

Michael Willis

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Brief Curriculum Vitae

After teaching Classics at secondary school and conducting postgraduate research in ancient history and literature, Michael Willis started his publishing career with CatchWord (later Ingenta) in processing and managing online journal content for STM publishers. He joined Blackwell Publishing (now Wiley) in 2005 as Editorial Services Manager, managing journal editorial offices in health sciences and a team of editorial assistants. In July 2014 he became Senior Manager, Peer Review, for all of Wiley's in-house EMEA editorial offices, overseeing the development and implementation of peer review best practice across all disciplines and peer review models, and developing our relationship with offshore vendors supporting editorial offices. Since October 2019 he has been Researcher Advocate within Wiley's Content Review team, promoting the work and functions of researchers as editors, peer reviewers and authors. Michael was President of the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors in 2016-2017.

Introduction to EASE

I have worked within academic journals publishing for over 20 years, most of them at Blackwell and then Wiley. I have collaborated with journal editors, peer reviewers and authors, developing initiatives to support researchers in the peer review process. My experience is multidisciplinary although mostly in health sciences. As Researcher Advocate I explore how Wiley can improve the value of the service we provide to researchers. As a long-standing member of ISMTE, I am concerned to define and improve best practice in journal and journal editorial office management.

What can you offer to EASE?

I have collaborated on projects and resources relating to all aspects of the author submission and peer review process, especially the latter, in which areas of interest I have also published a few articles. I already contributed a chapter to the EASE Handbook, relating to journal editorial office management. I could contribute articles to future EASE resources including ESE and any possible future updates to the Handbook.

I would be happy to be consulted by fellow members on any aspect of author interaction with publishers, especially in the processes prior to acceptance of manuscripts. The Peer Review Committee would be a natural fit for me, and indeed I have already collaborated with a few existing members of the Committee on different research projects.

I am also active on social media, especially Twitter, where I could promote EASE activities and resources, as well as 'keep an ear to the ground' on industry developments and initiatives that are of relevance to EASE members.

As a longstanding member of ISMTE, including being President in 2016/7, I would be keen to foster good collaborative relations between EASE and ISMTE, as I believe each organisation can benefit

from the expertise and resources of the other. I already helped to establish this close relationship including facilitating joint conferences.

Finally, I could act as an advocate for EASE resources, such as the SAGER guidelines, within the community of publishers, in the interests of improving the quality of research that is submitted and published.