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The R Journal

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12-2021

## Editorial

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# Editorial

by Dianne Cook

On behalf of the R Foundation and the Editorial board, I am pleased to present Volume 13 Issue 2 of the R Journal. This is the biggest issue ever!

First, some news from the Editorial board. A big thank you to Mike Kane, who has finished his term. As Editor-in-Chief in 2020, Mike expanded operations to include Associate Editors in the reviewing process. The R Journal now has a team of 20 Associate Editors. This has helped to manage the increasing number of submissions. We welcome new Associate Editors, Przemek Biecek, Chris Brunsdon, Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel, Kieran Healy, Adam Loy, Priyanga Dilini Talagala and Emi Tanaka, who have joined since the July 2021 issue. We also thank Taylor Arnold, who has stepped down, for his assistance over the past 18 months.

Catherine Hurley takes over as Editor-in-Chief for 2022, having joined the editorial team in 2020. She has substantial expertise in publishing research and editorial experience. One of the changes that she will oversee is publishing the R Journal **four** times a year. The benefit of this is that your articles will make a more timely appearance in an issue, and for us it will mean building slightly slimmer volumes. The issues will now be dated March, June, October and December, with articles that are accepted up to the publish month being included in the issue.

With the current issue we are migrating to the new web site. That is, the current dev <https://journal.r-project.org/dev/> will replace <https://journal.r-project.org/>. The current web site style is quite plain, and we would be very keen to get some feedback or help on the page design from users familiar with css. (Note that, the old site will remain as a legacy site.) This new site hosts articles in the new html format, if they have been written using Rmarkdown, as well as pdf. Please think about using the new [Rmarkdown template](#) for your article. It is quite pleasant to read, enables interactive graphics in the article, and the ability to add alt-text to your paper allows for screen readers to provide verbal descriptions of your figures for blind researchers. Also, there are simplified instructions for preparing an article to make it easier for you prepare your article for submission.

A few reminders about submissions. The journal operates purely through volunteer labour by researchers like yourself. We do what we can manage to get your paper in shape for publication, but ultimately what appears on the web is your responsibility.

- If you follow author instructions carefully, this will streamline the editorial board's handling of your article.
- Check that the references in your paper have all components, title, journal, volume, issue, pages, and the **DOI**.
- Check that the files you are about to submit do actually compile to the desirable output, every time prior to submitting your zip. Currently, there are easily a third of articles submitted that don't actually compile, and another third build with errors. This is time consuming to deal with when it comes time to build an issue.
- Check that your code is well-structured and runs in a timely fashion. A small example may be all that is necessary, in order to effectively communicate your work. Places to learn more about coding style are Jenny Bryan's [Code Smells and Feels](#), and Hadley Wickham's [Advanced R](#), and their collaborative book [R Packages](#). Also, the discussion article and commentaries, in this issue, have excellent suggestions about developing your coding practices.
- All of the submitted files should be smallish. We use GitHub for journal operations, and files larger than 50Mb create complications for uploading. If you have a large data file, store it with one of the growing number of services for large files, such as [figshare](#), [dryad](#) or [zenodo](#). Provide links to these files in your example code, or in a section in the article listing supplementary material.
- When your zip file is downloaded into our paper handling system, a list of supple-

mentary files is automatically generated from what you report in the submission form, ideally. This list needs to be comma-delimited. When your paper is published this list of files is zip'd into a `supplementaries.zip` which is distributed on the issue web site. Journals do differ in what is distributed as supplementary. For the R Journal we would expect the list of files to include are `.R` file (R code) or `.Rmd`, any data files, and possibly an Appendix pdf or html if you want to communicate additional details like proofs or coding intricacies than were not possible to include in the paper.

- Choose at least one keyword from the list provided on the submission form, because these correspond to CRAN Task Views and helps connect your paper with other R developments. You can also type in keywords of your choosing as well.

The R Journal enjoys an increasing rank among statistics publications. It is a great outlet to publish your work. Statistical computing has a huge impact on the practice of statistics, and R Journal articles are a wonderful way to communicate your work in this area to a large audience. With the recent operational changes we are equipped to process a larger number of submissions. So make an impact, send us your work!

Lastly, there is a lot of work happening behind the scenes. Mitchell O'Hara-Wild continues to develop infrastructure. H. Sherry Zhang has spearheaded the changes to the `rjtools` package to help you, the authors, write your article in the style needed for the R Journal. The articles in this issue have been painstakingly copy edited by Dewi Amaliah. Funding from the [R Consortium's](#) has been instrumental in making all of these activities possible, and you can read more about it in [the blog post here](#).

## In this issue

News from the R Core, CRAN, Bioconductor, the R Foundation, and the foRwards Taskforce can be read in this issue.

This issue features 42 contributed research articles covering these topics, on a huge range of topics. There is also a special feature which is the discussion article "Software Engineering and R Programming: A Call for Research" by Melina Vidoni, and commentaries from Will Landau, Maëlle Salmon, Karthik Ram and Simon Urbanek.

Happy reading, and trying out the code!

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