

# Memorandum

**AAST**

**Advances in Aerospace Science and Technology**

– A Scholarly Peer-Reviewed Open Access Journal –

**Scientific Research Publishing Inc.**

**Websites:** <http://www.scirp.org/journal/aast>

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<http://www.ProfScholz.de>

**E-Mail:** [info@ProfScholz.de](mailto:info@ProfScholz.de)

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Dieter Scholz

## Organizing Articles into Volumes and Issues – Considerations for Special Issues

### 1 Introduction

SCIRP's journal *Advances in Aerospace Science and Technology* (AAST) will start publishing in the first quarter 2015. From the start there will also be a Special Issue on Aircraft Design.

Usually Special Issues are introduced for "hot topics". Here the idea is **to use the subset "Special Issue" of the journal also for a more specialized subject within the scientific field of the journal**. This is especially useful if the journal covers quite a large scientific field as aerospace consisting of aeronautics and astronautics. Most journals combine the two disciplines, but some publishers have more dedicated journals. Springer covers the field with two journals: *CEAS Aeronautical Journal* (Springer 2014a) and *CEAS Space Journal* (Springer 2014b). The UK-based Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) publishes *The Aeronautical Journal* (RAeS 2014). The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) from the USA publishes the *AIAA Journal* (covering aerospace), but in addition also more specialized titles in the field of aerospace (AIAA 2014):

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Author information: Editor-in-Chief of AAST. Member of the Advisory Board of SCIRP.

Author ID: ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8188-7269>

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#### SCIRP's Company Registration

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#### SCIRP's President

Prof. Dr. Huaibei ZHOU (Address: see Principal Place of Business)

#### Principal Place of Business

Scientific Research Publishing Inc.  
Building 5, Headquarters Space of Optical Valley  
Tangxun Lake North Street 38  
East Lake High-Tech Development Zone  
WUHAN 430223, Hubei Province, CHINA

#### International Mail Address

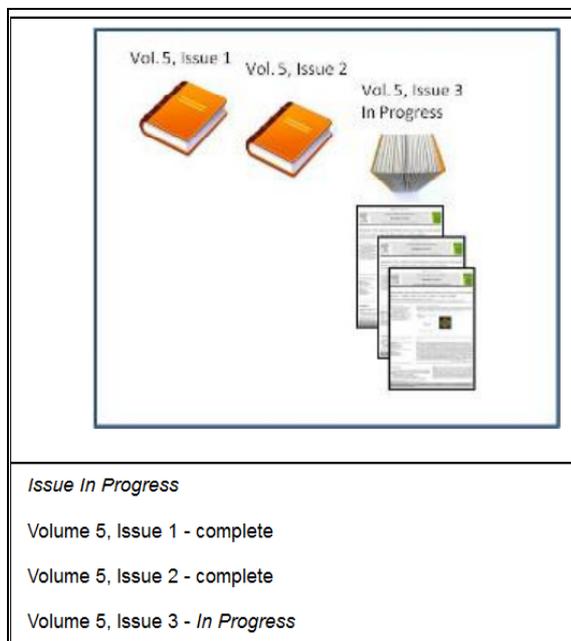
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- Journal of Aerospace Information Systems
- Journal of Aircraft
- Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics
- Journal of Propulsion and Power
- Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets

For SCIRP it makes sense, instead of starting specialized journals like these, to go with more **discipline specific special issues** like Aircraft Design. These special issues should be running constantly through each year like the governing journal does. In addition it should also be possible to introduce ad hoc and one-off **hot topic special issues**. The question is, how best to implement this in SCIRP's publishing system.

## 2 Volume, Issue, Article, Pagination

**SCIRP** has organized journal content into volumes. A volume collects the content of one year. Volume 1 is the volume of the start year of the journal. Issues are equivalent to one booklet of the printed version of the journal. An issue includes not only the articles, but also cover and front matter. For AAST four (4) issues per year are planned. So far for most journals at SCIRP pages are counted up through the year. In this way, pages are the pages in the volume.



**Figure 1:** Sequential publishing. At one moment only one issue is open (in progress) to receive articles (Elsevier 2014)

The problem with this approach is explained by Elsevier (2014). Problematic is that only one issue can be open for which PDFs (with their page numbers) are collect, because from article to

article you have to wait for the end page number of the preceding article. Traditionally (also mostly at SCIRP) only one issue is open at a time to receive articles (Figure 1).

