

Editorial

***Micronesica* moving to continuous publishing model**

This issue of *Micronesica*, 43(2), is this last one that will be printed on paper. Effective the beginning of 2013, the journal will be published using the continuous publishing model, online only, with free full-text access. There are several practical reasons for this change, and two key factors that now make it possible. Continuous publishing has been adopted by several journals including those published by the Royal Society of the U.K. (see http://royalsocietypublishing.org/site/authors/continuous_publication.xhtml).

Micronesica exists to disseminate the results of scientific research about the region or relevant to the region, and is one way in which the University of Guam achieves its mission of *Ina, Diskubre, Setbe*—To Enlighten, to Discover, to Serve. For that reason we have been posting full-text pdfs of articles on our website since 1999 upon publication of the printed issue. *Micronesica* is now found and accessed primarily through the Internet. We have long debated whether to maintain print copies, and two factors held us back until now: the requirement for print copies when new species are published and the need for long-term accessibility.

Micronesica has a long track record of new taxa, especially fish, crustaceans, insects and plants, and such articles are a vital element of the scope of the journal. Effective 2012, the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants (ICN) (the “Melbourne Code”) recognized the need to accept online-only publication of botanical names (<http://www.iapt-taxon.org/downloads/synopsis.pdf>, Article 29), and to resolve issues of publication date arising from the widespread practice of “early” online publication, whereby journals published an article online before the print edition came out, sometimes with changes. The Zoological Code had required that an article published online had to be deposited in at least 5 major publicly accessible libraries, which had to be identified by name in the article. However, in a “landmark” decision, this rule was amended (<http://iczn.org/content/iczn-amendment-electronic-publication>) such that “publication in an electronic-only scientific journal will be ‘legitimate’ if it meets criteria of archiving and the publication is registered on the ICZN’s official online registry, ZooBank.” Thus the way has been cleared for online-only publication of botanical and zoological taxa.

The articles in *Micronesica* are cited long after publication, especially taxonomic articles, unlike those in “cutting-edge” journals that are left behind after 5–10 years. Thus the ability to securely archive the journal was a second essential criterion. *Micronesica* will be archived by CLOCKSS (<http://www.clockss.org>). This consortium provides distributed archiving and would release the archives for public access should the publisher (i.e., UOG) become unable or unwilling to continue supporting the *Micronesica* website. For the immediate future, at least, we are not using the DOI service provided by CrossRef®.

What does this mean for authors and readers? The following are the key changes:

1. There will be no more print copies and no more subscriptions.

2. Articles will be published individually as they are ready, giving generally much shorter times from acceptance to publication. Full-text pdfs will be downloadable free of charge.
3. Articles will be assigned a unique number in the format 2013-01 and will be cited by this number and the *Micronesica* URL, e.g.,
Author, A. & B. Author. 2013. Article title. *Micronesica* 2013-01, 00 pp.
www.uog.edu/up/micronesica/2013.
The citation format will be included on the title page of each article.
4. As *Micronesica* will be an entirely Open Access journal, all articles are henceforth licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>); this includes those already published. This license shows users that they are free to copy, distribute and transmit the work, as long as the source is attributed, but they cannot (without prior written permission) reuse it for commercial purposes nor alter, transform, or build upon the work. Copyright will continue to be with the journal, so that permissions can be managed by the Editorial Office.
5. Each annual series will have a contents page with titles, abstracts and links to the full pdf, as currently done. Special issues may accumulate on separate contents pages, e.g. for conference proceedings, so that authors are not held to deadlines.
6. The journal will continue to use the services of a layout specialist to maintain the professional appearance of the journal, and authors will still be asked for voluntary page charges (after acceptance of the article) to help defray these costs. For the time being there will be no change in the format of the journal or the instructions to contributors, except that color illustrations can be accepted without cost.
7. We are working to get *Micronesica* included in Open Access journal portals, such as Directory of Open Access Journals (<http://www.doaj.org>), but we have been notified that the processing times are long.

Chris Lobban
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