



# Journal Declarations of Independence

Journal Declarations of Independence occur with the resignation of editors from one journal to launch a comparable journal with a friendlier publisher. The process usually has two stages. First, an editor or group of editors resigns from a journal in order to protest its high subscription price or audience-limiting access rules. This action is usually accompanied by a public statement explaining “the causes which impel them to the separation” (to quote Thomas Jefferson).

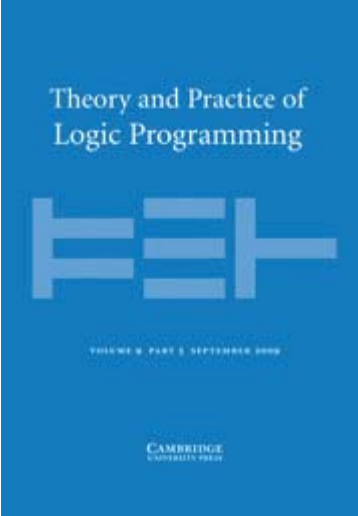

Second, some of the resigning editors create a new free or affordable alternative journal to compete with the first and to embody their vision of wide access.

The success rate of the new titles varies along several measures – ongoing library subscriptions to old and new titles; metrics such as Impact Factors, Eigenfactor™ scores, and Article Influence™ scores; and subjective regard within the discipline.



**1989**  
In June 1989, Editor Eddy van der Maarel and most of his editorial board resigned from **Vegetatio** (W. Junk, then Nijhoff, then Kluwer) to launch the **Journal of Vegetation Science** (Opulus Press and the International Association for Vegetation Science). JVS became a SPARC partner in March 2002. JVS has a 2008 Impact Factor of 2.037 compared to 2.352 average for plant science journals; *Vegetatio* is not calculated.




**1999**  
In November 1999, the entire 50-person editorial board of the **Journal of Logic Programming** (Elsevier) resigned and formed a new journal, **Theory and Practice of Logic Programming** (Cambridge). Its birth and early survival were assisted by SPARC. TPLP has 2008 Impact Factor of 1.049 compared to an average of 1.255; JLP is not calculated.



**2003**  
Elsevier has published the **European Economic Review** since 1969. In 1986 the European Economic Association (EEA) adopted it as its official journal. But the EEA grew increasingly unhappy with Elsevier's subscription price and its requirement that the publisher, not the association, hire the journal's editors. In 2001 the EEA started the process of declaring independence from Elsevier. In March 2003 its new official journal, the **Journal of the European Economic Association**, was launched by MIT Press at about one-third of the Elsevier subscription price. Neither title has its Impact Factor calculated.





**2003**  
On September 22, 2003, **Compositio Mathematica** announced that it was leaving Kluwer to be published by the London Mathematical Society and distributed by Cambridge University Press (starting in January 2004). The journal's editor of 20+ years, Gerard van der Geer, explained in a public note that the move was triggered by a long series of unwanted Kluwer price increases. The LMS edition of the journal is not free, but priced one-third below the former price. CM has 2008 Impact Factor of .993 compared to an average of .695 for mathematics journals.

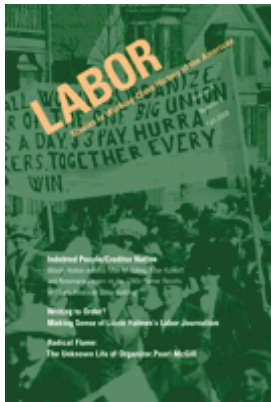



**1996**  
In December 1996, Shu-Kun Lin resigned as editor of **Molecules**, then published by Springer-Verlag, and relaunched the journal with Molecular Diversity Preservation International (MDPI). Springer sued to prevent Shu-Kun Lin from using the same title for the MDPI journal but eventually dropped its suit.


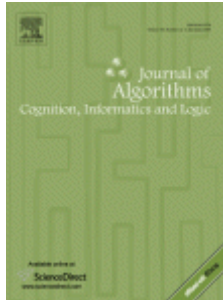
**2000**  
In January 2000 (to take effect in July 2000), Henry Hagedorn resigned as editor of the **Archives of Insect Biochemistry & Physiology** (Wiley-Liss) to form the **Journal of Insect Science** (originally, University of Arizona library, now University of Wisconsin Library). JIS is a free online journal with no print edition. It is now supported entirely by the University of Wisconsin Memorial Library and charges no author-side fees. Its birth and early survival were assisted by SPARC. AIBP has 2008 Impact Factor of 1.274 and JIS has 2008 Impact Factor of 0.963, compared to an average of 1.158 for entomology journals.





