The Editor's Bookshelf

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ECONOMICS

Harnad S. **No-fault peer review charges: the price of selectivity need not be access denied or delayed**. *D-Lib Magazine* 2010;16(7/8).
Funds to pay for open access publishing are short and about 80% of journals are subscription-based. Paying to publish might inflate acceptance rates and lower quality standards. A solution could be that institutions, universities, and funders mandate Green OA self-archiving of final peer-reviewed drafts by their authors. A "no-fault basis" peer review charge is also suggested: the author's institution or funder should pay for each round of refereeing, regardless of outcome (acceptance, revision, or rejection). If the journal fee were not a publication fee but a refereeing fee, the costs per accepted article would be much lower and it would discourage unrealistic submissions that take up the time of journals' referees.
doi:10.1045/july2010-harnad

EDITORIAL PROCESS

Meerpohl JJ, Wolff RF, Antes G, von Elm E. **Are pediatric open access journals promoting good publication practice: an analysis of author instructions.** *BMC Pediatrics* 2011;11:27.
Editorial recommendations such as the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts issued by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors were mentioned in the instructions to authors of 66% of paediatric journals reviewed; that is, more commonly than in conventional journals. Further research should confirm these exploratory findings in other medical fields and should clarify what the motivations and barriers are to implementing such policies.
doi:10.1186/1471-2431-11-27

Newton PD. **Quality and peer review of research: an adjudicating role for editors**. *Accountability in Research* 2010;17(3):130–145.
This study describes shortcomings of the peer review process and provides situational, personal, social, and ethical factors influencing reviewers' and editors' behaviour. Editors need to know of potential influences on reviewers and also on themselves. Some data are offered which illustrates the problem and suggests potential solutions. Journals with large editorial boards could consider using a small team to nominate and evaluate reviewers, make decisions, and communicate with the authors. Reviewing might be improved through the education and training of postgraduate students.
doi:10.1080/08989621003791945

Rushby N. **Peer review**. *British Journal of Educational Technology* 2010;41(5):668–671.
This editorial aims to explain some aspects of peer review that may not be familiar to some readers. Although the reviewers' comments help the journal's editor, it is the editor who has the final decision and takes responsibility for what appears in the journal. But the reviewer has the opportunity to review submissions well before they appear in the journal and can identify trends and issues that may come up in the future. One problem is the possibility of bias, which can result from the prestige of the author and their institution. If the reviewer has a conflict of interest, it must either be declared to the editor, or the reviewer should decline the invitation to carry out the review.
doi:10.1111/j.1467-8535.2010.01117.x

Shattell MM, Chinn P, Thomas SP, Cowling R. **Authors' and editors' perspectives on peer review quality in three scholarly nursing journals.** *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* 2010;42(1):58–65.
This study examines the quality of peer review in three scholarly nursing journals from the perspectives of authors and editors. In particular, it examines the extent to which manuscript reviews provided constructive guidance for authors to further develop their work for publication, and for editors to make informed and sound decisions on the disposition of manuscripts.
A majority of authors agreed that peer reviews provided constructive guidance, and a majority of editors agreed that reviews provided adequate rationale.
doi:10.1111/j.1547-5069.2009.01331.x

Van Rooyen S, Delamothe T, Evans SJW. **Effect on peer review of telling reviewers that their signed reviews might be posted on the web: randomised controlled trial.** *BMJ* 2010;341:c5729
Telling peer reviewers that their signed reviews might be available on the *BMJ*'s website had no important effect on review quality. However, it may reduce the number of willing reviewers and increase the amount of time taken to write a review. *BMJ* believes that the ethical arguments in favour of open peer review outweigh any disadvantage.
doi: 10.1136/bmj.c5729

ETHICAL ISSUES

Hagen B. **Tools for the effective management of plagiarism complaints**. *PSP Bulletin* 2010;9(4):8–10.
IEEE, the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity, has developed a suite of tools that efficiently define, identify, and manage plagiarism

complaints [see http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/rights/plagiarism_FAQ.html]. The combined use of these three essential tools (policy guidelines, a plagiarism detection system, and an enhanced resolution service) has been extremely effective and has made it possible for the IEEE editorial staff to manage all plagiarism complaints.

Scott-Lichter D. **Publication ethics: prevention, screening, and treatment.** *Learned Publishing* 2011;24:84–85.
The author of this editorial underlines what can be done to address ethical concerns (such as plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification) and at the same time maintain the timely flow of reliable scholarly information. The need to correct ethical breaches after publication can be reduced if potential indicators can be identified before publication. This proactive approach requires education and changing of human behaviour.
doi:10.1087/20110201

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Harnad S. **Open access to research: changing researcher behavior through university and funder mandates.** *JEDEM Journal of Democracy and Open Government* 2011;3(1):33–41.
A somewhat conservative perspective on "e-democracy" as public access to scholarly and scientific research is presented. To maximise the usage and impact of research carried out in research institutions, depositing final drafts in open-access institutional repositories immediately upon acceptance for publication will make them freely accessible to all potential users web-wide.

LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Hall PA. **Getting your paper published: an editor's perspective.** *Annals of Saudi Medicine* 2011;31(1):72–76.
A short review based on a personal perspective on the issue of writing scientific papers in the biomedical field. The review is based on the author's own experiences as a reviewer and an editor. By means of 10 simple lessons, the problems and the pitfalls of getting a manuscript published are considered.
doi: 10.4103/0256-4947.75782

PUBLISHING

Hartley J. **Write when you can and submit when you are ready!** *Learned Publishing* 2011;24(1):29–31.
The author rejects the notion that we should write when it is hot (in the summer months) and submit when it is not (in the winter months – when there would be less competition). He expressed this point of view in an earlier article in the same journal (doi:10.1087/20100206), based on data over a four-year period. More supporting data would be needed to sustain this notion, as different results would probably be found with different journals. Differences also depend on journals' editorial policies. So the author's conclusion is: it is better to write when you can, and submit straight away.
doi:10.1087/2011015

Gasparyan AY, Ayvazyan L, Kitas GD. **Biomedical journal editing: elements of success.** *Croatian Medical Journal* 2011;52(3):423-428.
Scholarly journals are increasingly being recognized as educational tools. In view of recent trends in information flow, digitalization, and acceleration of the publishing process - which may increase the rate of errors and mistakes - editors, authors, reviewers and publishers should consider every detail, from submission to publishing, to ensure a high quality of publications. Some elements relevant to success are a qualified editorial team, internationalization of the peer review process, a unique journal title, specific scope of interest, original content of articles, indexing in databases, and wider journal visibility.
doi:10.3325/cmj.2011.52.423

Kennan MA. **Learning to share: mandates and open access.** *Library Management* 2011;32(4/5):302–318.
Why is open access is not practiced by all researchers, all the time, or more encouraged by library managers? Sometimes a new actor such as a mandate or deposit policy is required, to assist library and repository managers and to encourage authors to look beyond their existing frames and embrace open access.
doi: 10.1108/01435121111132301

Kenneway M. **Author attitudes towards open access publishing**. InTech, 27 April 2011.
A survey among a group of InTech's author found that they are generally favourably inclined towards open access, being aware of the benefits of free access to their work after publication. As might be expected, most of the authors have concerns about cost and quality control of open access publications. Publishers should satisfy authors' demands for an in-depth pre-publication peer review system, have a clear policy on peer review, and ensure transparency.
http://www.intechweb.org/public_files/Intech_OA_Apr11.pdf

Miguel S, Chinchilla-Rodriguez Z, de Moya-Anegón F. **Open access and Scopus: a new approach to scientific visibility from the standpoint of access**. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 2011;62(6):1130–1145.
Few studies show the impact of open access (OA) in the visibility of journals which covers all scientific fields and geographical regions. This article presents analyses on the degree of proliferation of OA journals in a data sample of about 1700 active journals indexed in Scopus. The results show that the benefits of OA in terms of impact are to be found on the green road (authors publishing in a traditional journal and then self-archiving their postprints in their institutional repository).
doi:10.1002/asi.21532

RESEARCH EVALUATION

Davis PM. **Open access, readership, citations: a randomized controlled trial of scientific journal publishing.**

FASEB Journal 2011;25(7):2129–2134.
A randomized controlled trial of open access (OA) publishing, involving 36 academic journals in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities examined the effects of free access on article downloads and citations. OA articles received significantly more downloads (almost a doubling) and reached a broader audience than subscription-access articles within the first year after publication, yet they were not cited more frequently within three years. The author concludes that the real benefit of free access to the scientific literature is to those outside the core research communities, who consume, but rarely contribute to, the corpus of literature.
doi: 10.1096/fj.11-183988

Metze K. **Bureaucrats, researchers, editors, and the impact factor – a vicious circle that is detrimental to science.** *Clinics* 2010;65(10):937–940.
The article aims at illustrating the weakness of the impact factor as a measure of science and at showing its negative impact on science. The popularization of impact factor as a rapid and cheap method for evaluation of researchers or research groups has stimulated a dynamic interaction between bureaucrats, researchers, and editors. It has created a vicious circle where the measurement process strongly influences the measured variable. Examples are presented to demonstrate the increasing pressure to manipulate the impact factors, such as excessive self-citations.
doi:10.1590/S1807-59322010001000002

Saadat R, Shabani A. **Investigating the citations received by journals of Directory of Open Access Journals from ISI Web of Science's articles**. *International Journal of Information Science and Management* 2011;9(1):57–74.
Investigating the citations received by DOAJ's journals from the ISI Web of Science's articles in the years 2003–2008, the main question was: are journals in the Directory valid and can they be cited? A total of 2953 journals were divided on the basis of the five ISI divisions of sciences and they were studied and compared accordingly. Findings showed that 11% journals received citations, with an average number of citations per article of 6.45. Researchers cited OA journals in the field of Pure Sciences more than the other four fields, and the citations received by the journals in the two fields of Pure Sciences and Health & Medical Sciences were considerably more than the other three fields.

