Publisher's Note

Introducing article numbering to SLAS Discovery

Within the publishing industry, article numbering has emerged as an easy and efficient way to cite journal articles. Elsevier has successfully rolled out article numbering to its multidisciplinary open access journal, Heliyon, along with more than 1600 other journals, and the academic community has responded positively to this initiative. Building upon the positive feedback, we are thrilled to announce the introduction of article numbering to SLAS Discovery, effective February 2024.

What is article numbering?

A unique article number is an abbreviated form of an article's DOI - digital object identifier. Citing an article with an article number is very simple: the article number is used instead of the page range in the citation.


Journal volumes and issue numbers will remain in place. However, SLAS Discovery will now use article numbering to identify specific articles. Introducing article numbers brings several benefits for the journal and its readers and authors.

Benefits of article numbering

• More flexible reading: Article content can be optimized based on the device used to access it, supporting reading on-the-move, without needing to know how many traditional print pages the article takes up.
• Increased options for grouping related content: In online collections and Special Issues, articles can now be placed in any order, helping readers identify papers relevant to their research interests faster.
• Faster publication: With article numbers, the version of record of the article is online and citable as soon as the proof corrections are incorporated, ensuring readers have access to the latest research faster.

We are delighted that SLAS Discovery's readers and authors will now enjoy these benefits.

Lydia Briggs
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