NavBar Redesign FAQs

As part of our new UX/UI initiative, Aries Systems will be releasing a redesigned Navigation Bar ("NavBar") within Editorial Manager® (EM) and ProduXion Manager® (PM). For more information on Aries' initiative, refer to our **UX/UI Redesign Initiative FAQs.**

Please consult your Aries Account Coordinator (AC) if you have additional questions.

Q: What can customers expect to change with the new design for the NavBar?

A: The updated NavBar for Editorial Manager and ProduXion Manager includes both user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) updates. The new navigation bar design features a more modern look, with updated colors, typefaces, and spacing, which will be consistent across all EM/PM sites. All operations from the original navigation bar will be maintained in the new design, but structured in a more functional layout for a more intuitive, user-friendly navigation experience. All improvements are designed to enhance the usability and accessibility of the system's navigation.

Q: Why did Aries choose the NavBar as the first area of the system to update?

A: Extensive analysis of the system was conducted to create and validate the UX/UI project roadmap. Aries selected the NavBar as the first area to be updated as it is a static element that is featured across all pages and used by all roles. The NavBar is the heart of EM and PM, and it is important for Aries to prioritize and address high-traffic, high-impact areas of the system. The redesigned NavBar is the first in a series of system enhancements and updates to come!

Q: When will the redesigned NavBar be released?

A: On December 13, 2021, the updated NavBar was released in an "off" state to all EM/PM sites by default, making it available for customers to optionally request to have it activated for their sites. Effective September 14, 2022, the optional activation period will end and the new NavBar will be automatically enabled for all remaining EM/PM sites.

On August 2, 2022, a new enhancement to the updated NavBar will become available as part of the EM/PM 22.08 software release. This enhancement introduces a new PolicyManager configuration that allows publications the option to edit the journal title text, select one of two color options, and upload a logo to the banner display portion of the navigation bar.

Q: Why did Aries choose these specific design elements?

A: The new NavBar's color palette, typefaces, and spacing will be used for forthcoming interface designs, setting the stage for the future look of EM and PM and allowing for a consistent experience throughout the system. These design elements have been carefully selected by Aries and will allow us to better adhere to rigorous accessibility and design standards as the EM/PM UI/UX initiative progresses.

Q: Can publications make customizations to the new NavBar?

A: Yes, certain display elements of the navigation bar can be set to the journal's preference.

Under "Configure Navigation Bar" settings within PolicyManager, the System Administrator may edit the journal title, select one of two banner color options (navy blue or light grey), and upload a logo. Journals have the option to upload a standard 40x40 pixel image in either a .JPG or .PNG file format that will appear to the left of the journal title within the banner (to the right of the Editorial Manager logo). System Administrators may preview the style changes before applying them to the site, and will take approximately one hour to actualize to the site. By default, the NavBar banner is set to navy blue and displays the journal title.

Additionally, publications will still be allowed to customize resources linked from the NavBar under the About drop-down menu (Instructions for Authors, Journal Overview, Contact, and Privacy Policy). Publications may also customize the text label of the menu anchors within the NavBar. For example changing "Submit a Manuscript" label to "Submit an Article" or changing "Help" label to "Support" by submitting a change request to their Aries Account Coordinator (NOTE: This text customization does not extend to the sub-navigation text labels in the drop-down portion of the menus).
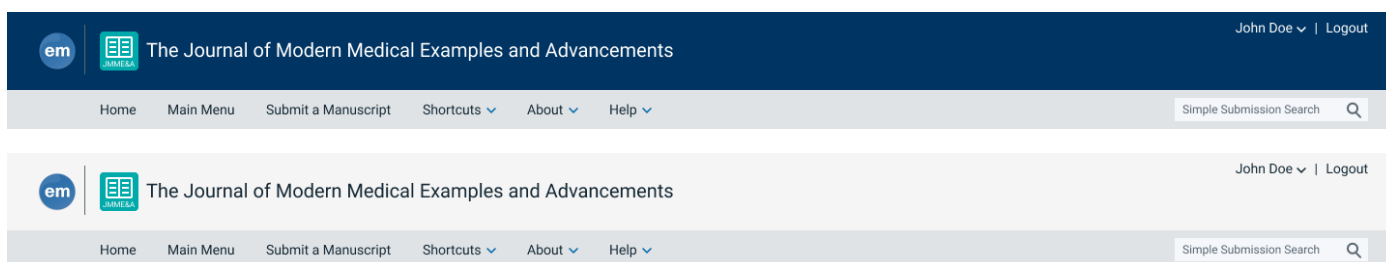
Q: Can publications preview the new NavBar before it is implemented to their site(s)?

A: Yes! Within "Configure Navigation Bar" settings under PolicyManager, journal System Administrators can preview the redesigned navigation bar on their EM/PM site(s) even before it is activated by their Aries Account Coordinator. This provides publications with insights to how the new design will appear on their sites and prepare for the transition in advance of implementation.

Once the new NavBar is activated, journals may still preview any changes they make to the NavBar – such as editing title text, changing the banner color, or uploading a logo – before they apply the changes.

Q: Can publication insert the journal logo themselves?

A: Yes, each journal is solely responsible for uploading their logo to their site's navigation bar. Under the "Configure Navigation Bar" setting in PolicyManager, permissioned System Administrators can easily upload and apply the logo image file themselves. Aries Account Coordinators are not responsible for inserting journal logos across customer sites.

Q: Does the journal logo need to be uploaded before the NavBar auto-activation date?

A: No, the journal logo can be uploaded at any time, regardless of the auto-activation date! If the journal does not upload their logo to the new NavBar before it is automatically activated for all sites on September 14, 2022 – or if the publication chooses not to insert a logo for their journal site at all – then the navigation bar will default to display just the journal title.

