SAE JOURNALS, EVENTS, AND TECHNICAL PAPERS

Overview of Options for Publishing and Presenting Work through SAE
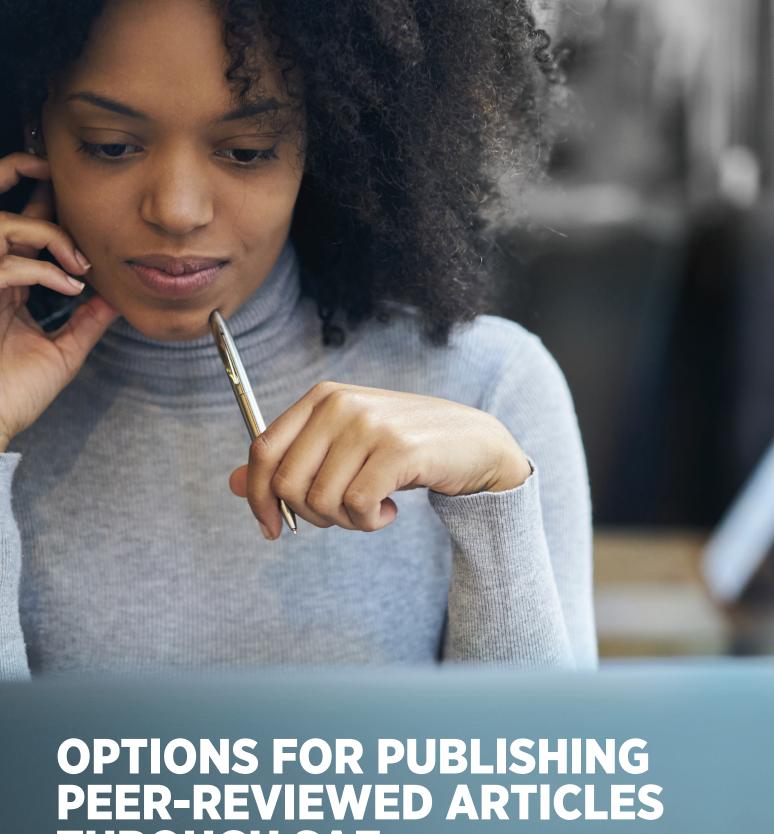
Executive Summary

To better address the needs communicated by its members, SAE has changed the structure and submission processes for its event papers and journals. We recognize that this is a lengthy communication, but we know that many of our volunteers and authors are interested in receiving complete and thorough explanations for a better understanding of why we are implementing changes. In short, the existing SAE journals have become direct-to-journal only, and no longer draw submissions from SAE event papers. This change is necessary for SAE journals to be ISI-ranked and obtain an "Impact Factor," which is a critical need for many SAE authors. Clarivate Analytics/ISI told us in 2017 that our journals would not receive impact factors if we continued to publish our event papers in the journals, alongside direct-to-journal submissions. Publishing event papers was seen as repurposing content that was not original to journals. The mix of event papers and direct-to-journal submissions was what was keeping us from receiving impact factors in the past. Even with these changes, SAE journals are still connected to SAE events, which will be explained in this communication. Authors of SAE journal articles are welcomed and strongly encouraged to participate in SAE events by giving oral presentations of their articles at appropriate technical sessions.

While both event papers and journal articles will be published by SAE, the most important difference between the direct-to-journal submissions and SAE event papers is that the peer-review process is more rigorous and the manuscript structure and content requirements are more strict for the direct-to-journal submissions. Currently, technical sessions at SAE events continue to accept SAE event papers and

presentations; going forward, they will also accept oral-only presentations of SAE journal articles.

Additionally, to continue to recognize the best event papers, in 2019 SAE introduced a new journal, *SAE International Journal of Advances and Current Practices in Mobility,* which accepts the top 10% (in 2019) and up to 20% (starting in 2020) of event papers as determined through the review process and organizer evaluations. (Please note that some SAE events do not have written papers, so these events are excluded from the new proceedings journal.) This new journal is comprised exclusively of event papers and will be submitted to ISI for consideration for indexing, which is allowable because of not "mixing" the content with direct-to-journal submissions. The papers published in the new journal will retain the same paper number and DOI as given with the event, and the papers will remain available through the technical paper collection and event collection, but will be replaced with the journal version that is paginated.

