



## JSTOR Policy to Support Author Name Changes

Belonging is one of our core values. We aspire for everyone who works at and with our organization to feel valued and included. This commitment extends to the creators of the journal articles, books, research reports, and other works that we preserve and make accessible through JSTOR.

For those authors who decide to change their name—for whatever reason—we would like to support them. We know that many of our publishing partners share our commitment to belonging and inclusion, but that name change policies vary. Some publishers have had inclusive name change policies in place for some time, while others have recently updated their policies, like this example from Wiley: [New Author Name Change Policy Supports a More Inclusive Publishing Environment](#).

For JSTOR, we have developed a policy that balances our role as archivists of the historical record with our support for authors who want their names to accurately reflect their identity. We have also taken into account that most of the content on JSTOR is in image (PDF) + OCR format. We are sharing our intended approach with publishers now to invite your feedback.

Our approach will be to add the author's current/correct name to the metadata for the work (appearing as a separate name in addition to the former name) so the work will be recognized and discoverable on JSTOR and in outside search services under both the current/correct and former name. The benefit of including both names is that the work remains discoverable whether a user has an older or current citation or is searching under any author's former name.

For authors who wish to minimize the appearance of their former name in their work, such as for transgender authors, in consultation with them, we will remove the former name (or a portion of the name, such as a first name) from the metadata and block the same from the image (PDF) of the work. We will also remove the former name from the article OCR so it will not appear in text searches. In our discussions with authors, we will ensure that prior to taking this action, they understand the potential impacts on discoverability of the work.

Before taking any steps to change an author's name, we will notify and collaborate with the relevant contributing publisher(s) to ensure our approach is compatible with their own.

We have received a handful of requests for name changes so far and have worked with publishers and the authors using the above policy. We invite any feedback you may have about the policy by March 31, 2021. Please reach out so we can share perspectives with one another. Also, as we move ahead, please let us know when you receive author name change requests for content also held by JSTOR so that we can work together to support authors. Any feedback and notices can be sent to [publishers@jstor.org](mailto:publishers@jstor.org).

We look forward to continuing to work together to create a stronger, more inclusive environment for all authors.