Q: Are publications required to upload a logo?

A: No, publications are not required to upload a logo to the NavBar if they do not wish to. In the event the journals opts not to include a logo, the NavBar will default to display just the journal title as shown in the image below.


Q: What are the technical specifications required for the logo?

A: The logo must be a 40x40 pixel image in either a .JPG or .PNG file format. A known standard, the 40x40px size (and its 1:1 ratio) will allow the image to be easily scaled either smaller or larger depending on the viewer's screen size, zoom setting, or device. We strongly encourage journals to upload a logo with a transparent background for a seamless look on either the navy blue or light grey banner. These elements allow us to better adhere to design, accessibility, and responsive standards.

Q: How will the redesigned NavBar appear on mobile devices?

A: As part of our UI/UX initiative for Editorial Manager and ProduXion Manager, Aries Systems is actively working to achieve a responsive design. Within the new NavBar, both the banner display elements (logos and journal title) and the navigational menus are properly reformatted to accommodate a mobile or condensed view as shown in the example image here. For publications with longer titles, the text size automatically resizes to fit within the space.
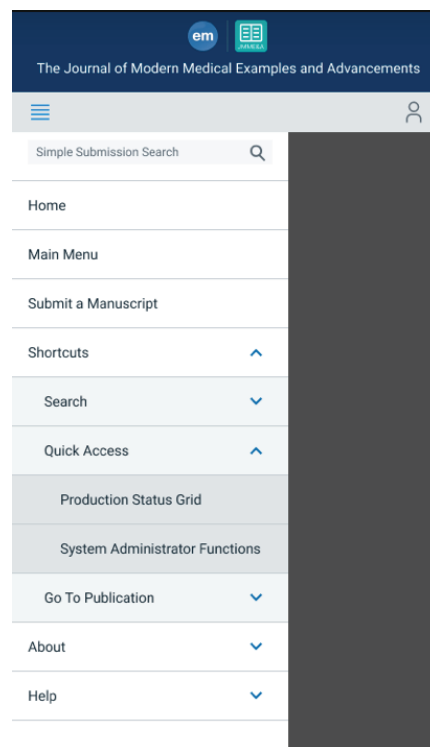
Q: Will changing the journal title for the NavBar change the journal title throughout the system?

A: No. The option to edit the journal title for the navigation bar is an informal style configuration only. If the System Administrator edits the journal title in PolicyManager, the change is only reflected as a textual aesthetic modification in the display portion of the NavBar's banner. The journal's title will not change within the system or within Aries' data records.

Q: Will customers be charged for the updated NavBar?

A: No, customers will not be charged for the redesigned NavBar, or for any upcoming interface updates introduced to their EM/PM sites as part of the Aries UX/UI initiative.

Q: Can publishers opt out of the NavBar UX/UI update?

A: No, EM/PM customers cannot opt-out of the NavBar update or any future UX/UI improvements to the system. All interface enhancements will automatically be applied to all EM/PM sites upon release, unless otherwise specified. Customers will not be able to "toggle" between old and new interfaces.

Effective September 14, 2022, the optional activation period will end and the new NavBar will be automatically enabled for all remaining EM/PM sites.

Q: What support resources will be made available for the redesigned NavBar, and where can users find them?

A: Aries will provide all the necessary resources to prepare and support our customers for the interface transition, including video tutorials, Release Notes documentation, training webinars, FAQ sheets, etc. These materials will be made available on the **Resources page** on the Aries website.

Q: At first glance, the new NavBar appears to have fewer links. Were some navigation elements removed?

A: No functions have been removed. All of the old links and functions of the original NavBar have been maintained and carried over into the new NavBar design, though some items have been relocated! To create a clean look and intuitive navigation experience, some operations have been purposefully reorganized into new drop-down menus. New menu categories featured in the updated NavBar include the About, Help, Shortcuts, and the User drop-down.

## Q: Do all users (Authors, Editors, and Reviewers) see the same NavBar design?

A: Although the new NavBar design will apply to all sites, some functions may be unavailable to certain roles, depending on publisher configurations and user permissions. For example, the Author and Reviewer default view does not include the new Shortcuts drop-down menu or the Simple Submission Search, as those functions are not available to those roles. Similarly, System Administrator Functions, Enterprise View, Go to Publication, and other items will only appear in the NavBar if applicable to that journal or available to that user role.

Q: Where can users find the old "Go to" search function from the original NavBar?

A: As a replacement for the older "Go to" search menu, the new Shortcuts drop-down menu contains the extensive Search function for submissions, proposals, and people.

Q: How are announcements shown in the new NavBar?

A: Important announcements from Aries Systems, such as scheduled maintenance notices, will now be displayed via a new warning indicator in the NavBar, as shown below. When the alert is clicked, a pop-up box will display the message, with a convenient scrolling feature to view messages longer than the window view.
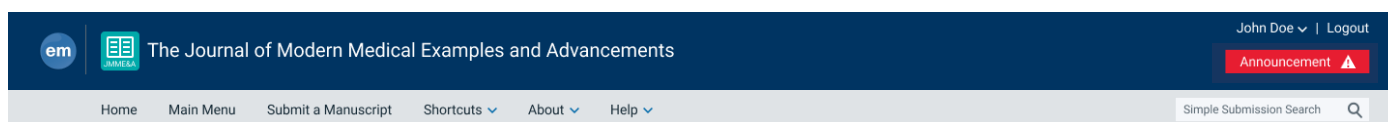
Q: What will the new NavBar look like for ProduXion Manager® (PM) sites?

A: The NavBar for PM-only sites will look and function identically to the NavBar for EM sites, with the exception of the PM logo displayed in the banner, as shown in the image below.