Finally, to further address the needs of its members, SAE now offers the ability for authors of journal articles, event papers, and written-only technical papers to publish their work with Open Access. Open Access is where the author pays to have the article made available for free, and the author (or company/institution) retains copyright to the article. In addition, Open Access allows other people to reuse and reprint the article (in any way) as long as the original source is credited. This option was only available for journals in the past, but it has been extended to authors of conference papers and written-only papers. Conference papers can be made Open Access after the event.

OPTIONS FOR PUBLISHING PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES THROUGH SAE

Authors wishing to publish through SAE have the following options:

I. Event Technical Paper	II. SAE Journal Article	III. Written-Only Technical Paper
Best option for publishing through SAE in the SAE Technical Paper Series and presenting at a SAE event	Best option for publishing through SAE in a Scopus-ranked or ISI-ranked journal with the option of presenting at a SAE event	Best option for publishing through SAE but without presenting at an SAE event (shorter time for publication in most cases)
Manuscript Requirements?		
More flexible, according to SAE Technical Paper guidelines: volunteers.sae.org/authors/ sae_tech_paper.pdf	More rigorous, including more comprehensive literature review, higher detail of setup to reproduce work, more archival findings, etc.: sae.org/binaries/content/ assets/cm/content/publications/journals/ resources/ifasfinal.pdf	More flexible, according to SAE Technical Paper guidelines: volunteers.sae.org/authors/ sae_tech_paper.pdf
Oral Presentation at an SAE Event?		
Required	Highly encouraged and given priority consideration	None
Eligible for *SAE International Journal of Advances and Current Practices in Mobility?*		
Yes, top 10% (2019) or up to 20% (starting 2020)	No	No
Peer Reviewed?		
Yes, 2 reviews minimum	Yes, 3 reviews minimum	Yes, 3 reviews minimum
Timing of Online Publication?		
Usually 1 week prior to the event	Through e-First publication, a DOI is assigned, and the online, paginated version is available within 2-4 weeks after the manuscript is accepted and IP cleared (article can be cited via DOI at this point).	Usually within 3-4 weeks after manuscript is accepted and IP cleared
How to Submit?		
Directly to SAE Event: sae.org/ participate/volunteer/author/ event-paper-process	Directly to SAE Journal: sae.org/ publications/journals/callforpapers	Directly to SAE Technical Papers: editorialmanager.com/saetechpapers

There has been concern expressed about requiring only two reviews for event papers. This is something that was decided by the Events team because they recognize that the reviewer pool is strained and reviews were not being done in a timely manner. SAE looked at what our competitors are doing and found that IEEE and ASME require only two reviews, so we decided to adopt the same policy in order to help alleviate the pressure to obtain three reviews in every case. Many organizers are still obtaining three or more reviews, but the minimum requirement is two. The written-only papers and journals are not restricted by time frames, so we retained the required three reviews for these.

Frequently Asked Questions

BACKGROUND

Q: Why has the journal process changed?

A: When SAE journals were launched in 2008, they started by publishing the best SAE event papers while promoting and growing direct-to-journal submissions over the next years. The direct-to-journal submissions grew slowly, with fewer than 7% of the articles published between 2008 and 2016 being direct-to-journal submissions. Despite efforts to transition to direct-to-journals publication, for the most part, the journals remained a place to republish papers that had already been published as SAE Technical Papers. Hence, the SAE journals included both direct submissions and repurposed event papers, but mostly the latter. Primarily repurposing content in this way, rather than primarily accepting original, never-before-published content, prevented ISI inclusion, which is important to a significant proportion of SAE membership. Hence, to accelerate the process of transitioning to original never-before-published content, in 2019 SAE Journals began accepting only direct-to-journals submissions.

Q: What is an Impact Factor (ISI) score, and why does it matter?

A: The Impact Factor reflects the yearly average number of citations of recent articles published in a journal. It is generally accepted as an indication of the relative importance of a journal within its field. Not all journals receive an Impact Factor score, and for some members of SAE, for instance, those from academia, it is important, even crucial, that they publish in a journal that has an Impact Factor. Impact Factor journals are more prestigious, in part because they are more frequently cited than other journals.

