Guide for the Implementation of the Continuous Publication Modality in Scientific Journals

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1 Introduction

This guide documents the methodology and procedures for the continuous publication (CP) of documents from the journals of the [SciELO Brazil](#); [SciELO Public Health](#); [RevEnf](#) and [Pepsic](#) collections.

The adoption of this modality is mandatory as of **2025 for the SciELO Brazil collection**.

The online publication of scientific documents is the predominant means of communicating research results. The number of journals that publish exclusively online has been increasing, and the trend is for the print version to disappear in the near future. Online publishing offers innovations, features, and advantages that, in many cases, cannot be replicated in print, especially with regard to interoperability.

Since its inception, SciELO has chosen online publication and seeks to maximize its potential. Among them is the innovative continuous publication (CP) modality, which allows documents to be published without waiting for the complete composition of issues or serialized editions. This modality promotes speed in the process of scientific communication and the dissemination of research results, with numerous advantages for users of scientific information: researchers, students, readers, editors, and funding agencies.

The main objective of continuous publication (CP) is to accelerate research communication and broaden its availability for reading and citation.

2 Periodicity of Continuous Publication (CP)

Continuous publication must be adopted in a workflow in which documents are published as they become ready. Volumes and issues may be structured in three ways, at the discretion of the journal (**figure 1**):
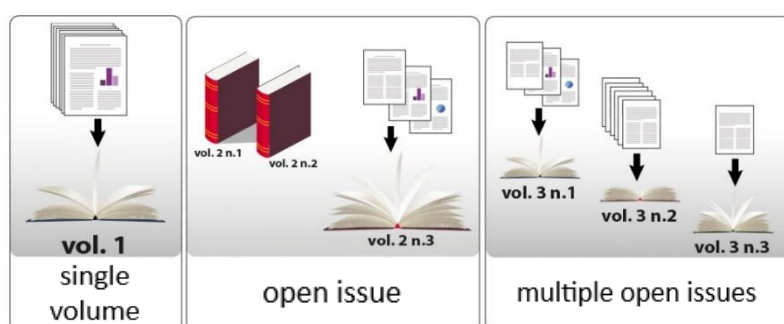
Figure 1: Formats of continuous publication (CP)

1. Articles published in a single annual volume – **Recommended by SciELO**
2. Documents published in successive issues, where the next issue is opened after the previous one is closed;
3. Documents published in multiple issues opened simultaneously, which are updated in parallel.

The possible periodicities for the continuous publication modality are:

1. **Yearly** (single volume per year) – **Recommended by SciELO**
2. **Monthly** (12 issues per year)
3. **Bimonthly** (6 issues per year)
4. **Quarterly** (4 issues per year)

5. **Four-monthly** (3 issues per year)
6. **Semiannually** (2 issues per year) – *except for the SciELO Brazil collection*

Journals that publish thematic issues and wish to adopt annual periodicity may continue to do so, choosing one of two formats:

1. Create a thematic section within the volume, for example: *Dossier* or DOSSIÊ – Reflexões sobre os usos da interseccionalidade na América Latina;
2. Publish additional issues to the annual volume, such as special issue 1, special issue 2, supplement 1, supplement 2, etc.

It is important to note that special issues and supplements, when published by journals that work with numbered issues (regardless of periodicity), must not be counted as part of the regular periodicity, but as additional. Example: a quarterly journal (3 issues per year) may publish its complete schedule as v49n1, v49n2, v49n3 **plus** v49nspe1… or v49suppl1…

3 When the Continuous Publication (CP) Modality Can Be Adopted

It is recommended that journals begin continuous publication at the start of the year. However, if the change occurs mid-year, when issues have already been published in the regular modality, the previously used periodicity must be maintained until the end of the year.

From the following year onwards, the journal may adopt the annual volume or another periodicity, as decided.

Important: It is not permitted to add documents to issues already published under the regular modality (issue-based). Inclusion can only occur starting with the issue in which the journal adopts continuous publication.

4 How Publication Works in This Modality (CP)

The XML service provider contracted by the journal must submit documents for publication as soon as their final versions are ready. These submissions are referred to as **batches**.

- Each batch may contain 1 to 5 documents (in XML);
- Batches may be sent throughout the year;
- More than one batch per day is allowed, depending on the editorial processes and the XML tagging workflow of the journal.

Consequently, holding back final versions of documents to build closed issues is not allowed.

5 Early Release and Publication Restrictions in the Continuous Publication (CP) Modality

It is recommended that all journals meet the following requirements, which are mandatory for those indexed in the SciELO Brazil collection:

- Publish within the current year, with a maximum advance of 6 to 8 months;
- From November onwards, it is permitted to open the volume and/or issues of the following year.

