

# Report on Progress - Technical Report: Metadata Feedback for Coalition Publica

---

Compiled by Jeanette Hatherill (Coalition Publica), Alec Smecher (PKP), Davin Baragiotta (Érudit), Mathieu Pigeon (Érudit), Fabio Batalha (Érudit) & Bozana Bokan (PKP)

## Introduction

In 2020 the Metadata Working Group (MWG) convened by Coalition Publica produced a [technical report](#) with analysis and recommendations towards improving and encouraging better metadata within PKP's and Érudit's platforms. This Report on Progress (2024) provides a summary of some of the technical developments undertaken by the PKP and Érudit teams to address the recommendations. Some of the recommendations in the report required social solutions such as education or documentation, where relevant developments have been made, we have included links. We would like to thank the members of the Metadata Working Group<sup>1</sup> for their time and efforts in providing feedback to help Coalition Publica in its mission. Improvements to metadata quality is an ongoing priority within Coalition Publica's national infrastructure for digital scholarly publishing and research dissemination. We look forward to continuing our work in the area of metadata quality in collaboration with our journal and library partners.

---

<sup>1</sup> Lise Brin, Haiyun Cao, Jessica Clark, Bart Kawula, Inba Kehoe, Pierre Lasou, Tomasz Mrozewski, Mike Nason (Chair), Mathieu Pigeon, Brianne Selman & Sarah Severson

# Progress Report

## Recommendations regarding Names

The working group identified a number of issues surrounding names and identity in their recommendations. While we recognize that it does not solve all issues raised by the working group, both the PKP and Érudit teams have made significant strides in integrating ORCID into their systems. In the Coalition Publica context, thanks to recent updates to the [JATS XML plugin](#), it is now possible for ORCID information entered in OJS, including its authenticated/unauthenticated status, to be transferred to the Érudit platform and displayed with article/author metadata. These improvements in data transfer will lead to increased trust and reusability of ORCID information.

With regard to self-identification, the metadata working group made several suggestions, including that the Bio statement field be used by authors wishing to express their preferred name or their gender. The updates to the JATS Template plugin now permit multilingual author biographical statements to be pushed to JATS, whereas previously, only unilingual bio notes were transferred and supported. Multilingual statements can now be incorporated in the Érudit/OJS production workflow. Recently updated Coalition Publica documentation also promotes [self identification statements in the Bio Statement](#) field in OJS.

There was also a recommendation that the preferred name field could also be used, but due to the inconsistent ways authors use this field in OJS, while the information can be transferred between systems, the Érudit production team will continue to rely on the final galley for preferred name, and this has been noted in documentation. Additionally, the group recommended that the Preferred name field be repeatable, but after consideration, it was deemed that implementing this would be harmful to the integrity of the software and confusing to the user community.

For retroactive name changes, a review of practices is underway to seamlessly accommodate these in the Coalition Publica context. Briefly, based on the premise that a name change should not require proof or additional burden, but that responsibility for metadata rests with the editor, we aim to review existing tools, production workflows, and policies to treat post publication name changes in OJS metadata as intentional and change the identified records on the Érudit platform as a matter of course.

Finally, considering corporate and anonymous authorship, issues have been filed by PKP<sup>2</sup> and these modifications are being considered within the CRAFT-OA project and as a potential development milestone for OJS 3.6. In the Coalition Publica context, display on the Érudit platform accommodates anonymous and corporate authors, so as developments progress with how OJS treats these author types, the integration between the two systems will accommodate this information transfer.

## Issues around Multilingualism

Some issues identified in the report had already been solved in OJS versions that came out during the work of the group such as support for multilingual (non-roman) author fields and a distinction between UI, Form and Submission locales. For others, issues have been filed with PKP including simultaneous display of multilingual metadata<sup>3</sup>, with developments envisioned as part of the CRAFT-OA project.

Other issues identified around multilingualism have been addressed through education and documentation such as the creation of the guide [Using PKP Software in Multiple Languages](#), as well as explicit guidelines and training for editors in [Preparing Quality Metadata in OJS: A Guide for Coalition Publica Journals](#).