**2003**  
On July 3, 2003, the entire 40+ person editorial board of **Labor History** (Taylor & Francis) resigned in protest over the journal's high subscription price and lack of editorial independence. The same editors then launched **Labor** with non-profit Duke University Press. *Labor* is a partner of SPARC, which assisted in the transition and launch. Neither title has its Impact Factor calculated.




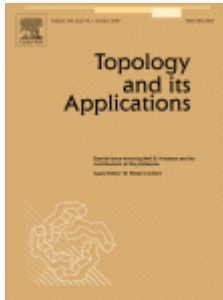
**2003**  
On December 31, 2003, the entire editorial board of the **Journal of Algorithms** resigned to protest the high price charged by the publisher (Elsevier). On January 21, 2004, the same board then launched a new journal, **ACM Transactions on Algorithms**, published by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). JA has 2008 Impact Factor of .943 compared to an average of 1.318 for computer science theory and methods journals. The ACM title is not calculated.




**1998**  
In November 1998, Michael Rosenzweig and the rest of his editorial board resigned from **Evolutionary Ecology** (Chapman & Hall, then International Thomson, now Kluwer), which Rosenzweig had launched in 1986, to create **Evolutionary Ecology Research**. Its birth and early survival were assisted by SPARC. EE has 2008 Impact Factor of 3.448; EER has 2008 Impact Factor of 1.170.



**2001**  
Early in 2001, a handful of editors of **Topology and its Applications** (Elsevier) resigned to create **Algebraic and Geometric Topology** (University of Warwick and International Press), a free online journal with an annual printed volume. Its birth and early survival were assisted by SPARC. TAIA has 2008 Impact Factor of .362 and AGT has 2008 Impact Factor of .550.





**2003**  
On August 13, 2003, the Society for the Internet in Medicine named the open-access **Journal of Medical Internet Research** as its new official journal, replacing the subscription-based **Medical Informatics & Internet in Medicine**. (This is a decision by a scholarly society, not journal editors, but it is included for the resemblance to a true declaration of independence.) JIMIR has 2008 Impact Factor of 3.590 compared to an average of 1.779 for medical informatics journals.


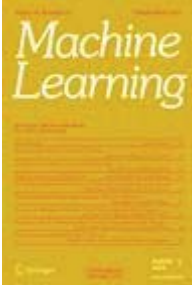


**2004**  
On January 27, 2004, Editor in Chief Dominique Boullier and the entire editorial board of **Les cahiers du numérique** resigned from the journal and released an open letter explaining why. They point to CduN's high price and limited online access policy which "contradict our objectives as researchers."

**1998**  
In 1998 most of the editorial board of the **Journal of Academic Librarianship** resigned to protest the large hike in the subscription price imposed by Pergamon-Elsevier after it bought the journal from JAI Press. Several of the editors who resigned then created **Portal: Libraries and the Academy** at Johns Hopkins University Press.



**2001**  
Over a nine month period in 2001, forty editors of **Machine Learning** (Kluwer) resigned from the editorial board and published their reasons in a public letter dated October 8, 2001. One of those resigning, Leslie Pack Kaelbling, created the **Journal of Machine Learning Research** as a free online alternative with a quarterly print edition published by MIT Press. About two-thirds of the *Machine Learning* editors joined her at the new journal. *Machine Learning* has 2008 Impact Factor of 4.254 and JMLR has 2008 Impact Factor of 5.881.



**2006**  
On August 10, 2006, the editorial board of **Topology** resigned (effective December 31, 2006) over concerns about the high price charged by the journal's publisher (Elsevier). A similar editorial board reformed the **Journal of Topology** beginning in 2008, published by the London Mathematical Society. Topology has 2008 Impact Factor of .852 compared to an average of .695 for mathematics journals. JT is not calculated.

