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# Manuscript Exchange Common Approach (MECA)

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Authors lose time and effort when their manuscript is rejected by a journal and they have to repeat the submission process in subsequent journals. Plus, it is estimated that 15 million hours of researcher time is wasted each year repeating reviews. Both of these challenges could be addressed if journals and publishers could transfer manuscripts between publications using different submission-tracking systems. With the growth of cascading workflows, manuscripts are regularly transferred within a publishing group. But a growing challenge is to transfer the manuscript (and, optionally, peer-review data) across publishers and manuscript systems and even to and from preprint servers.

A group of manuscript-management suppliers has taken up this challenge and is working to develop a common approach that can be adopted across the industry. This session is intended to report on the group's work to the larger community, and to gather comments, questions, and suggestions.

This initiative will produce a set of guidelines and best practices that publishers, manuscript systems and other players in the scholarly publishing ecosystem, such as preprint servers, authoring tools and production services, can all utilize so that communication between varied and diverse organizations can be more easily achieved. This initiative will continue to evolve these guidelines to address new technologies and changes in data types and file formats that will likely emerge in the scholarly publishing infrastructure over the next few years. This initiative will also be working with standards organizations, like NISO and CASRAI, to be sure the guidelines and recommended practices will be well thought out and more likely to be universally accepted.

The current participants include: Aries Systems Corporation, Clarivate Analytics, eJournal Press, Highwire Press, and Public Library of Science.