

## News Notes

News Notes are taken from the EASE Journal Blog (<http://ese-bookshelf.blogspot.com>). Please email items for inclusion to John Hilton ([hilton.john@gmail.com](mailto:hilton.john@gmail.com)) or Lionel Browne ([lionel.browne@ssep.net](mailto:lionel.browne@ssep.net)), with "News Notes" as the subject.

TinyURLs may be given to save space and aid reading; full URLs (clickable links) can be found on the EASE Journal Blog.

### Data centres as curators

There is much debate about mandatory versus optional policies for self-archiving or repository deposition. A new report from Research Information Network ([www.rin.ac.uk](http://www.rin.ac.uk)) and JISC ([www.jisc.ac.uk](http://www.jisc.ac.uk)) takes a step back and looks at the usage and impact of data centres in the UK. Data centres supply research data to the academic community, and may also collect, store and/or curate the data. The report focuses on the curatorial role, with its benefits of quality assurance, preservation and applicability. The full report is available on the RIN website ([tinyurl.com/RIN-data](http://tinyurl.com/RIN-data)).

### Interoperability options

The number of open access institutional repositories has been rising steadily, but the real value lies in the potential to create a linked network of these repositories. The Confederation of Open Access Repositories ([www.coar-repositories.org](http://www.coar-repositories.org)) is addressing the inevitable technical and organisational challenges that may prevent interoperability, defined as "the ability for systems to communicate with each other and pass information back and forth in a usable format." COAR has published a paper ([tinyurl.com/COARpaper](http://tinyurl.com/COARpaper)) and is inviting stakeholders to contribute ideas.

### ALPSP Awards

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)'s Award for Contribution to Scholarly Publishing has gone this year to Cliff Morgan of John Wiley & Sons, in recognition of his long-standing contributions to digital preservation, article metrics, article versioning, and many other projects. The best new journal award went to *Chemical Science*, published by RSC Publishing ([pubs.rsc.org](http://pubs.rsc.org)), with a highly-commended certificate going to *Bioanalysis*, published by Future Science ([www.future-science.com](http://www.future-science.com)). Publishing innovation was recognised with an award for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Better Life Index ([www.oecd-betterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecd-betterlifeindex.org)), an elegant, interactive tool that has increased accessibility of OECD's data sets.

### From MathML to MathJax

Presenting mathematical formulae correctly has always been tricky for publishers, whatever the medium. It's especially difficult when you are delivering a range of mathematical content via multiple online platforms. An article in the October/November issue of *Research Information* ([www.researchinformation.info](http://www.researchinformation.info)) reports on the development and progress of MathJax, a universal standard for online display of mathematical formulae. It enables all web browsers to display Mathematical Markup Language (MathML) more easily. Future plans include an enhanced interface and line wrapping of equations, as well as third-party contributions and integration with other software.

### Edited news is good news

Another boost for editors: readers prefer news articles that have been professionally edited. The research, sponsored by the American Copy Editors Society (ACES; [www.copydesk.org](http://www.copydesk.org)), also found that readers were more concerned about

professionalism and grammar than style or structure. Fred Vultee of Wayne State University, USA, presented the findings at the ACES annual conference and indicated that his future work will address the question of whether readers would stop visiting a website because of poor editing.

### DOI as URL

CrossRef ([www.crossref.org](http://www.crossref.org)) has announced a new format for the display of digital object identifiers (DOIs). All organisations are now encouraged to use the URL format <http://dx.doi.org/doi> wherever a DOI appears. This makes DOIs more user-friendly, more appropriate for mobile devices and more easily machine-readable. To address concerns that the URL string is longer than the previous format, CrossRef also recommends that publishers consider using the ShortDOI service ([shortdoi.org](http://shortdoi.org)) to shorten existing DOIs.

### How to measure OA

There's no shortage of facts and figures about the growth (or lack of growth, depending how you read the numbers) of open access publishing. A recent post (30 Sep 2011) on the Imaginary Journal of Poetic Economics blog ([poeticeconomics.blogspot.com](http://poeticeconomics.blogspot.com)) presents an impressive array of data and milestones. But the European Commission is looking for a more sustainable way of measuring OA. It has published a call for proposals for a study to develop a set of indicators to measure open access. The aim is for monitoring of the growth of open access literature from 2000 onwards within the European Research Area (ERA) and beyond. The EC sees OA as a key part of the "single market for research and innovation in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely."