Sanni SA, Zainab AN. **Evaluating the influence of a medical journal using Google Scholar.** *Learned Publishing* 2011;24(2):145–154.
A medical journal's influence can be calculated by using citations obtained from Google Scholar and other methods even though the journal is not covered by any citation database. 580 articles published in the *Medical Journal of Malaysia* (MJM) between 2004 and 2008 served as sample.
doi: 10.1087/20110210

Turk N. **Do open access biomedical journals benefit smaller countries? The Slovenian experience.** *Health Information and Libraries Journal* 2011;28:143–147.
The article considers whether open access (OA) publishing provides a way to improve the visibility of research outputs from smaller countries. Slovenia's bibliographic database was searched to identify all biomedical journals and those which are OA. None out of 18 Slovenian OA journals has an impact factor. The solution could be to reduce the number of journals and to increase their quality by encouraging scientists to publish their best articles in them.
doi:10.1111/j.1471-1842.2011.00932.x

Wagner AB. **Open access citation advantage: an annotated bibliography**. *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship* 2010;Winter.
This bibliography lists studies and reviews articles that examine whether open access articles are cited more frequently than toll access articles. Results show a strong OA citation advantage, which means a greater research impact, with a citation impact differential of 25-250% in favour of open access for the majority of studies, and particularly for larger studies; a minority of studies found no effect. Possible explanations for these anomalies include small sample size (one study refers to a statistically insignificant advantage for open access articles), disciplinary citation patterns within disciplines, and failure to allow sufficient time to observe the citation impact difference. The author points out that no study found a citation disadvantage for open access.
http://www.istl.org/10-winter/article2.html

Xia J, Myers RL, Wilhoite SK. **Multiple open access availability and citation impact**. *Journal of Information Science* 2011;37:19–28.
The study examined the correlation between multiple open access availability of journal articles (that is, multiple versions being available in multiple locations) and citation advantage by collecting data on the appearance of open access articles and citations in the 20 top library and information science journals published in 2006 (total number 875). The analysis found a statistically significant correlation between the OA status of the articles and a positive impact on their citation account.
doi: 10.1177/0165551510389358

SCIENCE

Knowledge, networks and nations: global scientific collaboration in the 21st century. *Royal Society, London* 2011.
Reviewing the changing patterns of science and scientific collaboration, this report aims to identify the opportunities and benefits of international collaboration, to consider how they can best be realised, and to initiate a debate on how international scientific collaboration can be harnessed to tackle global problems more effectively.

Habibzadeh F, Yadollahie M. **Evidence-based journalism**. *Croatian Medical Journal* 2011;52(2):212–213.
The principles of evidence-based practice can be used in the field of journalism. An application of one of

the basic approaches used in evidence-based practice, PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome) can be applied in biomedical journalism, for example to study whether single-blind review is as good as double-blind review in a small scientific community.
doi:10.3325/cmj.2011.52.212

Krikorian G, Kapczynski A, eds. **Access to knowledge in the age of intellectual property**. New York: Zone Books, 2010.
The editors have created the first anthology of the "access to knowledge" or "A2K" movement, mapping this emerging field of activism as a series of historical moments, strategies, and concepts. Intellectual property law has given rise to new debates and struggles over politics, economics, and freedom.

Qiu J. **Chinese Academy of Sciences has big plans for nation's research**. *Nature News* 2011;24 March.
Last February, Bai Chunli became president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is interviewed about science in China and his vision for the institution. He aims at boosting quality, collaboration, and commercialization of research. The Academy's evaluation system of research and science productivity, which is now largely based on the number and quality of papers, will shift towards assessing the quality of innovation, and its actual contribution to society and progress. The Academy will consolidate its collaborations with developed nations but it will also promote cooperation with developing nations.
doi:10.1038/news.2011.180

Tenopir C, Allard S, Bates BJ, Levine KJ, King DW, Birch B, Mays R, Caldwell C. **Perceived value of scholarly articles**. *Learned Publishing* 2011;24(2):123–132.
Results from a questionnaire are presented: over 400 researchers in 12 countries responded, ranking seven article characteristics and rating 16 article profiles. After article topic, the next most highly ranked characteristics were online accessibility and source of article. There were significant differences in ranking by discipline and geographical location.
doi:10.1087/20110207

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Cryer E. Collins M. **Incorporating open access into libraries.** *Serials Review* 2011;37(2):103-107.
Librarians can play a dynamic role in the development of the open access landscape by familiarizing themselves with government funding initiatives, OA publishing models, institutional OA funds and policies, and institutional repositories. The article provides examples of how librarians can incorporate OA issues into pre-existing librarian roles.
doi:10.1016/j.serrev.2011.03.002

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