HyperJournal

*HyperJournal* is a software application that facilitates the administration of academic journals on the Web. Conceived for researchers in the Humanities and designed according to an intuitive and elegant layout, it permits the installation, personalization, and administration of a dedicated Web site at extremely low cost and without the need for special IT-competence. HyperJournal can be used not only to establish an online version of an existing paper periodical, but also to create an entirely new, solely electronic journal. In comparison with existing software applications, HyperJournal introduces three major innovations:

1) *Dynamic contextualization* automatically transforms cross-references contained in journal articles into hypertextual, bidirectional links. When the reader views an article published in HyperJournal, a contextualization bar provides immediate access to a) all the articles the author has cited, and b) all the articles that cite the article currently being viewed.

2) *The HyperJournal Network.* Dynamic contextualization is not limited to one journal only: it connects all the journals that use the HyperJournal software in a distributed, semantically structured and scaleable peer-to-peer network. Compatibility with the *Protocol for Metadata Harvesting* of the *Open Archives Initiative* ensures maximal interoperability between the HyperJournal Network and other electronic publications. The HyperJournal Network thereby creates a space in which knowledge is freely shared and readily accessible. Rather than using mere keyword searching or importing artificial conceptual tables to organize this space, HyperJournal transposes the time-honored system of scholarly citation into an electronic environment.

3) *HyperJournals versus “core journals”.* By clicking on an author’s name, the HyperJournal system automatically searches the entire HyperJournal network and produces a citation list that includes all the articles written by the author, all the articles the author has cited, and all the articles that cite the author. Comprehensive *bibliometric lists* can thereby be composed without the need to rely on the manual consultation of a small set of “core journals,” often exclusively in English. In this system, by contrast, it will be the actual give-and-take of academic discourse, registered automatically on the network through citations, which will signal the prestige of a journal (even of small niche journals written in so-called minor languages) and establish the reputation of scholars. In addition, through the use of
(web semantic) rdt describers, bibliometric lists can be constructed that distinguish, for example, between positive and negative citations.

1. The Readers

Articles published using the HyperJournal software can be read, downloaded and saved, printed on local printers, and electronically searched. Keyword searching will also be available for whole journals and even for the entire network. Readers can change navigation preferences for the site, for example, to exclude articles in certain languages, or to limit the number of journals taken into account by the dynamic contextualization or by the search engine.

Readers who register with a hyperjournal can store their navigational preferences automatically. They can subscribe to a mailing list to receive automatic notification of the publication of articles on specific subjects or by specific authors, and they can request to be notified each time their own articles are cited within the HyperJournal network.

Registered readers also have access to a virtual folder that can store bibliographic references (sigla of the articles), text extracts, and personal reading cards. Material can be added to the virtual folder simply by clicking on titles or selecting passages. Contents of the folder can be stored for future work sessions and can be downloaded and saved to the reader’s hard disk, printed locally, or sent to a print-on-demand service that can print and bind selections of material from the network and send it to the reader for a pre-determined fee. The virtual folder can also be used for designing reading courses. Articles or sections of articles on a particular subject can be assembled and bundled together with an introduction by the professor and perhaps commentaries relevant to each stage of the course. The professor may subsequently choose to make the course available to others by submitting it for publication on a networked journal.

2. The Authors

Authors can submit articles or other contributions for publication on the journal’s website. The HyperJournal software enables the handling and evaluation of the articles according to various procedures set by the Editorial Board of each individual journal. In the double-blind peer-review procedure, for example, the author submits the article anonymously via the web, using a self-chosen password. When the Editorial Board has reached a decision, it is posted on the website along with the article’s title. If accepted for publication, the author logs on using the password,
submits his or her name, and the article is published. If not accepted, the author can read anonymous reports written by members of the Editorial Board and decide whether to revise the article for re-submission.

In HyperJournal, articles are published in open formats, either in text mode (html, xml, pdf, etc.) or in image mode in the case of digital facsimiles of articles already available on paper (jpeg, png, etc.). The articles can, of course, contain images or other multimedia material and are not at all limited in size. From a technical point of view, it is possible to publish mini-contributions as well as voluminous monographs. The Editorial Board of each journal may, of course, set guidelines concerning the size of articles considered for publication.

