Penn State University (PSU) Press reduces operational costs and increases journal production

Penn State University Press implemented Virtusales’ BiblioLIVE publishing management system and achieved a 69% year-on-year increase in output from 11 journals in 2011 to 64 in 2018.

The Challenge
PSU Press were using lots of different standalone spreadsheets and systems that did not communicate with each other at all. This made overall management of the business and identifying key areas for efficiency and improvements very difficult, particularly with the increasing volume of journals that the organisation was taking on. It also led to inaccuracies throughout the journal management process, from website updates all the way to the final printed version of the journal.

Selection Process
Having looked at several systems, both book and journal publishing specific, PSU Press selected BiblioLIVE based on its functionality, scalability and cost-effectiveness. Diana Pesek, Journals Production Manager for PSU Press, explains, “We were looking for a system that would primarily help improve our efficiency and productivity. We are a not-for-profit organisation, so minimising costs is essential and we could see that Biblio would allow us to achieve more in less time and with fewer errors.”

PSU Press implemented Virtusales’ BiblioLIVE publishing management system to help resolve the issue of multiple data sources resulting in inaccurate published journals. BiblioLIVE allows PSU Press to keep all journal specific information, contacts, and schedules in one database and this allows everyone in the journals department to access, update and share accurate information. There is no longer a need for individuals to keep their own data on multiple, disparate spreadsheets.

Why Virtusales
- Publishing-specific software provider
- Single, centralised system greatly reduces chances of errors in published works
- Cost-effective and fully scalable
- Cloud-based software provides remote, 24/7 access for all users

Diana Pesek, Journals Production Manager, PSU Press
Accurate Reporting
Diana Pesek says, “Creating meaningful, accurate reports is a key requirement for PSU Press and is something that we are working hard to develop with the help of Virtusales. We are learning to run reports that are very useful to us. We use a range of reports that help us reduce operational costs, save time and increase journal production within the organisation. We can also produce reports that allow us to accurately predict project costs for future years. These reports are particularly useful at budget time.”

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Increased Operational Capacity
Biblio has quickly become an essential part of the PSU Press operations, as Diana explains, “All of this work of sharing information between editors, journals and the website would have to be done manually or maybe not at all. It would be a laborious process that I’m not sure would be accomplished with the current number of positions in the journals department.”

Diana Pesek concludes, “A big advantage of the system has been the scheduling and reporting capabilities for production. Using Biblio, we have established annual schedules for each journal in consultation with the editor and we provide an annual report showing the due dates for manuscripts. This has been essential in managing the editorial offices and outlining our expectations for receiving submissions and coordinating production with our vendors. We expect the increased efficiency and productivity provided by using Biblio will allow us to meet our objectives of continuing to acquire new journals.”

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Benefits of BiblioLIVE
- 69% year on year increase in output from 11 journals in 2011 to 64 in 2018, with one less member of staff
- Content managed at multiple levels including article, issue, volume and journal
- Single system to manage product metadata, schedules and production costs
- Achieving more in less time
- Improved efficiency and productivity
- Accurate project costs for years to come

About Virtusales Publishing Solutions
Virtusales is the creator of the industry leading Biblio Suite of publishing software. Working with some of the world’s leading academic, scholarly and professional publishers – including Bloomsbury Academic, Kogan Page, the World Health Organization, CABI and university presses: Oxford, Harvard, Princeton, and many more – Virtusales is streamlining publishers’ workflows and bringing efficiencies to their business processes with innovative software, exceptional service and a collaborative approach.

Our cutting edge, web-based technology, rapid development cycle of new functionality and close working relationships with our customers ensure that client publishers are able to manage and adapt to the industry’s challenges more efficiently, now and in the future.