



Central Article Tracking System

The Taylor & Francis Group (the academic division of T&F Informa plc) is one of the world's leading academic publishers, with journals production offices in the UK, US and Scandinavia. The company publishes over 1,000 journals across a wide range of subject areas; from science, technology and medicine, to the arts and humanities.

Business Needs

Taylor & Francis are responsible for many publications each with different requirements. For example, some journals publish one or two issues a year, with articles being added electronically, batched into issues and sent for copyediting together. Other journals will publish every month, with manuscripts being sent for copyediting as soon as they arrive.

Publishing an article in an academic journal involves two main processes. Firstly, the editorial process, in which the article is submitted, assessed by an academic editor (a specialist in the field), and then passed on anonymously for peer review. Secondly, the production process, in which the article is copyedited, typeset, proofread and entered into the composition of an issue for printing, binding and online publication. For many years Taylor & Francis had been relying on a system of paper files, spreadsheets and databases to manage this complex workflow.

Taylor & Francis recognized the need to consolidate their existing tracking systems to improve their efficiency and reduce costs. They required a single, global tracking system that would simplify existing operations and support the company as it expanded its publications.





Tessella Solution

Over the last two years Tessella has designed the Central Article Tracking System (CATS) to provide a trackable workflow framework to meet the requirements of Taylor & Francis.

Initially Tessella gathered requirements for CATS using Taylor & Francis' experience with their original systems. Then during the design and implementation stage, Taylor & Francis users were able to run early releases of CATS to offer feedback and ensure the product would fulfill their requirements.

CATS has a consistent look and feel throughout and is carefully designed so that every interface is appropriate for each type of user. External authors, proofreaders and academic editors have screens presenting subsets of data in an easily managed format. Internal Taylor & Francis users have access to richer functionality and complete sets of data. While individual staff remain responsible for the overall production process, CATS automates every step in the workflow, leaving publishing staff free to concentrate on adding value to the publication process.

Tessella is providing on-going support for CATS and further enhancing the system to meet Taylor & Francis' future needs.

Major Benefits

As Taylor & Francis move forward with their ambitious programmes, CATS allows them to integrate journal tracking data with their other systems, better monitor the performance of their business, and improve customer service. Furthermore, by implementing a flexible and highly usable system in CATS, Taylor & Francis is improving its relationships with customers, suppliers and staff alike.

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