"You Say You Want an Evolution"

By Charles W. Bailey, Jr.

You may have noticed that this issue of The Public-Access Computer Systems Review looks different from past issues--it only has one major article and one column. No, we didn't forget the rest. We have changed our distribution strategy to take better advantage of our electronic format.

Currently, e-journals are distributed in three major ways. The first method is our old strategy: a multiple-article issue is announced by an e-mail table of contents message, and users retrieve article files of interest. The second method is for a multiple-article issue to be sent out as an e-mail message. The third method is for a single-article issue to be sent out as an e-mail message. Archival issue files are usually available.

After our last issue on e-serials, we were inspired to take a fresh look at the PACS Review. We wanted a distribution format that would allow us to turn articles around faster. The single-article distribution method was attractive, but it seemed too limiting. We felt that there would be times when a thematic multiple-article issue would be appropriate.

We decided to utilize a different distribution format. From now on, the PACS Review will publish issues that will vary considerably in size. Depending on circumstances, issues may have one article, several articles, or numerous articles. They will usually have columns and reviews, but not always. We will continue to announce issues by an e-mail table of contents message and let users retrieve article files of interest. This new distribution format, combined with an irregular publication cycle (we changed that last issue), will give us considerable publication flexibility.

We hope that this new distribution format will provide you with more timely access to information. Let us know what you think.

The Public-Access Computer Systems Review is an electronic journal. It is sent free of charge to participants of the Public-Access Computer Systems Forum (PACS-L@UHUPVM1), a computer conference on BITNET. To join PACS-L, send an electronic mail message to LISTSERV@UHUPVM1 that says:

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