### OA search engine

JISC, the UK organisation that promotes information technologies in academia, has developed a search

engine for open access content. The engine, developed by the Open University's Knowledge Media Institute, enables users to navigate papers held in British open access repositories. You can try the search at [core.kmi.open.ac.uk](http://core.kmi.open.ac.uk). The system stores downloads of previous searches, enabling access even if the originating source is offline.

### Twitter styles

Increasingly, the traditional journal article is only part of the mosaic of outputs that can relate to a research project. Researchers also blog, talk at conferences, share data online, contribute to guidelines or networks, and so on. All of these can be disseminated via Twitter. The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)'s Impact of Social Sciences blog ([blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences)) includes useful guides to using Twitter for research projects and the different styles of tweeting.

### EMWA Journal changes

The European Medical Writers Association's quarterly journal *The Write Stuff* will be re-launched in 2012 as *Medical Writing*. The newly branded journal will be published by Maney Publishing ([www.maney.co.uk](http://www.maney.co.uk)) and will be available online via IngentaConnect.

### More calls for access to data

An article in *PLoS ONE* (2011;6:e24357) by John Ioannidis and colleagues noted that that not enough journals have policies on data availability, and that authors don't adhere to policies that are in place. The article was the focus of a news story in *Nature* (14 September 2011), which also addressed the need for better standards and incentives to share, both of which could address the question of why scientists don't share more. Focusing on clinical data, The Cochrane Collaboration ([www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)) issued a statement calling for free access to all data from clinical trials, to avoid selective reporting and ultimately reducing risks for patients.

### Apps for Libraries

The Apps for Library Ideas Challenge was set up by Elsevier under the banner "Know what your users need but not how to build it?" and sought innovative application ideas from libraries using Elsevier's SciVerse platform. Ten finalists were selected, including determining the number of authors, vocabulary mapping, journal abbreviation translation, and supported search. You can find out more about these ideas at [www.appsforlibrary.com](http://www.appsforlibrary.com).

### Journal Ranking

Faculty of 1000, the post-publication peer review service, has been looking at a new alternative to the journal impact factor. The F1000 Journal Rankings ([f1000.com/rankings](http://f1000.com/rankings)) are based on the evaluations provided by the site's contributors. The approach is based on qualitative judgements and uses an algorithm developed collaboratively. The biggest problem seems to be whether to permit evaluations by editors of articles in their own journals.

### Proofreading tips

The *New York Times* reports that it seems to be getting plenty of feedback from its readers about typos and gaffes, and its Times Topics blog presents a handy list of proofreading tips, "culled from years of journalism tip sheets." ([topics.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/the-readers-lament](http://topics.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/the-readers-lament))

### EC consults on scientific information

In September, the European Commission completed a consultation on scientific information in the digital age. The EC will then set out its plans for open access to publications and data in the context of research projects funded by the Union budget, including detail specific actions for individual member states. You can follow progress on the EC website ([tinyurl.com/64lu2ny](http://tinyurl.com/64lu2ny)).

### ORCID progress

The ORCID (open researcher and contributor ID; [www.orcid.org](http://www.orcid.org)) project has raised sufficient funds

from its 44 founding organisations to start the first phase of development, under the interim leadership of CrossRef's Geoffrey Bilder. The project will use Thomson Reuters' ResearcherID code under a royalty-free perpetual license, and further funds are being sought.

### Guiding the guidelines

At the 2011 Strategic MedComms Forum, held in London on 14 September, there was a session devoted to the various guidelines used by the pharmaceutical industry and the medical communications community to improve standards, transparency and trust in their publication strategies. Part of the discussion focused on the role of journals in ensuring compliance with guidelines, and raised the question of whether journals should be more active in unearthing bad practice, and whether they should focus less on fraud and plagiarism, which are less common in industry-funded research. You can read more in the conference report at [www.medcommsforum.com](http://www.medcommsforum.com).

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## EASE GUIDELINES IN TRANSLATION

The EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators are now available also in Czech and Hungarian. Thus they have now been translated into 17 languages from the original English. The Bosnian and German translations are underway, so the total number of language versions will soon reach 20. A definite success story for EASE.

### List your publications

Are you aware that the EASE website has a page where members can list their publications - either recent or not-so-recent? Your contributions are welcome - [www.ease.org.uk](http://www.ease.org.uk)