For SciELO Brazil:
- Before November, batches intended for the following year will not be accepted;
- If of interest to the journal, documents already approved may be made available in SciELO Preprints without XML tagging. For deposit guidelines, the editorial team should

contact SciELO Preprints at <scielo.submission@scielo.org>. See also the SciELO Preprints FAQ.

The final version of the document should not be retained to assemble a complete issue, including thematic, special, or supplementary editions. Continuous publication requires the prompt release of documents, ensuring their timely dissemination without depending on issue closure.

ATTENTION:

Even if publication is advanced to the following year from November onwards, citation metrics - such as Journal Impact Factor (WoS), SCImago Journal Rank (SCImago), and CiteScore (Scopus) - **do not count citations from articles dated in a future year**.
These indices consider only:

- Citations made in the current year to documents published in previous years; or
- Citations made in the same year to documents dated that year.

Early publication only impacts the **Immediacy Index**. Therefore, journals are encouraged to use **continuous publication** to release documents as quickly as possible, without delays, but always respecting the actual year of publication.

Another key consideration is that the practice of "publishing in the past" is not recommended. In other words, journals must not use continuous publication in a way that contradicts its purpose, which is to advance scientific communication.

Consequences of incorrect use:

- Documents remain linked to the previous year, but with the actual publication date in the current year, highlighting delays;
- Documents lose one year of exposure, since even if indexed in a previous volume/issue, they were only effectively published in the current year.

If the journal is unable to publish all documents of the current year, the remaining ones must be carried over to the following year, when they will be effectively published (thus ensuring closure of the proposed issues within the adopted periodicity).

6. Adjustments in Documents for the Adoption of the Continuous Publication (CP) Modality

In this modality, some aspects of the documents must be modified:

1. **Mandatory:** inclusion of the **document's section** in the PDF;
2. **Mandatory:** exclusion of sequential pagination and adoption of the **elocation-id**;
3. **Optional:** insertion of **print pagination**, restarted at 1 in each document.

6.1. Elocation-id (digital pagination)

In continuous publication, documents no longer have continuous and sequential pagination within an issue and instead present a unique digital identifier per document, called elocation-id.

- The elocation-id cannot be repeated within a volume/issue;
- The creation and management of this code are the responsibility of the journal's editorial team;
- If translations are published, the journal may, if desired, assign distinct elocation-ids to the original and translated versions;
- It is recommended to precede the code with the lowercase letter "**e**".

Although there is no single standard, it is advisable to avoid long identifiers. The elocation-id replaces pagination and is used in document citations. Examples of composition: submission number, DOI number (without prefix), or combinations defined by the journal.

The elocation-id may contain:
- Numbers;
- Letters;
- Other characters – except underscore and period.

Examples:
- e253101 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- e58990 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- e883 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- e024err2 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#) - erratum)*
- e-143244ret - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#) - retraction)*
- e-144447A - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#) - review report)*

6.2. Pagination (restarted at 1 in each document)

Optionally, print pagination may be added only in PDFs, to facilitate control in case of printing.

- Always restarted at 1 in each document;
- May be presented in different formats: *1 of 16, 2 of 16… or 1/16, 1–16*.

Attention: avoid using only simple numbers (1, 2, 3…) without indicating the total or providing context. This format may lead to errors and confusion in document citation.

Examples:
- 1/7 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- 1/13 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- 1 de 19 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- 1 DE 24 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- 2 | 6 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- Page 1 of 11- *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*

6.3. Section of Documents

The section corresponds to the thematic indication of the document.

- Some journals use the type of document (e.g., *Original Article, Editorial, Review*);
- Others adopt area-specific sections (e.g., *Mathematical Sciences, Chemical Sciences*).

The decision rests with the journal's editorial team.

In PDFs, the section is **mandatory** and must be indicated on the first page (upper right corner, center, or left).

In addition, the section must appear in the same language as the document, for example:

- PDF in Portuguese: Artigo Original - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- PDF in Spanish: Artículo Original - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- PDF in English: Original Article - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*

On the collections' website, documents are organized in the online table of contents of the issue/volume, according to the list of sections previously informed by the editorial team to the SciELO team (see section **8.3. List of Sections Adopted by the Journal**).

7 Bibliographic Citation and Reference in Continuous Publication (CP)

In PDFs, the bibliographic citation must necessarily include at least the following information:

1. Abbreviated title of the journal (registered with [ISSN](#));
2. Volume and/or issue or special issue or supplement;
3. Year of the volume;
4. Elocation-id.

