

Taking an open access start-up journal to the next level

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The story so far

- The internet disruption
- Blogs, preprint archives
- The role of peer-reviewed journals
- Open access electronic journals
- 2007: S&P

Facts & Stats

- Founding co-editors: David Beaver & Kai von Fintel
- Decision to associate with the LSA eLanguage initiative
- Supported financially by MIT and UT
- Now hosted at Public Knowledge Project (SFU)
- Using open source publication software (OJS, LaTeX)

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- 8 associate editors
 - Josh Dever, University of Texas
 - Paul Elbourne, Queen Mary, University of London
 - Michael Franke, ILLC, Universiteit van Amsterdam

- Anthony S Gillies, Rutgers University
- Magdalena Kaufmann, University of Connecticut, United States
- Louise McNally, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
- Rick Nouwen, Utrecht Institute for Linguistics OTS, Netherlands
- Katrin Schulz, ILLC, Universiteit van Amsterdam

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- 200+ members of the editorial board
 - 12 big cheeses on the advisory board

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- 350-500 pages per year so far
 - About 10 articles per year so far
 - Acceptance rate < 20%
 - Time to first decision < 60 days

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- Citation impact at least equal to Big 3

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- Poised for explosion
 - 12 articles accepted for 2013 already
 - 16 articles under review

Kudos

'S&P has quickly established itself as one of the leading journals in semantics/pragmatics, thanks to three key properties:

1. It has high standards, which are shown by the thoroughness of the peer review process, and high rejection rates.
2. It has very quick turnaround times.

3. Publication is open access.*

“S&P is having a wonderful effect on the field by strengthening the ‘fast’ culture.”

“It’s a blessing for our whole field to have this journal around.”

Challenges

- Cyclicity of peak submissions
- Artisan sensibilities (a.k.a. quality standards)
- Culture of procrastination
- Change from startup intensity to sustainable and scalable structures and processes
- Uptake from indexing and rating agents

Phases

- Phase 1: startup phase (founders, burning souls)
- Phase 2: sustainable & scalable structures and processes
- Phase 3: founders leave; turn over to new editors

Plans

- expect to publish at least 20-30 articles per year
- additional associate editors
- additional materials:
 - underground classics;
 - state of the art on “hot” topics;
 - S&P monographs?
- push for shorter articles (issue for linguistics in general?)
- continuing to build a reputation

What does it take?

- Money
- Leadership
- Disciplinary support

Announcement!

- As of today, S&P leaves the eLanguage incubator and becomes a full-fledged LSA journal
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- The LSA will join MIT and UT in supporting the journal financially
 - S&P will stand alongside Language (and its offshoots) as a separate, independent LSA journal
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- No change in day-to-day operations:
 - Same URL (<http://semprag.org>), same hosting, same stylesheet
 - Continued immediate open access, no author charges
 - LSA membership not required for authors
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- The journal will be overseen by the LSA Executive Committee
 - S&P Editors will maintain operational responsibility for the journal
 - Big decisions (editorial succession, business model) will be made cooperatively:
 - LSA EC
 - Editors
 - Advisory Board
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S&P is ready for the next level!