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EDITORIAL: *BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL ISSUES* ADVANCES

As most of our readers know, *Behavior and Social Issues* is published both in a print version and in an open-access, online version. With the dramatic expansion of electronic publishing and the emergence of the critically important open access movement for expanding public knowledge worldwide, the electronic version now provides by far our largest readership, with over 160,000 file downloads in the past year, compared to probably a few hundred readers of the print version. Readers from all over the world now access the journal on a regular basis without cost, which is important both for scientific advance and for dissemination of important knowledge for potential application. Open access electronic publishing is an important response to the dramatically increasing costs of commercial journals, which can limit access to scientific information to those with the greatest financial resources and is already seriously stressing the acquisition budgets of university libraries. In many scientific fields, open access alternatives to expensive commercial journals have been initiated by some of the most important scholars in those fields, and this movement is accelerating. Open access has important justice implications: Important scientific knowledge should be part of the commons. *BSI* has therefore made a strong commitment to offering open access worldwide at no cost. Electronic publishing, particularly in an open access format, is clearly the future for dissemination of scientific (and probably professional) knowledge. In addition to potentially expanding access, electronic journals can also accelerate publication by reducing backlogs and production delays.

Beginning with Volume 18 (2009), we will begin to publish articles online immediately upon final acceptance, thus making journal content more immediately available to scholars, policy-makers, and practitioners. At the end of each year, all articles published during that year will be arranged and assembled into a single bound issue for subscribers. This arrangement will allow us to publish a larger number of articles at a lower cost, while providing a venue for authors to see their work in print up to a year earlier than is currently the case. We believe that this arrangement will benefit readers and authors, and will help ensure the future of the journal. At some point print journals may become anachronisms, but for the moment, we believe maintaining both print and electronic versions of *BSI* in efficient ways provides value to both authors and readers.

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