* helps undergraduate students in microbiology publish results from, sometimes, many semesters of research:

“Our mission: We are a web and print journal dedicated to showcasing the research of undergraduate students, internationally, in all fields of microbiology. Fine Focus is managed entirely by undergraduate students from production to print.”

Fine Focus is a faculty-led, student-driven journal with the home institution being Ball State University.

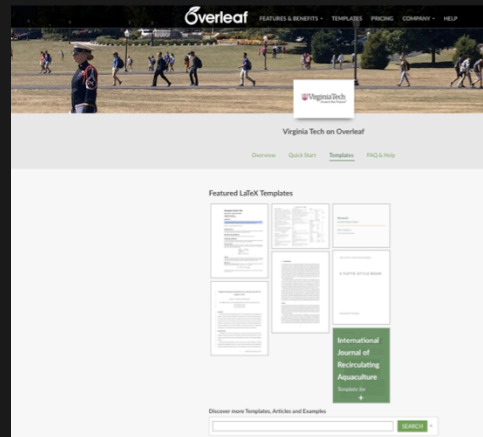
Providing Options: Submit traditionally or via Overleaf



Innovative workflow options to improve student journal workflows and discoverability

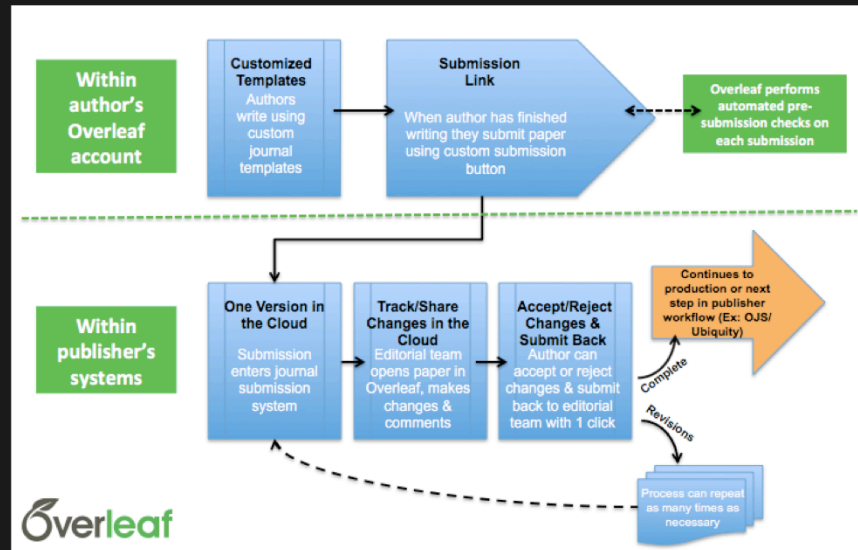
Helping Libraries meet publishing challenges

- Adding innovative options to traditional ways of working
- Customized templates
- Multiple integrations
- Rich text mode for varying levels of expertise
- Pretty outputs
- Tech support



Shelly and Peter have been collaborating for about 6 months and during the first quarter of 2017 worked together with Overleaf and Virginia Tech teams to implement a customized Virginia Tech Overleaf portal that features LaTeX writing templates including one for the Virginia Tech faculty journal, *International Journal of Recirculating Aquaculture*. Once student journal templates have been established, they can be featured on the portal and in the Overleaf template gallery, viewed by international researchers.

Innovative workflow



Looking forward and considering innovative workflows for student and faculty journals – a sample workflow...

Thank you & Discussion

"The greatest chance of success is from collaboration between teams, from different functions and perspectives, between researchers and publishers, and even between publishers."

~ Sam Burrige, Open Research Consultant & Advisor

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