

## Editor's Commentary

Spring 2026

### The AURCO Journal Goes Digital!

After 31 years of print history, the AURCO Journal is moving to an exclusively digital future. Starting with the 2026 issue, we will provide our publication solely in electronic format. Both individual articles and the full journal will be available. Each year on the day of the annual AURCO Conference the journal will be available for download at the AURCO website (<https://aurco.org/journal> – this link is now “clickable!”). Copies will also be sent to EBSCO soon after the conference.

We investigated an option to print a small number of paper copies but it is cost prohibitive. Many other journals do one or the other so why consider doing both? It's a good question. I keep saying, “because I like holding paper journals,” but apparently that is not a compelling argument. I'm going to work on my reasoning skills but for now it's digital all the way.

A reason for doing this is to save money. The price of printing goes up each year. It has been the biggest expense of the organization by far. It was expensive, in case you are wondering. Without that expense we will have extra revenue to put into things like the conference, student scholarships, or a Tour de France level road bike for the editor. The significant savings may also help AURCO try some new things.

Another reason to be exclusively digital is that it cuts out a series of laborious steps with the printer. It makes the production of the journal smoother and more efficient. We become nimble academic gymnasts!

Nope. Not this year. I discovered that the printer provided a six-week schedule of deadlines which kept me on track. That structure has been in place my entire tenure as editor and was suddenly missing. How did March get here so fast? Oh no, it's April! I was behind on everything. So far nothing horrible has occurred but don't panic, there is still time for disaster.

Next year we're going to make some changes to help get the most out of our fully digital process. You may or may not notice them but they'll be lurking in the form of a back-end schedule and possibly new deadlines for authors. It will all be in the service of getting things done earlier and

easier. Nothing has been decided yet but we need a replacement for the printer's schedule to keep us honest.

Enjoy the AURCO Conference and the journal. Our reviewers and authors work hard to make it all happen. They help us showcase the great scholarship happening around Ohio.

Finally, if you're an AURCO representative, enjoy the lack of back pain because you won't be lugging boxes of journals back to your campus.

Sincerely,

~Steve Toepfer, *Editor*