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EASE Science Editors' Handbook

An invaluable resource for anyone working in the field of science editing

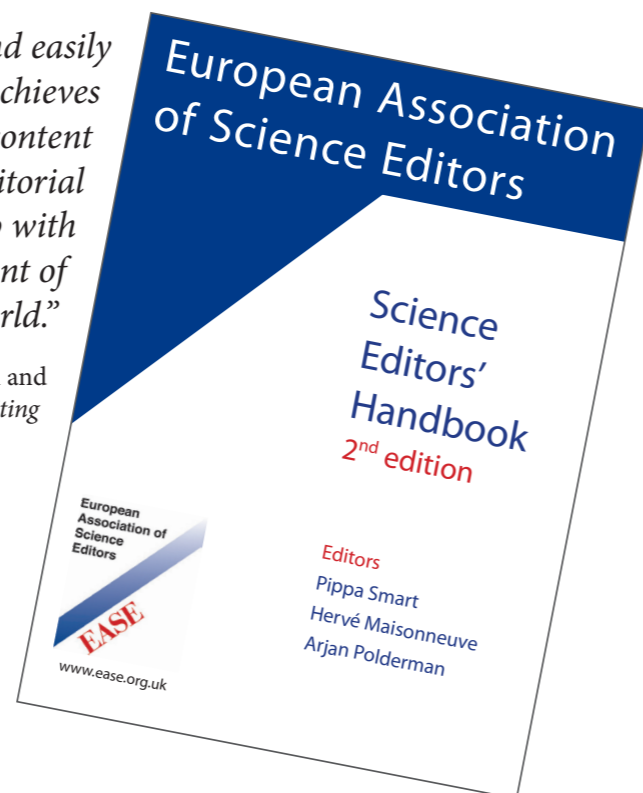
Covering a wide range of subjects, including all aspects of copy editing and running a journal, the handbook provides examples of good practice, plus hints and tips that can help to solve problems and support good decisions.

"The second edition of the EASE Handbook for Science Editors not only manages to depict the current landscape of science editing and publishing in all its facets, it also accomplishes the task that it set itself, namely to provide important, comprehensive guidance to editors on how to navigate this landscape. It is a Must Read for any new science editor and publishing professional and an invaluable reference work for many an old hand."

Cornelia Schnelle, Wiley

"The Handbook is well written and easily understandable. Surely, the Handbook achieves its aim thoroughly and very well in its content which will definitely encourage good editorial and publishing practices to keep up with trends in the rapidly changing environment of scientific publishing world."

Wahid Mozammel Han and
Cheol-Heui Yun, *science editing*



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A new initiative to monitor proficiency in medical English: sTANDEM

sTANDEM projects reaches final stage

The sTANDEM project started in November 2011 and will finish on 31 December 2014. EASE is proud to be involved in this project to develop a Standardised Language Certification System for Medical Purposes (sTANDEM). The project has reached its goal to promote, assess and certify the command of professional English among healthcare professionals and researchers worldwide. The partners of the sTANDEM consortium have developed and tested examinations. At the same time, handbooks were written with guidelines for examination developers, examiners and examination centres.

The certification comprises tests for listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking and writing. Three groups of medical professionals are distinguished: physicians, nurses and pharmacists. Test materials have been developed at three levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): B1 (threshold or lower intermediate), B2 (vantage or upper intermediate) and C1 (effective operational proficiency or advanced).

Second sTANDEM exam session

On 27 September 2014 a second set of sTANDEM examinations was staged at 11 centres in Austria (2), France (2), Hungary (2), Poland (2), Romania (2) and Turkey (1). The total number of candidates was over 150. Earlier, on 22 March 2014, 80 candidates took examinations at four centres. Both examination sessions were meant to test the procedures and materials that the consortium developed to establish a uniform certification scheme for command of medical English. A third round of examinations is being held in November.

The future of sTANDEM

The sTANDEM project is now near the end, even though the official closing date has been postponed from 31 October 2014 to 31 December 2014. The sTANDEM partners are now investigating the possibilities to continue their work as a permanent consortium for developing and organizing examinations.

Many universities, language schools and other organisations have expressed their interest in cooperation with sTANDEM or its successor in developing and staging examinations.

Editor welcome

There is a need for a copy editor of the examination texts, preferably a native speaker with a medical background. Confidentiality is of utmost importance. This will be an unpaid task, at least for the short term. Information is available from EASE representative Arjan Polderman (a.k.s.polderman@pw.nl).

Publicity and dissemination

A major task for EASE in the sTANDEM project is to gain the support of the editorial community in promoting English language proficiency among authors who do not have English as their mother tongue. Publicizing the sTANDEM project among the editorial community requires that we have addresses of editors who can inform authors (and researchers in general) about the existence of this initiative to promote, assess and certify the command of professional English.

All persons and institutions interested in the sTANDEM initiative are welcome to learn more about the project at www.standem.eu.

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