A: There is a rigorous process whereby journals are evaluated and selected to appear in the Web of Science, the database for ISI journals. In late 2017, Clarivate Analytics/ISI launched a new database called the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), which is a pre-Impact Factor database and in which the majority of SAE journals are now indexed (but without an Impact Factor), and the remaining journals are under evaluation for inclusion in ESCI. Libraries around the world use Impact Factors to prioritize their subscriptions to journals, and by strengthening our journals program, we hope to obtain Impact Factors. One of the primary aims of these recent changes to SAE's journal publication process is to allow the SAE journals to graduate from ESCI listing to full Impact Factor (SCI or SCIE) scoring.

JOURNAL PUBLICATION AND EVENT PRESENTATION

Q: If I publish in an SAE journal, can I present my work in the technical sessions of an SAE event?

A: Yes. Starting now, an appropriate SAE event at which to orally present SAE journal articles can be identified at the beginning of the journal submission and review process. Authors submitting to an SAE journal will be asked in the submission process if they would like to be considered for an oral presentation at an SAE event and to include which event. In the meantime, authors are strongly encouraged to submit their already-published SAE journal articles as "oral-only" presentations for the technical session of a relevant SAE event. If you publish in a journal, you will be given priority consideration to

present orally in the technical sessions at an appropriate event, but it is not guaranteed acceptance. Acceptance depends on availability of presentation slots, and event session organizers and committees and on prioritizing presentation slots.

Key Differences: Journal Articles and Technical Papers

Q: What are the important differences between journal articles and event papers?

A: A more comprehensive literature review, higher detail of experimental setup or modeling elements so that the work could be reproduced, and more impactful and archival findings are required for journal articles.

A: Journals publish author-accepted manuscripts (i.e., a preprint) prior to layout and pagination of the article and offer these for free on MOBILUS® for a short time. Event papers publish the final typeset versions only.

A: Journals have e-First articles, which are articles that are in page form, but not yet published in an issue. Articles can be cited by the DOI, which is assigned at this stage. Event papers publish the final typeset versions only.

Open Access

Q: What should I do if I want to have my paper published Open Access?

A: SAE now offers an option for Open Access for any event paper, written-only paper, or journal article. Please contact content@sae.org for written-only papers or managingeditor@sae.org for journal articles or event papers.

JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS

Q: If having my work published in an SAE journal is important to me, where should I submit my work?

A: Submit directly to the relevant SAE journal: sae.org/publications/journals/callforpapers.

Q: Specifically which journals are now direct-to-journal only?

A: SAE International Journal of

  – Aerospace
  – Alternative Powertrains
  – Commercial Vehicles
  – Connected and Automated Vehicles
  – Engines
  – Fuels and Lubricants
  – Materials and Manufacturing
  – Passenger Cars: Electronic and Electrical Systems (discontinued and merged into Connected and Automated Vehicles from 2020)
  – Passenger Cars: Mechanical Systems

  – Sustainable Transportation, Energy, Environment, & Policy (new in 2020)
  – Transportation Cybersecurity and Privacy
  – Transportation Safety
  – Vehicle Dynamics, Stability, and NVH

Q: How long is the process for journal submissions?

A: We acknowledge that there have been delays in the past, and we are now working diligently to have a first decision within 45-60 days from submission. Once an author submits a revised manuscript, we attempt to have the next decision within 2 weeks if it does not have to be returned for further revision.

Q: Can I submit a modified or revised version of an already-published SAE Technical Paper for consideration in an SAE Journal?

A: Yes, but with restriction. If roughly half of the content (or more) in the revised manuscript is new, it may be considered for a journal. If such a manuscript were accepted into an SAE journal, it would be a separate publication from the event paper and would receive a new paper number, citation, and DOI. Please bear in mind that the original publication must be cited in the Reference list of the new submission.

Q: If I do an oral-only presentation at an event, may I then submit a written paper covering the content of the presentation to a journal?

A: Yes, oral-only presentations may be developed into a written submission at any time and submitted to a journal for consideration for publication. The oral presentation must be referred to in the article by making mention in an acknowledgements section, which should include the name and dates of the event.

EVENT PAPERS

Q: If publishing in SAE Journals is not important to me, but I want to publish with SAE and present in a technical session at an SAE event, where should I submit?

A: Submit directly to the relevant SAE event at sae.org/participate/volunteer/author/event-paper-process.

Q: If an author has an accepted paper, but is a no-show at an event, what happens?

A: The paper will be pulled from publication if the author does not show up for the presentation. If an author gives ample notice of not being able to attend or notifies us of an unavoidable problem or emergency, the paper can still be published at the discretion of SAE event staff.

