

Introduction

Publishers report that reference corrections represent a high percentage of authors' changes, and that composition vendors can spend up to 16% of their time correcting references. Despite this, reference errors can be found in nearly half of publishers' manuscripts. Reference Processing is therefore an expensive "choke point" in the flow of manuscripts from submission to publication.

Solving the Problem

One way to attempt to solve this problem is to require authors to use specific manuscript templates and expensive bibliographic management software or complex plug-ins. However, most authors want to focus on the quality of manuscript content, not on bibliographic formatting.

Imagine a solution that automatically transforms the author's submitted bibliography into an XML-structured, linked, and journal-defined format. Imagine no more! This solution is available today in Editorial Manager[®], the market-leading manuscript submission and peer review system. No author pre-formatting of the bibliography is required.

So How Does It Work?

When the author uploads a Word file into Editorial Manager, the integrated eXtyles[®] reference processing tools automatically extract the author's unformatted bibliography and uses heuristics to analyze, "peel apart," and restructure the references. Citation elements (such as article type, author, volume, issue, etc.) are tagged in XML and are used to construct search queries to external databases such as PubMed[®] and CrossRef[®] to validate the citations. Even if the author has used non-standard journal abbreviations or has omitted data, in most cases a successful match will be made.

Before Reference Processing: Original references include inconsistent order of elements, inconsistent casing of article types and missing data.

1. Phillips KA, et al. Who plans to be tested for HIV or would get tested if no one could find out the results? *Am J Prev Med* 1995; 11(3): 156-162.
2. Lam TH, Janghorbani M, Fan S and Fielding R. Voluntary HIV antibody testing amongst youth in Hong Kong. *Int J STD AIDS* 2003; 132-138.
3. Goodman, E, Tipton, A.C., Hecht, L. and Chesney, M.A. Perspectives Pays Off: Health Care Providers' Impact on HIV Testing Decisions by Adolescent Females. *Pediatrics* 1994; 94: 878-882.
4. Cotton-Oldenburg NU, Jordan BK, Martin SL and Sadowski, LS. Voluntary HIV testing in prison: do women inmates at high risk for HIV accept HIV testing? *AIDS Educ Prev* 1999; 11(1): 28-37.

After Reference Processing: References are edited to house style and linked: missing data are flagged.

```
<jm>1 Phillips KA, et al Who plans to be tested for HIV or would get tested if no one could find out the results? Am J Prev Med 1995; 11(3): 156-62. Medline</jm>  
<jm>2 Lam TH, Janghorbani M, Fan S, Fielding R. Voluntary HIV antibody testing amongst youth in Hong Kong. Int J STD AIDS 2003; ■■■: 132-8. Medline doi:10.1238/095646203321156917</jm>  
<jm>3 Goodman E, Tipton AC, Hecht L, Chesney MA. Perspectives Pays Off: Health Care Providers' Impact on HIV Testing Decisions by Adolescent Females. Pediatrics 1994; 94: 878-82. Medline</jm>  
<jm>4 Cotton-Oldenburg NU, Jordan BK, Martin SL, Sadowski LS. Voluntary HIV testing in prison: do women inmates at high risk for HIV accept HIV testing? AIDS Educ Prev 1999; 11(1): 28-37. Medline</jm>
```

Comment [BDR1]: "Et al" found after fewer than 6 authors. Please check reference (in reference 4 "Phillips, et al, 1995").