**Elsevier** works today with “Article-Based Publishing”. Accordingly, more volumes are open simultaneously, but there are several volumes per year and only one issue in each volume. This is too far off from what SCIRP does today, but shows the direction to go.

**Interesting** is this input from “**Modern Language Association**” (MLA) quoted from “The Purdue Online Writing Lab” (OWL 2014) about **continuous pagination**:

*In previous years, MLA required that researchers determine whether or not a scholarly journal employed continuous pagination (page numbers began at page one in the first issue of the years and page numbers took up where they left off in subsequent ones) or non-continuous pagination (page numbers begin at page one in every subsequent issue) in order to determine whether or not to include issue numbers in bibliographic entries. The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 7th edition (2009) eliminates this step. Always provide issue numbers, when available.*

This means it is also acceptable to **start with page number 1 in each issue**. This of course makes it necessary to quote volume, issue, and page number. Specifying only volume and page number would be ambiguous. But omitting the issue in a reference list was never acceptable – so nothing new here.

For AAST at SCIRP this is the publication schedule:

- Apply **continuous pagination**. Page numbering starts with **page 1 in each issue**.
- Issue 1, 2, 3, 4 are the *normal issues* containing “normal” articles. Issues are:
  - Volume 1, Number 1, March 2015 (articles from January to March)
  - Volume 1, Number 2, June 2015 (articles from April to June)
  - Volume 1, Number 3, September 2015 (articles from July to September)
  - Volume 1, Number 4, December 2015 (articles from September to December)
- *Aircraft Design* is the first **discipline specific special issues**. It gets the issue number 5 and is open the full calendar year. Note: In the beginning of the year only number 1 and 5 will be visible online. The publication system can cope with this. (Allocating number 2 to the first discipline specific special issues would have the disadvantage of numbering issues out of chronological order). So:
  - Volume 1, Number 5, December 2015 (articles from January to December)
- *Subsequent discipline specific special issues* would get e.g. issue numbers 6, 7, ...
- *Other hot topic special issues* can occupy numbers above those reserved for discipline specific special issues: e.g. 8, 9, 10, ... Articles can be published at any time, but these hot topic special issues can also be closed only with cover and front matter in December (otherwise the issues would get out of chronological sequence).

### 3 Considerations for the Web Presentation



**Figure 2:** The Article and the Archive tab at SCIRP.

- Articles are presented at SCIRP under “Articles” (Figure 2) in the order they are prepared.
- Articles under “Articles” are marked if they belong to a special issue. Example:  

This article belongs to the Special Issue on [Aircraft Design](#)
- The “Archive” tab shows issues for each volume in sequence from right to left. Example:  

**5 4 3 2 1**
- As long as the issue is not finished with cover page and front matter a **to be published** is presented in the lower right corner of the frame of the issue under “Archive”.
- Special Issues are marked in the Archive. Example:  

**Volume 1, Number 1, December 2015 (Special Issue on Aircraft Design)**
- Articles are identified as Articles belonging to a special issue also in their PDF and HTML version. This is introduced with AAST! For details see the template.
- On the **cover page** discipline specific special issues show the special issue title larger than the journal title.
- On the cover page hot topic special issues show the special issue title smaller than the journal title.

### 4 Quoting an Article in a Special Issue of a Journal

“When an article appears in a special issue of a journal, cite the name of the special issue in the entry’s title space, in italics, and end with a period. Add the descriptor ‘Spec. issue of’ and include the name of the journal, also in italics, followed by the rest of the information required for a standard scholarly journal citation.” (OWL 2014)

With ISO 690 (Scholz 2014) in mind and allowing for a few letters more (“Special”):

LASTNAME, Firstname, 2015. Article Title. *Aircraft Design (2015)*. Special Issue of *Advances in Aerospace Science and Technology*, vol. 1, no. 5, pp. 78-90.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/aast.2015.12345>

## 5 Summary

Introduced by AAST:

- The special issue type “**discipline specific special issues**” with “Aircraft Design”. No changes for publication processes at SCIRP.
- **Continuous pagination**. Page numbers start with 1 in every issue. Notice to typesetting at SCIRP required.
- On the **cover page** for **discipline specific special issues** show the **special issue title larger** than the journal title. No changes for publication processes at SCIRP because cover page at AAST prepared by EiC.

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