In addition to the publication of reading courses, as described above, the virtual folder function can be used to establish and publish bibliographies and collectanea. Collectanea comprise different articles that form a thematically coherent ensemble and are preceded by an editor’s introduction. In this way the individual “numbers” or “editions” of a journal can be re-constituted when the HyperJournal software is used to publish an existing paper journal electronically. HyperJournal can also be used to publish audiovisual contributions such as interviews, conferences, seminars, and debates.

At the discretion of the Editorial Board, the system can be designed to send a publication contract automatically for each article that is accepted for publication, which is then in turn “signed” electronically by the author. Contract models are bundled with the software (see below). Once an article is published, the author can print a certificate of publication that includes, among other things, the composition of the journal's Editorial Board at the time the article was accepted.

When published, each article receives a unique siglum consisting of the initial of the author's first name, followed by the surname, a hyphen, and a number. Thus, the first article published by Jonathon Daniels in the network HyperJournal would receive the siglum jdaniels-1. This siglum, added to the web address of the journal, also functions as a simple and stable address, like a URL, which can be used to cite the article. If, say, Jonathon Daniels's article were published in the Electronic Journal of Philology, which can be found at the address <http://www.electronicphilology.org/>, the article could be accessed by anyone simply by typing the address <http://www.electronicphilology.org/jdaniels-1>. If the article were to consist of several pages, a particular page could be cited and accessed by entering the page number, preceded by a comma, after the siglum of the article: <http://www.electronicphilology.org/jdaniels-1,20>. 
To register intertextual references and make the dynamic contextualization functional, the authors need only **encode citations** with a tag inserted directly into the text of the article. Assume, for example, that an article contains a reference of the following type:


To register the citation and transform it into a hypertextual bidirectional link available in the whole HyperJournal network, the author simply adds the following code:

On this subject see the article of <contribution sig="jdaniels-1,20">Jonathon Daniels “Problems of Electronic Editions” in *Electronic Journal of Philology*, 2005, p. 20./contribution>

The system will then interpret this tag and create the corresponding bidirectional links.

Each author can also maintain a personal homepage on the journal’s website that may include, among other things, the bibliometric information discussed above.

### 3. The Editorial Board

HyperJournal enables the Editorial Board to evaluate the articles directly from the journal’s website. The members of the Editorial Board can:

- read the articles submitted for evaluation
- write reviews of articles either for internal use or to be made accessible to the authors
- communicate with each other using an internal message system
- receive a message each time an article is sent for evaluation and when the other members of the board have voted on an article or written a report
- consult the history of all the articles submitted and of the evaluations

The head of the Editorial Board, or the person charged with administration of the site, can access the configuration panel and thus modify:

- the layout of the page and the other elements of the site (fonts, icons etc.)
- the languages of the website (HyperJournal has an interactive translating mode so that all the menus and instructions can be easily translated into additional languages)
- the list of the members of the Editorial Board
- the parameters of peer review (time frame, majority required etc.),
• the list of authors who are members of the journal (i.e., who have published in the journal)
• the procedure for the election of the Editorial Board.

4. Free access and respect for copyright: legal framework

HyperJournal intends to contribute to academic research on Internet publishing and encourages the birth of scholarly communities on the Internet. To this end, it not only delivers IT solutions, but also tries to offer models for the independent organization and governance of scholarly communities, to develop systems for Internet peer-review, and to establish a legal framework for the free diffusion of knowledge on the Web that respects the principles of copyright.

The documentation accompanying the software describes and comments on several models for the statutes of scholarly communities (the presence or absence of an Editorial Board; the constitution of the scholarly community by election or by other means; peer review and anonymity policies; criteria for publication; etc.), the administration of which is supported by the software. It contains three models of copyleft legal licenses (*FreeKnowledge*, *OpenKnowledge*, *LimitedKnowledge*) designed to reconcile the goal of open access to scholarly articles with the need to protect against plagiarism and to respect the moral right of the author.

5. Open Source software

HyperJournal is scaleable modular software distributed freely with an Open Source license. For these legal and technical reasons it is free to use and easy to modify and so can be adapted to the exigencies of a large number of scholarly communities.

A prototype of HyperJournal will be available in October 2004. Version 1.0 is expected in December 2004.