NEW PROCEEDINGS JOURNAL

Q: What is the purpose of the new proceedings journal *SAE International Journal of Advances and Current Practices in Mobility*?

A: This journal recognizes the SAE event papers that are deemed by reviewers and organizers to have the highest quality, impact, and archival value. This is a multidisciplinary journal and will cover all events that have written papers.

Q: How are event papers being selected for the new proceedings journal (*SAE International Journal of Advances and Current Practices in Mobility*)?

A: Reviewer ratings (especially archival value) and organizer recommendations are the basis for inclusion in the proceedings journal. We continue to rely on organizer recommendations for journal publication and so encourage organizers to continue to mark Yes or No for consideration for journal selection.

Q: Will the new proceedings journal be submitted to ISI?

A: Yes, *SAE International Journal of Advances and Current Practices in Mobility* will be submitted to ISI for consideration for inclusion and obtaining an impact factor.

A: The journal is eligible for consideration because it publishes event papers exclusively. SAE original journals were not considered for impact factors because they published a mix of primarily event papers and a few direct-to-journal submissions.

Q: Are there any plans to increase the selection rate for the new proceedings journal (*SAE International Journal of Advances and Current Practices in Mobility*) over time?

A: Yes. The 2019 selection rate of 10% will roughly double to 20% in 2020. The proportion of SAE event papers accepted to the proceedings journal will be re-evaluated yearly based on number of organizer recommended papers that were not selected for publication.

Q: Other publishers and organizations put all of their event papers into a proceedings publication. Why doesn't SAE do this?

A: SAE does this as well, but in a slightly different manner. For SAE, the SAE Technical Paper series is essentially a proceedings publication, since all articles are collected and available after the events. The SAE Technical Paper series is indexed in Scopus, but it is ineligible for consideration in Clarivate Analytics/ISI. Because many event papers were also being published in journals, which resulted in dual publication, this was determined to be a practice that kept SAE journals from obtaining impact factors. The new journal *SAE International Journal of Advances and Current Practices in Mobility* goes beyond the function of proceedings, as it includes only the best SAE Technical Papers. This journal will also be submitted to ISI for consideration for an impact factor because it is comprised exclusively of event papers. This differs from our original problem when journals published both direct-to-journal submissions and previously published event papers.

WRITTEN-ONLY TECHNICAL PAPERS

Q: What option do I have if I want to publish a paper with SAE but do not want to attend an event or publish in a journal?

A: Some authors are not interested in meeting the journal requirements for comprehensive literature review, strong archival value, etc., such that the written-only option provides a venue for them to publish. SAE continues to offer an option of written-only papers at any time, and you can submit your paper here: editorialmanager.com/saetechpapers. The peer-review process and expectations are similar to the SAE event papers, but with three required reviews. The written-only papers no longer take up session organizer time because we have separate handling editors that deal with the written-only papers through Editorial Manager®. (Note that SAE no longer allows written-only papers as part of its events.)

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

Q: What else is SAE doing to improve its journals and events?

A: SAE is working to improve the quality of peer reviews by eliminating inconsistency in purely numerical scores among reviewers and instead allowing reviewers to select from various evaluation narratives to assess manuscripts. SAE will work toward implementing this in 2020.

A: SAE now formats all event (and journal) papers for authors. Authors no longer need to submit final manuscripts in ready-to-publish format. This change provides the following features:

– Standardization across various formats (event papers, journal papers, etc.)

– Flexibility / opportunity for authors to contribute formatting of individual figures, such as the ability to do full-page width figures

A: To address unanticipated issues that arose when SAE began using the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) to handle permission requests, SAE is working with its legal and intellectual property teams to make it easier and clearer for authors to reuse their own material at no cost. SAE will no longer restrict the timeframe for authors' re-use of content to 5 years, and there will be clear guidelines in author copyright release forms for events, journals, and written-only technical papers, which allow authors to re-use their figures, tables, and other content and NOT to be charged a fee to re-use. Authors are required to cite the original source when re-using their material. The citation should include the paper number and event name for event papers, the full journal citation for journal articles, and the paper number for written-only technical papers.

If you have any further questions or feedback, please contact Kim Martin, Editorial Director, Journals and Technical Papers, SAE International (kim.martin@sae.org).