
Editorial

European Science Editing in a time of change

Abstract *European Science Editing*, a scientific and educational organ of the European Association of Science Editors, has developed from a simple newsletter to an internationally recognized journal covering science writing, editing, and publishing. Following the digital trend, changes are being introduced to facilitate online accessibility and retrievability, to make the information within the journal more readily available to a global audience.

Keywords Periodicals as topic; quality; science; editing; publishing

The role of scholarly journals in disseminating evidence-based knowledge and facilitating science communication between professionals around the world is increasing rapidly in the era of digitization.¹ The advent of new information technologies substantially accelerates the exchange of ideas and collaboration between experts, thereby contributing to progress in most fields of science. To justify their role in science communication, journals should meet certain quality criteria.

European Science Editing (ESE) as a scientific and educational organ and the formal means of communication of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE) has been and will continue to be at the forefront of publications regarding science editing. It began as a newsletter in 1982 after the European Life Science Editors Association merged with the European Association of Earth Science Editors to form EASE. The newsletter became a bulletin in 1986 and was transformed into a journal under Hervé Maisonneuve (France) in 2002.² Since then, edited by Moira Johnson (UK), it has flourished, covering a wide range of topics, from polishing the language of scientific articles to the role of impact factors. I am honoured to continue this tradition and to continue the development of the journal, particularly the digital form.

ESE has become an important educational tool for both young and established science editors, seeking answers to the numerous questions that arise during linguistic and scientific editing and publishing. Though it is primarily a European journal, it covers issues of great interest to editors from all countries. One of the sections, "Editing around the world", specifically addresses the challenges faced in diverse settings. Other familiar features (Reports of meetings, News notes, The editor's bookshelf, Book reviews, and the EASE-Forum digest) will continue to provide items of interest to our readers.

One area where there is acknowledged scope for improvement in the journal is in the publication of primary research related to science editing in the form of Articles, to complement high quality opinion pieces under Essays or Reviews. As more research is conducted on science communication, peer review, ethics, and scientometrics, so

we would like to make *ESE* the journal of choice for papers on these topics – many of which are currently scattered amongst various scientific journals.

Readers will notice some changes in the current issue, which reflect our ambition to make the digital form of the journal more accessible and to improve the journal's suitability for inclusion in various abstracting and indexing services. Thus, articles and essays/reviews will now include abstracts, key words and correspondence information. *ESE* has recently been added to more international indexing services: the full list appears on page 63 and will be kept updated on the EASE website. Articles will also be posted separately on the journal's website to facilitate proper indexing and easy access to information of interest to the diverse readership.

Many of the contributions to *ESE* come from biomedical editors, partly reflecting the biomedical bias within the EASE membership. Many developments in scientific publishing, such as open access, conflict of interest, and authorship statements originate in the biomedical field. The journal will continue to welcome contributions from all areas of science and to facilitate communication between editors with diverse professional backgrounds.

Like any scientific journal, *ESE* relies on high quality submissions from different countries and continents, fostering its international appeal. The internationalization should also extend to peer review, with the involvement of a large number of international experts in the evaluation of the submissions, and we would like to broaden the reviewer database for the journal and to formalize the review process. As an acknowledgement, reviewers' names will be published in the first issue of a year.

In conclusion, in this era of rapid change in both science and publishing, *ESE* will continue to develop, building on the achievements of the past to create a truly outstanding international journal in the field of science editing and communication.

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