THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

From Inception to Publication: Lessons from GWJEP's Journey

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GW JEP

The George Washington University
Journal of Ethics in Publishing

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ISSUE 1

Online journal of articles, case studies, and conference presentations from scholars, students, and publishing professionals

Publishes topics that connect ethics to publishing, which includes diversity and inclusion, accessibility, peer review, open access, sustainability, publishing metrics, equity, and other aspects and issues of ethics in publishing

Managed by students in the MPS in Publishing program, College of Professional Studies, at George Washington University

Managed by students

STUDENTS COMPRISE THE COMMITTEES THAT RUN THE JOURNAL

CONTENT, EDITORIAL, E-PUBLISHING, MARKETING, AND STRATEGY & SUSTAINABILITY

SUPPORT CONSISTS OF ADVISORS FROM THE FIELD

2020-2022: Beginnings

- Scope and structure established by John Warren and Randy Townsend (first Editor-in-Chief)
- Editorial board invited, student committees recruited
- Established meeting schedules
- Investigated publication platforms, student and editorial board tested functionality
- Logo, article format, submission instructions created
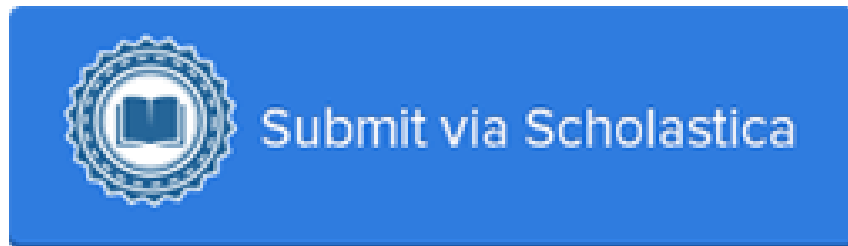
Original Technology and Challenges

- Google Drive
  - File organization
  - Reviewer tracking
  - Manuscript spreadsheet
- Manifold for publication
- Zoom
- Email

Experiments and Iterations

- Slack: faster communication
- Trello: tracking the movement of articles through peer review, tracking committee projects and tasks
- Tested four peer review systems
- Testing is helpful, but takes time and focus away from other work

Technology Wins

- Google Drive and Manifold
- 2023: Discord
- New: Scholastica 😊

Managing Editor: Leadership Focus

- Thoughtful growth of journal membership
- Committee member guidelines
- Leadership terms
- Separate applications for leadership roles
- Defined roles for committee members
  - Liaison roles
- Consistent meeting infrastructure, schedule, and file storage
  - (Leads + Managing Editor)

Managing Editor: Observations for Scaling

- Need for stronger, centralized marketing strategy
  - One issue per term + digital engagement model works best
  - More external outreach needed
  - Advance via social media (LinkedIn, Instagram, then grow to other channels)
- More peer review, operations-centered onboarding and training needed
- More input from committee advisors

Strategy and Sustainability Committee

- Outside of the publishing lifecycle
- Variety of projects
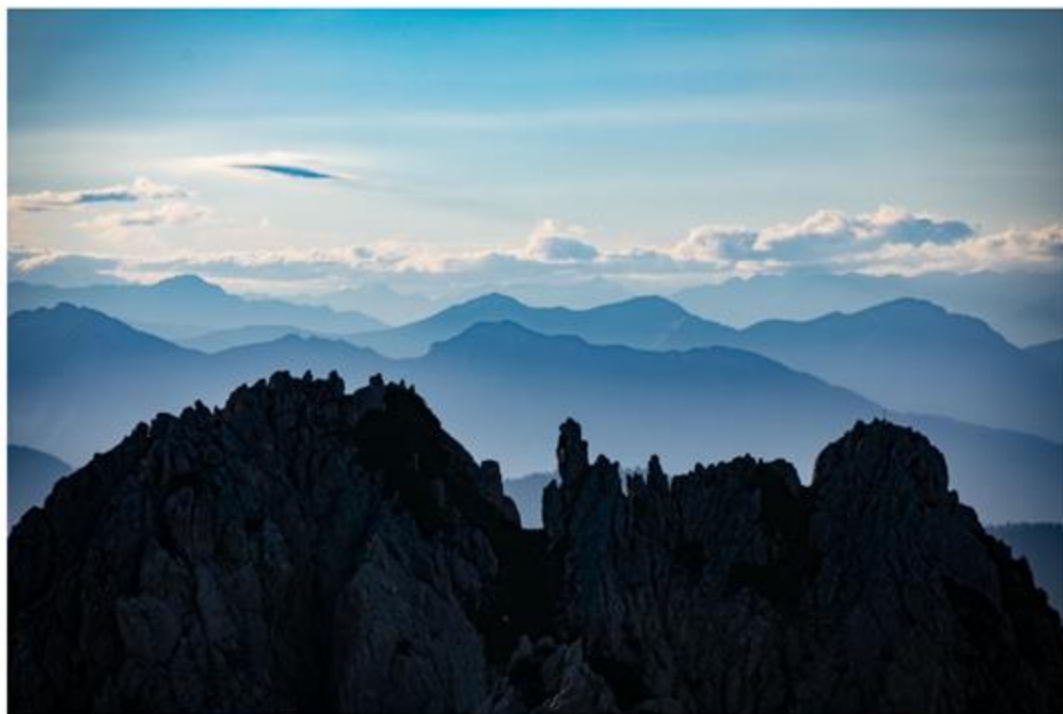- Diversity in work and life experience

