

EDITORIAL

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ATTENTION AUTHORS, SUBSCRIBERS, READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

IVJ is very close to embrace its new online platform - First of its kind

As a managing editor of IVJ, it's a proud moment to announce that IVJ will very shortly have its new online platform (not just another website) - ready and operational soon.

The presently available IVJ digital and online initiatives to my knowledge have 8-9 years history based on inputs from the team and available records.

A detailed analysis of the initiatives taken by my predecessors and one-to-one discussion with my immediate predecessor, gave me the following many important informations:

- 1 All the previous online / Systems and Information Technology (IT) initiatives were barely successful or progressive. The main reason was due to the sheer lack of in-house knowledge / expertise in the Systems and IT. This means we did not even clearly know what to ask the IT vendors which will be best suited for IVJ.
- 2 Most of the initiatives were executed without proper Specification Document (Spec. Doc). A spec. doc. for IT initiative would have clearly defined the deliverables based on what is required for IVJ, which in turn could be created only after detailed analysis done by a professional IT expert on the in house working mode of IVJ
- 3 Also, we had no expertise to evaluate the outcome of any of the Systems and IT initiatives, which led to inability to sustain the process - either it got complicated or discontinued after months of usage.
- 4 Systems and IT by itself is a vast industry, we as veterinarians hardly have any grip or understanding.
- 5 Undoubtedly, adapting latest systems and IT aspects is very important for IVJ to sustain and become more efficient and useful to the fraternity. This is something we cannot and should not ignore at all.
- 6 What IVJ really requires from Systems and IT is not just a mere website but much bigger and better things from multiple aspects.

The first and foremost step that was taken to make a swift progress in this direction was to hire a professional System / IT advisor who can rightly guide IVJ to identify its requirements and validate the outcome of future Systems / IT initiatives.

As a collective team effort, we were able **to identify the key pitfalls / issues and set priorities and goals** which justify IVJ's real purpose and potential for the veterinary community:

- 1 IVJ had digital versions of the journals (PDF format) only from 2009 onwards. Prior to 2009 since 1919, all our journals are only available as print versions (physical copies) in bound form.
- 2 All the physical archives, **the precious assets of IVJ** - are deteriorating day by day. It may not be practically possible to preserve them from climate and natural disasters. In few years, we may permanently lose some of the issues which we cannot recover them anymore.
- 3 The only solution to preserve the journal archives is to digitalize them. Digitalizing the journal archives, not only preserves them permanently, but also opens up the opportunity to make them available online to our members and upcoming veterinary students.
- 4 IVJ has a website (www.ivj.org.in) built about 3 years back, which predominantly publishes basic information and online viewing of journals since 2009, also facilitating online submission of articles and online payments.
- 5 It was clearly pointed out that a simple website is not sufficient. Instead, we have to build a comprehensive online platform which is **a) more functional b) process oriented c) well secure and stable to handle growing cyber threats and d) which incorporates efficient and productive automation.**

- 6 The present website, not only had many limitations, but there were several technical issues which were identified - for e.g., cyber security was not taken into account while building the present website (ivj.org.in) and it is exposed to many online vulnerabilities / threats.
- 7 The anticipated worst problem cropped up, around July 2015. Our website was first hacked and homepage was modified with malicious contents. After few months, second hacking happened, and eventually the site becomes more vulnerable with more frequent hacking.
- 8 The team who built the website literally could not fix it, stating it's more than 3 years old and difficult to identify and make changes anymore.
- 9 In Feb 2017, the development team who built the present website announced that they have decided to close down the company and requested that IVJ or any other teams to take over the maintenance of the present website.

Why and what is the new IVJ online platform?

From 2016 onwards, we have been working steadily to build a comprehensive online platform for IVJ. It took almost 3-4 months to analyse in detail the requirements of IVJ keeping into consideration various processes / workflow involved in the day to day operations of IVJ. We are developing the platform in 3 phases of which the phase I will effectively replace the present website and will be available online very soon.

Key objectives / highlights of IVJ online platform

- 1 Elaborate arrangements are made to host the platform in a powerful high quality server linked with Internet on high consistent bandwidth (VPS - Virtual Private Server hosting is used, instead of the present Shared Hosting Mechanism).
- 2 The new platform will have the ability to present close 50GB of journal content, both archives (From 1919 to 2008, which are digitalized now) and latest issues (2009 to date, already available in digital format) with a provision to scale upto 100 GB content storage.
- 3 A stringent security policy is being adopted to ensure data security. Security is handled at both hosting server end (firewall and VPN setup) and application end (hardened access security and HTTPS - SSL certificate security).
- 4 IVJ has also taken stern steps to improve our IT infrastructure for the editorial team like power backup, Internet uptime and bandwidth, which in turn will help members get uninterrupted support.
- 5 On a phased manner, the entire IVJ process / workflow involving members, editorial team and referees will be integrated seamlessly.
- 6 Members will experience a highly responsive, optimized and user friendly UI (User Interface) that would work across various media - Desktop, Laptop, tablet and Smartphones.
- 7 Members will have more upto date status of every step by way of intuitive process notification through multiple methods. Members would feel more informed and well connected to the platform.
- 8 Members will witness (once the platform gets fully operational) a significant efficiency and precision in the backend processing of IVJ editorial team - from article reviewing process to subscription management.
- 9 We have deployed state-of-the art live backup / disaster recovery technology to ensure data safety and preparedness for any failure situations / eventualities.

While the entire editorial team is very excited to get the new IVJ platform (Phase I) ready and operational for our members, I take this opportunity to request the members of IVJ to extend their full support and cooperation for this milestone transition. All existing members will receive a notification by email to activate their login in the new platform along with a link containing video / audio and text instructions.

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