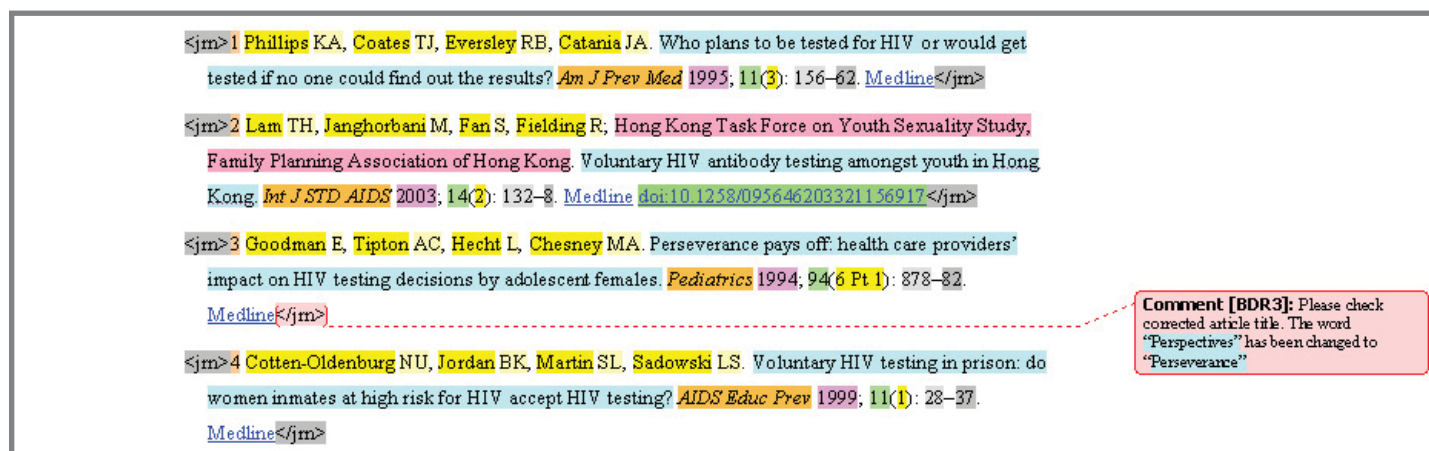
Comment [BDR2]: Please provide the missing volume number in this journal reference. (in reference 9 "Lam, Janghorbani, Fan, Fielding, 2003").

In Editorial Manager, reference processing takes place in the background while the author completes submission of their original or revised manuscript. This means the author receives prompt and convenient feedback concerning the quality of their bibliography.

One Step Further - Auto Correction

In some cases, authors' references omit required data such as co-author names or issue numbers. References can also contain errors such as misspelled author names or incorrect article titles. Editorial Manager can be configured to automatically correct references with appropriate information drawn from PubMed and CrossRef. The data is inserted into the references in the Word file according to the publication's style requirements. Using this option saves time, enhances reference accuracy, and enables easy compliance with changing bibliographic standards.

After Reference Correction: Missing author names, volume numbers, and issue numbers are inserted according to house style; inconsistent casing and incorrect word usage in article titles is corrected.



The screenshot shows four XML reference entries. The first entry is: `<jm>1 Phillips KA, Coates TJ, Eversley RB, Catania JA. Who plans to be tested for HIV or would get tested if no one could find out the results? Am J Prev Med 1995; 11(3): 156-62. Medline</jm>`. The second entry is: `<jm>2 Lam TH, Janghorbani M, Fan S, Fielding R, Hong Kong Task Force on Youth Sexuality Study, Family Planning Association of Hong Kong. Voluntary HIV antibody testing amongst youth in Hong Kong. Int J STD AIDS 2003; 14(2): 132-8. Medline doi:10.1258/095646203321156917</jm>`. The third entry is: `<jm>3 Goodman E, Tipton AC, Hecht L, Chesney MA. Perseverance pays off: health care providers' impact on HIV testing decisions by adolescent females. Pediatrics 1994; 94(6 Pt 1): 878-82. Medline</jm>`. The fourth entry is: `<jm>4 Cotten-Oldenburg NU, Jordan BK, Martin SL, Sadowski LS. Voluntary HIV testing in prison: do women inmates at high risk for HIV accept HIV testing? AIDS Educ Prev 1999; 11(1): 28-37. Medline</jm>`. A red comment box on the right side of the screenshot contains the text: "Comment [BDR3]: Please check corrected article title. The word 'Perspectives' has been changed to 'Perseverance'". A dashed red line connects the comment box to the word 'Perseverance' in the third XML entry.

Reviewers and Editors Benefit Too

While automatic reference processing offers many advantages for authors, it also greatly enhances the experience of reviewers and editors. Because the bibliography is automatically linked, the accuracy and quality of the bibliography provides editors with an important way to assess overall manuscript quality. In addition, reviewers and editors can "drill down" using PubMed and CrossRef links to easily access full text of the cited material.

Don't Put the Burden on the Author

Most journals require author compliance with their preferred bibliographic reference style. This is burdensome and inconvenient for authors because most journals stipulate unique styles. With Editorial Manager, the author's submitted bibliography can be automatically converted to the journal's style. Let the system do the work!

XML - Lower Production Cost

Editorial Manager generates a clean XML version of the author's bibliography with a high level of accuracy. This means that the XML file can be transmitted to vendors, thereby reducing the time and cost of final manuscript preparation following acceptance.

Aries Systems transforms the way scholarly publishers bring high-value content to the world. The company's innovative and forward-looking workflow solutions manage the complexities of modern print and electronic publishing - from submission to editorial management and peer review, to production tracking and publishing channel distribution. Currently, Editorial Manager is actively deployed with 3,600+ journals and millions of registered users.

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