

# *JASA-EL* to Become an Independent, “Gold-Level,” Open-Access Journal

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## The Good, the Not-So-Bad, and the Beautiful

As most members of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) are aware, *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America Express Letters* (*JASA-EL*) is open access and devoted to providing rapid (averaging 40 days from submission to first decision and 73 days to acceptance) dissemination of important new research results and technical discussion in all fields of acoustics. It has been an open-access publication from the beginning, originally as *Acoustic Research Letters Online* (ARLO). *JASA-EL* has been published as a special section of *JASA* since 2006. However, although papers appearing in *JASA-EL* were and are freely available online to everyone whether members of the Society or not, the copyright of most articles was held by the ASA.

The world of scientific publishing has changed considerably since those early days, and it continues to evolve in exciting and sometimes unpredictable ways. One of the changes that will affect ASA publications is the desire for a more open kind of open access. In this case, “more open” means, among other things, that the copyright licensing of papers should allow for ease of sharing and reuse, such as with Creative Commons CC BY licensing. As described on the Creative Commons website (see [creativecommons.org/licenses](https://creativecommons.org/licenses)), “This license lets others distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon your work, even commercially, as long as they credit you [i.e., the author(s)] for the original creation. This is the most accommodating of licenses offered. Recommended for maximum dissemination and use of licensed materials.” *JASA* as a hybrid journal currently gives authors the option to pay for gold open access with Creative Commons CC BY licensing for regular articles, but this licensing for the most part hasn’t been available to *JASA-EL* authors. As editors of a Society whose members are at once skilled professionals and prolific authors, we agree that ASA publications should also offer a full open-access

journal among its suite of publications. Therefore, the officers and executive council of the Society have decided that *JASA-EL* will transition to an independent gold-level open-access journal on January 1, 2021.

## The Good

Precisely what does “gold-level open-access” mean for authors publishing in *JASA-EL*? Simply put, after January 1, 2021, authors of papers appearing in *JASA-EL* will retain the copyright for their article and will also grant a Creative Commons copyright license denoted by “CC BY.” As noted above, the CC BY license means that no permission need be granted to others wishing to reuse or adapt all or any part of a paper as long as proper attribution is given to the original article.

Several additional changes will also be made to reflect the fact that *JASA-EL* will now be independent of *JASA*. Perhaps most significantly, as a separate journal, articles in *JASA-EL* will no longer be published in the print or online editions of *JASA*. *JASA-EL* articles will be available only online at the *JASA-EL* website (see [asa.scitation.org/journal/jel](https://asa.scitation.org/journal/jel)). This means *JASA-EL* will have more opportunities to promote authors’ papers on the journal website, such as featuring papers in a special Editor’s Pick section. Also, *JASA-EL* will have its own cover, and a selected article from the issue will be specially featured. Another new and exciting possibility we are considering is making video abstracts available to authors for *JASA-EL* articles. Our publisher, American Institute of Physics (AIP) Publishing, publishes video abstracts regularly for the American Association of Physics Teachers (see [bit.ly/33p9PxG](https://bit.ly/33p9PxG)) so this option should be available relatively soon after the transition.

There will be additional, new (for *JASA-EL*) manuscript types. In the past, all submissions were labeled as “letters” for obvious reasons, and this will continue to be the default for most manuscripts. Perhaps the most noteworthy “new” type will be “erratum.” Previously, errata

for articles in *JASA-EL* were submitted to *JASA*. This was natural because *JASA-EL* was a part of *JASA*, but it also could be the source of confusion for both authors and editors. In the future, all errata for papers in *JASA-EL* will appear in *JASA-EL*. In addition, tutorials will also be possible, although these must necessarily be rather brief due to the limitations imposed on the number of published pages (although this will be increased from 6 to 7) and size (the single-column format) that will continue as in the past. A tutorial involving the description of new software or an explanation of the best methods for its use may be well suited to this category. Special issues will also be accommodated, and although each article must be short, such a collection may be used to help rapidly advance a new area of research.

As is currently the case, each paper accepted for *JASA-EL* will appear online as soon as the editorial and production process is complete, and these will be compiled into issues on a monthly basis using the classification system found in *JASA*. All current ASA technical committees will be included (obviously!) as will work in education and new technical specialty groups, e.g., computational acoustics.

### *The Not-So-Bad*

It is obvious that changes of this magnitude may involve some level of effort and accommodation for all involved. The editors, staff of *JASA-EL*, and our publisher AIP Publishing are committed to making this transition as simple and transparent as possible for authors and readers alike.

With regard to submissions, we will be setting a cutoff date and estimate that this will be on August 1, 2020. This means that manuscripts submitted before the deadline would publish under the existing model, in the *JASA-EL* section of *JASA*, and those submitted on or after the deadline would publish in the new stand-alone journal. Of course, we will keep authors updated in case there are any deviations from this estimate.

In addition, the increase in the page limit and the use of the Creative Commons CC BY licensing will come with some increase in the required article processing charges. The current plan is for the Article Processing Charge (APC) to increase to 900 USD for ASA members and 1200 USD for non-members; however, for the first year,

the APC will be discounted to 750 USD for ASA members and 900 USD for non-members. These promotional rates will apply to any manuscript published in 2021.

Another item worth noting is the two-year impact factor (IF). As a “new” journal, *JASA-EL* will not have its own, independent IF for two years. Of course, for authors who have published past articles in *JASA-EL* as a section of *JASA* (from 2006 through 2020), the IF for *JASA*, which is currently 1.819, should continue to be used.

Additional items involved in the change are the template PDF design of the papers, setting up Table of Contents alerts independent of those for *JASA*, and other administrative and technical details. These are being worked on this year and will be part of the rollout. Also, the publication will be rebranded as *JASA Express Letters* to help differentiate it as a new, stand-alone journal.

### *The Beautiful*

The best thing about this transition is the exciting future. Both researchers and the general public want to see more open-access scientific journals, and the ASA has responded positively by creating the new *JASA-EL*. We intend to continue to be a leader in scientific publishing in meeting our readers’ and authors’ needs, and this is one way to do so.

We also would like your help with this transition. In particular, we need direct feedback from ASA members, journal readers, and journal authors. We hope you will offer us your suggestions, your advice, or whatever is on your mind. If you can’t find us to chat in person, we encourage you to email us at [jasa@acoustical.org](mailto:jasa@acoustical.org). We will be placing updated information about the transition on the website for *JASA-EL* (see [asa.scitation.org/journal/jel](http://asa.scitation.org/journal/jel)). We all work best when we work together!

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