Examples:

- OPUS (Assoc. Nac. Pesqui. Pós-Grad. Música), Vitória, v. 31, e253101, 2025 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- Anu. Inst. Geociênc., Rio de Janeiro, vol. 48, 2025, e58990 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- Bol. Inst. Pesca, 2025, 51: e883 – *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*
- Braz J Transplant ▪ v28 ▪ e0225 ▪ 2025 - *(See layout in the [PDF link](#))*

The bibliographic reference will depend on the citation style adopted by the journal. Examples:

- ***Vancouver***:
    - Pletsch F, Conceição PC, Haskel MK, Amadori C, Ferreira D, Kniess YK, et al.. Maize Yield and Soil Penetration Resistance in Different Soil Tillage and Cover Crop Systems. Braz arch biol technol [Internet]. 2024;67(spe1):e24230804. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1590/1678-4324-PSSM-2024230804
- ***APA***:
    - Castro, F. A. G. de ., Wenceslau, L. D., & Ferreira, D. C.. (2024). Entre "centrado na pessoa" e "freestyle": a abordagem do sofrimento mental comum em residências de medicina de família e comunidade. Interface - Comunicação, Saúde, Educação, 28, e230141. https://doi.org/10.1590/interface.230141

8. How and What the Journal Must Inform When Transitioning to the Continuous Publication (CP) Modality

Journals may only request the transition to continuous publication once all documents already approved for regular issues have been published on the collection websites. Simultaneous publication in both modalities is not allowed (except for retrospective issues already published on the journal websites).

To formalize the transition, editorial teams must send an official notice to the SciELO publishing team at <publicacao@scielo.org>, providing the following information:

1. **The name of the contracted XML provider;**
2. **The periodicity to be adopted;**
3. **The list of document sections that will compose the annual volume or issues.**

Upon receiving the email, the SciELO publishing team will update the journal's record in the collection and, together with the XML provider, create the section control (other spreadsheet). Once this stage is completed, the journal will be authorized to send document batches in the continuous publication (CP) modality for publication.

8.1 XML Provider Contracted by the Journal

Indicate the name of the contracted XML provider.

1. If the editorial team itself produces the XMLs, the journal should be registered as responsible.
2. If there is more than one provider, list all names.
3. Consider the list of Companies certified for XML Article text Tagging Services according to SciELO Publishing Schema.

8.2 Journal Periodicity

Indicate the periodicity that will be adopted by the journal in the CP modality. Options:

1. **Yearly** (single volume per year) – **Recommended by SciELO**
2. **Monthly** (12 issues per year)
3. **Bimonthly** (6 issues per year)
4. **Quarterly** (4 issues per year)
5. **Four-monthly** (3 issues per year)
6. **Semiannually** (2 issues per year) – *except for the SciELO Brazil collection*

Further details are available in section **2 - Periodicity of Continuous Publication (CP).**

8.3 List of Sections Adopted by the Journal

Each journal must submit the list of sections that will be adopted in the continuous publication modality (CP). This list is essential because:

- In CP, documents are published in batches of 1 to 5 documents;
- Unlike the regular modality – issue-based (where each closed issue already presents sections and their order in the printed table of contents), in CP the order of documents in the online table of contents depends on this section list;
- This section list generates the section control spreadsheet (**other spreadsheet**).

8.3.1 Section Control (Other Spreadsheet)

- SciELO maintains a section control spreadsheet (also called the other spreadsheet), shared with the XML provider or the journal itself (when it produces its XMLs).
- This spreadsheet is created exclusively by the SciELO team and is part of the quality control process for publication.
- Its purpose is to verify consistency between:
  - Sections recorded in the XML,
  - Sections displayed in the PDF,
  - Sections listed in the control (other spreadsheet).
- The order defined in this spreadsheet is the one applied to the online collection's table of contents.

8.3.2 Structure of the Other Spreadsheet

- Each spreadsheet contains separate tabs for the journal's volumes and/or issues.
- Each tab lists all sections in all the languages of publication of the journal, as well as the order previously provided by the editorial team.
- For each section, a sequential number called other is assigned, consisting of 5 mandatory digits.
  - This number will be inserted in the XML under the tag: <article-id pub-id-type="other">

Example of a list of sections for a volume/issue, showing the order designation with the corresponding "other" number for each section:

#	Total number of sections already assigned (9)	Other
1	Editorial / Editorial / Editorial	00100
2	Apresentação / Foreword / Apresentación	00200
3	Artigo Original / Original Article / Artículo Original	00300
4	Debate / Debate / Debate	00400
5	Artigo de Revisão / Review Article / Artículo de Revisión	00500
6	Retrospectiva / Overview / Retrospectiva	00600
7	Resenha / Review / Reseña	00700
8	Nota de Livro / Book Note / Nota Bibliográfica	00800
9	Errata / Erratum / Errata	01100

Example of a table showing one section and the documents submitted for publication, with the corresponding "other" number assigned to each document:

