

Cites & Insights

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The Front

Big Change Coming

This stub issue is the final issue of 2016 (volume 16). [The book form of volume 16, including an index, will be announced when it's ready. Given sales volumes for the ten previous annual volumes, I'm guessing nobody's holding their breath.]

It's a stub two-month issue following a relatively short two-month issue for several reasons:

- Family medical issues that demand both time and attention (and leave me not much wanting to write).
- The “gray OA” project.
- Continued clumsiness of seven-fingered typing.

And one more reason.

To wit: this is issue number 199. The next issue will be number 200. I've planned for some time to devote issue 200 to *Gray OA 2012-2016: Gold Open Access Beyond DOAJ*. Originally, I thought the issue would be an excerpted version of the book, much as [Cites & Insights 16:6 \(June 2016\)](#) is an excerpted version of *Gold Open Access Journals 2011-2016*.

Aside: the hyperlink is to the “on” 6” x 9” version—because the regular version is harder to read, with some tables down to very small type to fit in the narrower column. Which leads into the big change.'

Given that only two copies of the *GOAJ* paperback have sold to date, as compared to more than 8,000 copies of the free PDF (you're reading that right: more than *eight thousand copies* even using stats that ignore the last day of each month), I've changed that plan a bit.

The New Plan

The January 2017 *Cites & Insights*, Volume 17, Issue 1, Whole Number 2000, will be *Gray OA 2012-2016: Gold Open Access Journals Beyond DOAJ*.

It won't be an excerpted version. It will be the full report—including a proper table of contents. I don't know yet whether it will be a big issue

(say 60-120 pages) or a *really* big issue (say 150-200 pages). Best guess is somewhere around 100-120 pages, but since I haven't even finished the data gathering yet, it's too early to say.

And it will *only* be available in 6" x 9" form. There may also be a paperback version for old fogies like me (or libraries?) that want a book version, but that version will differ only in having a cover and possibly a title leaf.

The free PDF will be available as, and only as, *Cites & Insights* 17:1.

The Big Change

There will *not* be a "print-oriented" two-column 8.5" x 11" version of *Cites & Insights* 17:1.

Nor will there be such versions of future issues.

What is now the "on" version (the filename is always the issue ID followed by "on," as for example civ16i9on.pdf for this issue) will become the only version, without "on."

For people who now read this online or on an e-device, the only change should be for the better (although I may tweak the template somewhat)—to wit, I'll be copyfitting for the 6' x 9" size so there will be fewer bad breaks.

For people who prefer to read it in print and are aghast at all the extra paper wasted, there's an easy answer: print it out as a booklet (if you're using a duplexing printer), getting four pages to sheet. That reduces the type by about 8%, making body type roughly 10 pt. rather than 11 pt., but it should still be eminently readable.

If you've never printed out a PDF file as a booklet, it should be fairly simple. For Acrobat Reader, there's either a "Booklet" option on the Page Size & Handling submenu for printing or a "Booklet printing" option in Page Scaling, depending on your software version. Be sure to allow auto-rotate. For Nuance Power PDF, find the "Imposition" option in the Print menus and choose a booklet form. Other PDF programs should have similar options.

Once you're done, if you have a stapler with enough depth you can "saddle stitch" the issue. Otherwise, you can cut the finished product in half, turn the left half over on top of the right half, and edge-staple the result.

Or you can just print it two-up and not have the fancy booklet.

Too Disruptive?

If this sounds terrible to you, you can try talking me out of it: waltcrawford@gmail.com and waltcrawford on some of the usual sites. Bribes will help. But I think it's a reasonable change—and it's not clear how many more issues *C&I* will have in any case.

The Future

I prefer not to make any predictions about the future of this remarkably extended little experiment—actually in its 22nd year if you include *Trailing Edge Notes* and *Crawford's Corner*, the direct antecedents.

Admittedly, I haven't been as enthusiastic about writing *C&I* for a while. That's partly for reasons already mentioned—health issues (my own and others), semi-related typing issues, all the time required first for *GOAJ* and now for *Gray OA*, getting old and slowing down.

It's partly because of what may be temporary diffidence in some areas. Should I really be spouting off about libraries and library issues when most of my readers are probably more qualified to do so? If not...there go half of my 12 most used tags.

I've been tagging fewer items. I currently show 1,241 in diigo, compared to 1,700 or more a year ago. The general malaise of 2016 could have something to do with this. There may be other factors.

I'm (probably) not giving up. I have one big project for the first half of 2017 (*GOAJ* 2012-2016, if you must know), and with luck some other issues will resolve themselves. I might even get back to watching old movies—although, since the last time I watched and reviewed a disc of four movies was April 5, 2016, and I've only watched one movie so far on the next disc, it doesn't seem to be anywhere close to the old one-a-week routine. I might start tagging more actively and might be inspired to write more.

Heck, the problematic nerve in my right arm might eventually come back to life...

I came close to stopping *Cites & Insights* at the end of 2011, going on an indefinite hiatus that actually lasted about four months. (The sunset on the front cover of the 2011 bound volume—taken by Linda Driver, as are all the cover shots—is still one of the most dramatic covers, even if the spine is a bit difficult to read. If I thought anybody was going to buy the annuals, I'd fix the spine.) Since then, there have been four extensive years and this slightly leaner year.

I'm not suggesting closure this time around. I dropped the “at least monthly” claim in 2004 and added “irregularly” in 2012. It may be even more irregular in 2017. At some point, it will fade away. I have no idea when that will be.

For now—starting with the next issue—enjoy the new, single-column, 6” x 9” (36 x 52 picas if you prefer) *Cites & Insights*—starting out with a bigger-than-usual issue.

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Masthead

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