The Astronomy and Astrophysics Review introduces article citation-id

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Bibliographic information of articles published in physics and astronomy journals is changing towards a system in which articles are referenced individually rather than using page numbering within issues and volumes of a given journal. This way any delay in assigning the final citation information to the online version of an article or waiting for assignment of the article to an issue is avoided.

Beginning with Volume 19 (2011), the journal *The Astronomy and Astrophysics Review* adopts such a system. Instead of a continuous pagination of articles throughout a volume, each article will have an internal pagination beginning with page 1. The identification of an article within a volume by its first page number will be replaced by identification by an *article citation-id*. The bibliographic information (the “reference”) shown in the header on the first page of an article will be built as follows:

Astron Astrophys Rev ([publication year]) [volume number]:[article citation-id]
DOI [DOI]

(an example is the bibliographic information in the header of this editorial).

With this change, papers will be available with their full and final bibliographical information as soon as they are published online and will fill up the currently open issue until its closure date. The journal will therefore stop publishing articles in Springer’s Online First™ modus. The time from acceptance to online publication of an article is not affected by this change. The final citation of an article will be of the form:

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As of Volume 19 (2011), the volume which this Editorial belongs to, the number of issues per volume will be reduced from four to one. This reduction is only a structural change made possible by introducing article citation-ids and doesn't influence the number of articles per volume. After closure of the issue the sequence of the articles may be re-arranged for the print version (this may include topical grouping or moving an editorial to an appropriate place) before sending it to the printer.

With these changes we believe to make a step towards a simpler system of bibliographic information within the framework of short online publication times of individual articles.