



ORCID iD

This year we decided to begin using and promoting the ORCID iD (Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier) in *AMC*. The ORCID iD is an alpha-numeric string which uniquely identifies researchers. It was first introduced to the world in 2009, and a Registry of ORCID iDs now maintained by a non-profit incorporation that was created in 2012.

For every accepted paper, we check whether each of its authors already has an ORCID iD assigned, and if not, then our back-office explains to the affected authors how that can be achieved. This process is completely voluntary: as can be seen from our use of it in papers from volume 18 (2020) onwards, in some cases the ORCID iDs of all authors are listed, while in others this happens for none or just some of the authors.

Currently there are over 10 000 000 researchers worldwide with a registered ORCID iD. For services like zbMATH, knowing an author's ORCID iD can be very helpful in distinguishing between different authors with similar or the same names, and in assigning publications to a rightful author.

In comparison with the DOI (Digital Object Identifier), which we described in the previous Editorial, the ORCID iD is a decade younger, and is not quite so widely used among scientific publishers. Nevertheless it is becoming a *de facto* standard for author identification, even in mathematics.

There are also some significant differences between the ORCID iD and other identifiers assigned to mathematicians, such as the MR and zbMATH Author IDs. The latter IDs are assigned automatically by MathSciNet or zbMATH, and are limited to authors who have made contributions in the mathematical publications covered by these services, while on the other hand, the ORCID iD may be requested by any researcher, regardless of their discipline.

We are very happy to endorse it.

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