Getting Up and Running

- Not easily definable like other committees
- No structure for onboarding
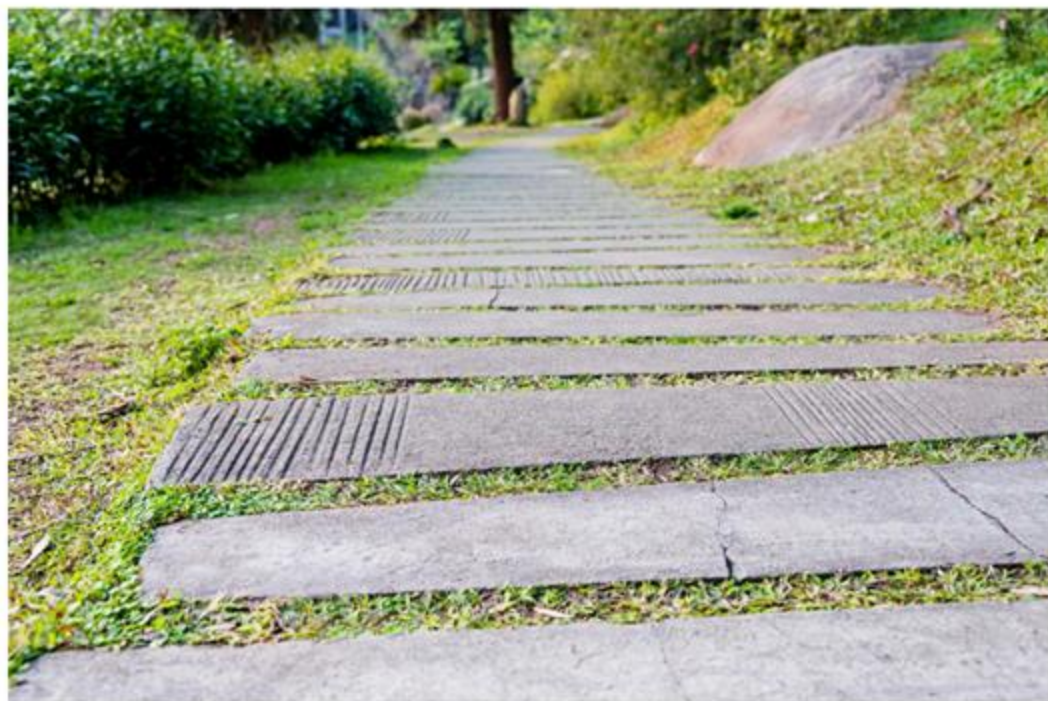- Given a list of tasks

Challenges

- Business Model
- Students completing the program
- Onboarding
- Not first choice of committee

Solutions

- Outlined clear goals
- Advertised goal in recruitment outreach

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2024-2025 Projects

- Journal Survey
- Author Agreement
- DOI Application
- Onboarding Procedures

Lessons Learned

- Immediately establish clear workflows and policies and plan for them to change based on real world needs
- Schedule meetings to ensure regular touchpoints
- Document operational tasks to support clear transitions between semesters
- Keep new initiatives focused and semester-based
- Determine what elements should be retrained each semester based on new students joining

Future Focus

- Maintaining consistency between academic years
- Three issues per academic year
- More diversity in article topics
- More opportunities for students to present, take part in industry events
- Mentorship opportunities through committee advisors

Questions?

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