

U.S. government journal improves its UX and 508 compliance

CASE STUDY

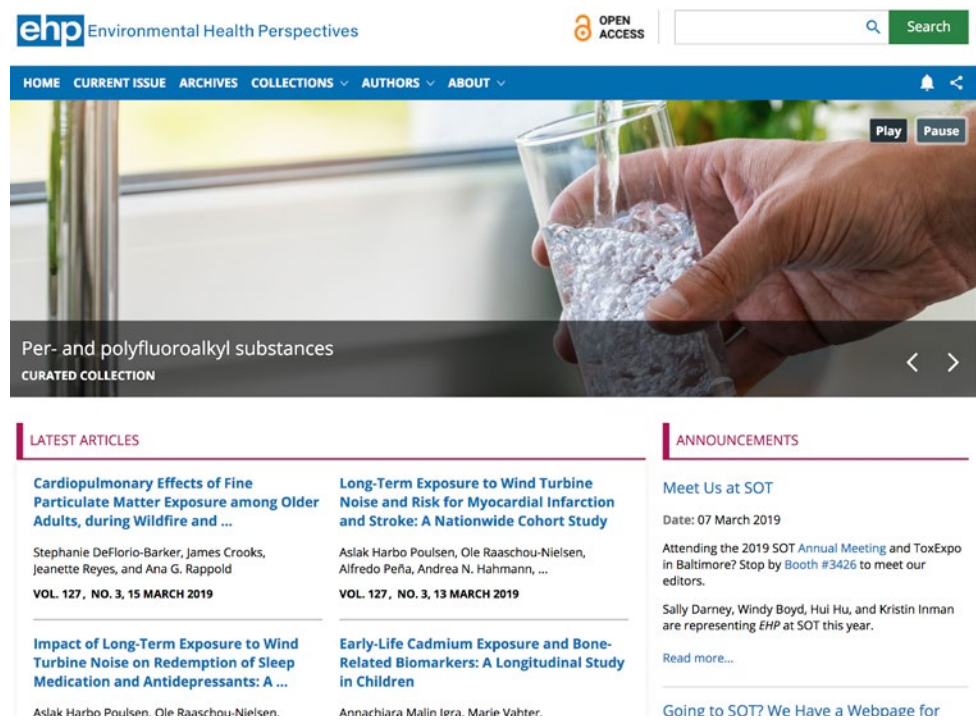
Migrating journals, archives, podcasts, and Chinese translations to Literatum

Challenge

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), one of the institutes comprising the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), wanted to improve their readers' online experience with their research content and make managing its delivery more efficient.

Their open-access, online-only flagship journal, Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP), was hosted on WordPress. But its 45-year-old archive of nearly 500 issues was housed separately. Keeping both platforms compliant with security and government regulations was complex and time-consuming. Compliance with the United States' "508" regulations that govern assistive technologies for users with disabilities was especially challenging.

Because WordPress is not designed to support scholarly content, journal article metadata that improves discoverability had to be applied manually. Deposits to Crossref and PubMed were manual as well. And WordPress's incompatibility with the JATS XML content format reduced the journal's effectiveness with Crossref. This limited citations, which in turn risked negatively affecting the journal's impact factor.



←
The EHP
home page



Solution

Atypon designed a new publication website for NIEHS on Literatum, Atypon's online publishing and website development platform. NIEHS now has a single site for all its content: the journal and archives as well as conference abstracts, a library of high-resolution podcasts, and full-text HTML versions of Chinese-language translations of journal articles. Literatum has made their content much easier to manage, discover, access, and use.

The new fully mobile-responsive, continuous-publication website was designed and launched in just eight months thanks to UX 3.0, Atypon's streamlined design-and-build system for modern, consumerized websites.

Outcomes

For NIEHS: Reduced site management and better compliance

- The site's 508 accessibility compliance increased to 70 percent at launch. Work is in progress to achieve full compliance.
- Page Builder, Literatum's easy-to-use UI/UX design and site management tool, gives NIEHS complete control of their new website's look, feel, and content.
- Crossref and PubMed deposits were easily automated as a result of Literatum's native support for JATS XML.

For researchers: A modern publication website with an improved user experience

- An intuitive interface adapts automatically to all screen sizes.
- Search results across all content types appear in a unified interface.
- Real-time content suggestions are tailored to each user's reading behavior.
- "Most read," "most cited," and "related to" article recommendations are automatically displayed.
- Figures are embedded in an article's full-text HTML and displayed in a side panel.
- Lists of citations, references, and media mentions, as well as links to related third-party content, are included on article pages.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the EHP website. On the left is the 'ehp Environmental Health Perspectives' logo. In the center is the 'OPEN ACCESS' logo. On the right is a search box and a link labeled '← Chinese language article'. Below the navigation bar is a blue menu bar with links for 'HOME', 'CURRENT ISSUE', 'ARCHIVES', 'COLLECTIONS', 'AUTHORS', and 'ABOUT'. The main content area features a red header for '中文版专辑' (Chinese Language Special). Below this is a welcome message in Chinese: '欢迎浏览EHP中文版专辑! 我们很高兴地告知读者中文翻译已整合到EHP网站中。' (Welcome to browse the EHP Chinese language special! We are happy to inform readers that Chinese translations have been integrated into the EHP website.) This is followed by a notice about system updates: '由于系统更新, 目前2012-2018年的中文版只提供PDF格式。从2019年开始, EHP中文版将会沿用英文版连续出版的模式, 及时翻译新出版的新闻文章, 并在每个季度汇集成一刊。网络版将提供HTML和PDF两种格式。' (Due to system updates, currently only PDF format is provided for the Chinese version from 2012-2018. From 2019 onwards, the EHP Chinese version will follow the continuous publication mode of the English version, translating newly published news articles in a timely manner and compiling them into a journal each quarter. The network version will provide both HTML and PDF formats.) A final notice says: '我们同时欢迎您浏览我们新设计的英文版主页, 凡已被翻译成中文的文章在英文版页面均有链接以方便中文读者阅读。此外, 我们诚挚邀请您体验EHP网站的新功能, 包括崭新的页面设计、论文被引用信息、与社交媒体对接、快速下载参考资料目录等。' (We also welcome you to browse our newly designed English version homepage. All articles translated into Chinese have links on the English version page to facilitate reading by Chinese readers. Additionally, we sincerely invite you to experience the new features of the EHP website, including a brand new page design, citation information, social media integration, and fast download of reference lists.) Below the text is a section for '2018' with four journal covers: '126-1C 2018年第1期' (cover: person in field), '126-2C 2018年第2期' (cover: Eiffel Tower), '126-3C 2018年第3期' (cover: couple embracing), and '126-4C 2018年第4期' (cover: yellow bicycles).

Future development

NIEHS is considering the addition of a streaming video library as well as a preprint server that will let authors publish papers early to solicit feedback.