Artigo Original / Original Article / Artículo Original	"other"	elocation-id	batch
2317-6431-acr-28-e2680	**00300**	e2680	0125
2317-6431-acr-28-e2657	**00301**	e2657	0225
2317-6431-acr-28-e2575	**00302**	e2575	0225
2317-6431-acr-28-e2705	**00303**	e2705	0425
2317-6431-acr-28-e2719	**00304**	e2719	0425
2317-6431-acr-28-e2687	**00305**	e2687	0425
2317-6431-acr-28-e2713	**00306**	e2713	0525
2317-6431-acr-28-e2721	**00307**	e2721	0625
2317-6431-acr-28-e2745	**00308**	e2745	0725
2317-6431-acr-28-e2685	**00309**	e2685	0825
2317-6431-acr-28-e2750	**00310**	e2750	1025
2317-6431-acr-28-e2730	**00311**	e2730	1125
2317-6431-acr-28-e2766	**00312**	e2766	1625
2317-6431-acr-28-e2692	**00313**	e2692	1725
2317-6431-acr-28-e2677	**00314**	e2677	1825
2317-6431-acr-28-e2774	**00315**	e2774	1925
2317-6431-acr-28-e2754	**00316**	e2754	2025
2317-6431-acr-28-e2787	**00317**	e2787	2125

8.3.3 Rules for Creating the Section List

The section list submitted to formalize the change of publication modality must take the following points into account:

1. **Single submission:** only one list should be sent, containing all sections that may be published within the annual volume or the issues of the year.
   - o Each section will appear in the interface only when at least one document has been published in it.
2. **Order:** the list must indicate the sequential order in which the sections will appear in the online table of contents.
3. **Languages:** section titles must be provided in all languages in which the journal publishes.
   - o The section title in the PDF must be in the same language as the document.
   - o Example:
     - ▪ Document in English → section title in the PDF must be *Original Article*.
     - ▪ Document in Portuguese → section title in the PDF must be *Artigo Original*.
4. **Exact correspondence with PDFs:** section titles in the list must be identical to those appearing in the PDFs.
   - o Singular and plural: *Original Articles ≠ Original Article*.
   - o Use of uppercase/lowercase: *Original Article ≠ ORIGINAL ARTICLE ≠ Original article*.
5. **Subsections:** the collection interface does not display subsection titles.
   - o Therefore, subdivisions of a main section must be listed on separate lines:

- - *Original Article: Genetics*
  - *Original Article: Entomology*
  - *Original Article: Crop Science*
  - o The separator can be a colon, hyphen, or slash, except for the "pipe" character (|), which is not allowed.

8.3.4 Thematic Sections

- For journals publishing dossiers or thematic sections but that do not yet have the complete list of titles for the year, a temporary generic indication may be used.
- Once titles are defined, the journal must notify SciELO and the XML provider for spreadsheet updates.

Example of a section list including a temporary thematic section for dossiers:

#	Total number of sections already assigned (8)	Other	
1	Editorial / Editorial / Editorial	00100	
2	Apresentação do dossiê_____ / Presentation of the special issue _____ / Presentación del dossier_____	00200	**Thematic section to be defined**
3	Dossiê _____ / Special issue _____ / Dossier _____	00300	**Thematic section to be defined**
4	Apresentação do dossiê_____ / Special Issue Presentation_____ / Presentación del dossier_____	00400	**Thematic section to be defined**
5	Dossiê_____ / Special Issue_____ / Dossier_____	00500	**Thematic section to be defined**
6	Artigo / Article / Artículo	00600	
7	Entrevista / Interview / Entrevista	00700	
8	Resenha / Review / Reseña	00800	

8.3.5 Changes to the List Throughout the Year

- New sections may be added at any time, but:
  - o If the volume/issue already **has published documents**, the new section will always be created at the end of the existing list.
  - o If the volume/issue **has no published documents**, the new section may be created in the desired position.
- Section order can only be changed in volumes/issues with no published documents.
- Corrections to section titles in already published PDFs are only possible through the publication of an *Erratum*.
- New sections or volume/issue tabs must be requested via <publicacao@scielo.org>.

8.3.6 Practical Summary: Sections

- The section list is the **basis for the online table of contents**.
- It must be submitted in **all publication languages**.
- Titles must be **identical** to those in the PDF.
- Changes are only possible while no documents have been published in the volume/issue.

8.3.7 Section List Template for Transition to CP

When submitting by email, use the following table (remove or add languages as needed):

Order	Section in Portuguese / English / Spanish
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

9. Communicating the Transition to Databases

The transition to continuous publication must also be communicated to other databases where the journal is indexed, to prevent indexing and record update issues. This communication is the responsibility of the journal's editorial team.

How to cite this document

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