

Going beyond the Printed Page

Ear and Hearing is the official member journal of the [American Auditory Society](#); our articles address the interests of the diverse professional AAS membership focusing on hypothesis based empirical research on disorders of hearing and balance. Over the past several years, the journal has evolved to an online-only journal, and the electronic (on-line) issue has transitioned to the official “publication of record” archived and indexed in MEDLINE. The decision to go electronic was not made lightly—the AAS board agreed with our publisher, Wolters Kluwer, that in 2015, all members would receive an electronic journal subscription. Three simple reasons why this decision was made:

- Member cost savings: member subscriptions could continue to be included free as part of membership dues
- Paper: ecologically sound as AAS members care about our carbon footprint. We are no longer using 863,720 pieces of paper each year (which saves around 103 trees annually)
- Web tools: please see below all the benefits to online-only reading of our journal

In fact, I wrote [an editorial](#) that addressed the online-only transition. From 2015 through 2017 *Ear and Hearing* was available electronically/on-line without additional charge as a benefit of membership. During that period, we offered AAS members the opportunity to pay an additional charge of \$82.50 per year to receive the journal in print. AAS Members voted with their pocketbooks—in 2017 fewer than 30 members opted to pay for print. Thus, we believe the majority of our membership agree that the time is right to transition in 2018 to the all electronic journal format. Print issues will no longer be available beginning with the January/February 2018 issue.

In addition to the cost savings and environmental impact of an electronic journal – this format offers the membership Web tools and convenient searching, while not sacrificing the quality and scholarly format of the articles. Several of the advantages to members reading the journal online are described below and can be accessed on the journal website (<http://journals.lww.com/ear-hearing>):

- A complete archive of *Ear & Hearing* back to 1975 in pdf format at your fingertips.
- Mobile-friendly: the journal website was converted to responsive design in February 2017, which means the journal site will adjust to any phone or table so you can read on the go.
- Easy to search: you can now use keywords in a specific article to search for related articles

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In addition to benefits for AAS members, authors also benefit with free color and the ability to submit supplementary materials related to their articles for peer review. This supplementary material might

include data sets, or technique videos, or sound files. Other materials, such as visual abstracts or [infographics](#), also may be created after an article has been accepted or published. These also can be posted online on the journal website and on the journal social media sites. Authors who receive grant funding and require an [open access option, or a public access option](#), can rest assured that both options are available with the electronic version of ***Ear & Hearing***.

If you are not receiving bi-monthly email alerts with the tables of contents for Ear & Hearing, please contact the AAS member office: amaudsoc@comcast.net

Please feel free to send me a note about our journal evolution: eheditor@jmu.edu

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