



Revising the Volume Titles of the *Journal* to Match Actual Publication Year

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ABSTRACT

The *Advanced Journal of Graduate Research (AJGR)*, a peer-reviewed journal for mentored research conducted by undergraduate and postgraduate students, historically followed a biannual publication model with issues designated as January and July volumes. However, this system often caused confusion regarding the actual year of publication, especially when articles published in the latter half of a year were assigned to the January volume of the following year. To address this inconsistency, AJGR decided to adopt a revised volume titling system beginning with the next issue. The new naming convention, June and December volumes, aligns volume titles with the calendar year of publication, thereby enhancing transparency, improving citation accuracy, and ensuring alignment with indexing standards.

Keywords: Volume Title, Publication Year

1 Introduction

Academic journals, particularly those with fixed biannual issues, often face challenges in aligning volume designations with actual publication year. This alignment is crucial not only for internal record-keeping but also for external visibility in indexing platforms, citations, and author disclosures. The Advanced Journal of Graduate Research (AJGR), since its inception in 2016, has aimed to promote high-quality mentored research conducted by students at the bachelor's and master's levels [1]. In line with this mission, it is imperative that our publication practices remain transparent and coherent. All submitted manuscripts undergo a standard, rigorous peer-review process, similar to any other scholarly journal, where subject experts evaluate the writing & scientific quality, originality, and validity of the research [2]. Although the journal restricts authorship to bachelor's and master's students along with their supervisors, the evaluation criteria remain academically robust to maintain the integrity of the published work. Additionally, AJGR strictly prohibits simultaneous submissions, a practice that continues to pose serious ethical concerns in academic publishing [3]. Submitting the same manuscript to multiple journals not only violates ethical standards but also disrupts the peer-review system and can result in rejection or retraction.

2 Existing Volume Titles Practice

This Journal is committed to supporting high-quality, mentored research by undergraduate and postgraduate students. Since its beginning in 2016, AJGR has followed a biannual publication schedule with issues titled as January and July volumes. While this schedule helped maintain consistency in publishing, over time, we began to notice a recurring issue that was causing confusion among our readers, authors, and indexers. Under the existing system, any article published between August and December would be included in the following year's January volume. For example, an article published in September 2023 would appear in the January 2024 issue. This meant that although the article was publicly available in 2023, it was formally recorded as a 2024 publication. On the surface, this might seem like a minor technicality, but in



academic publishing, such inconsistencies can have a significant impact. Readers could be misled about when the article was actually published. Authors may have trouble citing their own work correctly, and indexing services like Crossref and Google Scholar might reflect incorrect publication years, leading to confusion or delays in indexing.

3 Adoption of Calendar-Aligned Volume Titles

After reviewing this issue carefully, we concluded that our volume titling method needed to be more in sync with the actual year of publication. Therefore, beginning with our next issue, AJGR will rename its biannual volumes to reflect the half-year in which articles are actually published. Instead of using "January" and "July" as volume labels, we will now use "June" and "December." Articles published from January through June will be included in the June volume of the same year, while those published from July through December will be part of the December volume of the same year. To implement this change immediately, the upcoming issue; originally scheduled to be titled as July 2024, will instead be labelled as the December 2024 volume. This adjustment will realign the volume title with the actual half-year in which the articles are published and ensure a smooth transition into the new titling system. As a result, there will be no July 2024 volume, and AJGR will move forward with June and December volumes starting from 2025. Back volumes will retain their original naming convention to preserve archival consistency. This simple change offers several important benefits. Most importantly, it ensures that the year indicated in the volume title matches the actual year of publication. This alignment will make it easier for authors to cite their work accurately and help indexers assign the correct metadata. Readers and institutional libraries will also benefit, as it will now be clearer when each article was made publicly available. Overall, this improves transparency and reduces the chances of errors in scholarly records.

At AJGR, we are always working to improve the quality and clarity of our publishing practices. While the focus of our journal remains the same; publishing quality, mentored research by bachelor's and master's students, this update will help ensure that the publication year is clearly and accurately reflected. We are confident that this adjustment will make a meaningful difference for our authors and readers, and we thank you for your continued support.

4 Conclusion

AJGR's decision to revise its volume titling strategy reflects a proactive commitment to clarity, transparency, and best practices in academic publishing. This transition will help eliminate confusion regarding publication dates and better serve the journal's community of student researchers, mentors, and readers. The change will take effect immediately. All articles published up to December 2024 will be grouped under the December 2024 volume, and those published from January to June 2025 will appear in the June 2025 volume. Previous issues will retain their original January and July labels to avoid confusion in archived records.

5 Competing Interests

The author is Managing Editor of AIJR Publisher.

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