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In today’s world there is a wealth of information readily available through the internet for health professionals and women and their families. Many journal publishers are recognising the need to provide faster access to research papers through an on-line service rather than expecting subscribers to wait for a fully printed edition to come in the post.

WHAT IS ARTICLE BASED PUBLISHING?

Essentially it is where each paper is published and disseminated electronically and contributes to an ‘issue in progress’ as soon as it has been approved for publication. This issue is then printed once it is completed.

There are significant advantages in article-based publication for both authors and readers. Authors do not face long delays in getting their research published, and therefore it is more readily available to practitioners, and readers have access to the latest research as soon as the peer review process is completed. Feedback to the journal editorial board to date suggests that our members are enjoying receiving the Journal articles in their email inboxes. However because not all members have access to good quality (or any) internet access, an annual publication that includes all the articles published on-line in the previous year is necessary. There are also many midwives and libraries who still prefer to have a fully printed paper version of the Journal.

REFLECTING ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE JOURNAL

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