## Decolonization

Recognizing that:

- including a list of all possible place names for location data is an unwieldy project;
- that in a global publishing context, any assertion of place and name is an inherently political issue;
- international place name standards require adherence to colonial structures of knowledge and identity;

We also recognize that an individual or community's right to self assertion should be honoured and recorded in metadata.

As of OJS 3.4, country is a required element in the journal masthead to ensure better downstream usability of this data linked to the ISO country list. However, [a plugin has been developed](#) to permit end users to extend and override the ISO3166 country list should they choose to do so.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://github.com/pkp/pkp-lib/issues/5955>

<sup>3</sup> <https://github.com/pkp/pkp-lib/issues/7272>

With regard to support for broader author roles, the CRediT<sup>4</sup> taxonomy seems to be the most widely accepted by other organizations and is increasingly being adopted within journal publishing. Initial work was done in PKP sprints to look at other standards<sup>5</sup>, and they were remarkably large, to the point of unusability. Therefore, PKP is moving toward adopting CRediT, and by participating in conversations around its implementation, will lobby towards more inclusive roles that can better accommodate indigenous roles like storyteller, illustrator, drummer or dancer. The Erudit schema around contributor roles is being examined to support broader author roles.

Many elements of the recommendations around decolonization have political, educational and/or outreach implications beyond the immediate scope of the CP Technical Development Working Group's mandate. While work is being done on both the Érudit and PKP teams, there is a tension between exchanging data with the scholarly community in supported/standard forms, and decolonization efforts that are pushing us to step outside of those standards in ways that makes information exchange more complicated. Thus, this is something we aren't able to tackle alone and we acknowledge the efforts of everyone in this space who is engaging on these issues.

## Accessibility

An [accessibility review](#) for PKP software is underway, and in particular the use of a colour icon to denote multilingual completeness in metadata is a noted issue as part of the Submission Wizard Accessibility project. At the same time, while not directly related to recommendations made by the working group, an [accessibility review](#) of the [erudit.org](#) platform is being undertaken.

## Metadata review and post publication modifications to metadata

Coalition Publica anticipates the completion of the NISO Versions of Journal Articles working group update to the Journal Article Versions recommended practice in order to provide guidance on post publication modifications, new versions and updating associated metadata.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://credit.niso.org>

<sup>5</sup> <https://pkp.sfu.ca/2022/07/08/helsinki-sprint-2022-notes-released-contributor-roles/>

Associated with the CRAFT-OA project, some initial work has been done to create a plugin that would validate required metadata for export to certain indexers such as DOAJ. Conceivably this could be extended to required fields for dissemination on Érudit. However, in the CP context fields can be either *required* or *required, if applicable* depending on the journal's particular publishing context. Therefore plugin functionality could be limited in the CP context.

## Other JATS Elements

Recommendations to accommodate broader adoption of more granular JATS elements have been accepted and publisher location and journal.self-uri have both been added to JATS. The Érudit schema is being analyzed to determine if and how to accommodate these. Article.body is being considered within the context of a broader XML strategy and we hope to see developments here as European funders have shown interest in advances in XML in support of Open Research Europe. The addition of the “season” element to issue metadata and JATS is under consideration for future development but progress will depend on what importance this is given in light of other priorities for Coalition Publica.

## Journal History Field

Developments to the [Journal Masthead](#) are being planned as part of the PKP Journal Integrity Initiative, including the possibility of recording the editorial history of a journal.

## Inclusion of Editor(s) in Issue-level Metadata

The CP Technical Development team is interested in exploring this in a near future development and has included scope work in its 2024 work plan.

## Divorce Submission Mechanisms from Article Metadata

While it is difficult to come up with something comprehensive for what is required, work is being done within CRAFT OA to potentially remove the requirement for author email address in OJS. In the interim, the system behaviour that causes metadata issues is more explicitly explained in [documentation](#) provided to CP journals along with guidance on avoiding this issue.

## Review of "title" Element for Issue Metadata

Addressed through CP documentation [Preparing Quality Metadata in OJS: A Guide for Coalition Publica Journals.](#)