

**Reviewer check-list\***

*The following are typical check-list points that a reviewer might be asked to respond to. Authors should also consider these points before finally submitting their paper and ask themselves the same questions.*

- Is this an original work that to your knowledge has not been published previously?
- Is the subject matter appropriate to the scope of the journal? (If not, suggest journals that might be more appropriate.)
- Title. Does the title give a clear and accurate description of the subject of the paper?
- Abstract and key words. Have the authors provided a concise abstract or summary that provides sufficient information on the rationale, the procedures followed and the main outcomes and conclusions? Have the authors provided appropriate key words?
- Does the paper make a worthwhile contribution to the state of knowledge or does it merely repeat existing information? Does it have international relevance?
- Has the author provided an Introduction that describes the rationale for the work, indicates familiarity with the 'state of the art' of the subject, with clear objectives and/or hypotheses which are followed up in the sections that follow?
- If the paper reports on an experiment, was the experimental design appropriate?
- Methods. Are the methods and materials described adequately (ie at a level of detail that would enable an informed researcher to repeat the investigation, but without excessive details that an informed reader would be expected to know)?
- Do any of the methods involve regulated procedures or other ethical issues (eg the use of live animals) that require approval by an ethical review committee? If so, is there clear evidence that standards have been fully met?
- Is there an adequate description of the methods used for data analysis and are the data analysis procedures appropriate for the work reported?
- Are the results clearly set out and the key findings described accurately?
- Has the author interpreted non-significant findings as though they were significant?
- Is the order of presentation consistent with that given in the objectives and methods sections?
- Tables and Figures. Are the tables and figures (if applicable) clear, with appropriate statistical significances given?
- Are all the tables and figures (graphs etc) provided appropriate, and do they have precise headings that describe exactly what they are intended to show?
- Is there any evidence of excessive duplication in presenting results in tables and figures?
- Are figures provided at a resolution that will allow for adequate reproduction in the printed version?
- Discussion. Does the discussion follow a clear and focused structure? Does it address the objectives as set out in the Introduction and consider the findings in relation to appropriate literature? If the work has a public policy relevance, have the authors indicated their familiarity with policy objectives.
- Conclusions. Are the conclusions adequately supported by the results as given and the intellectual interpretation that the authors have applied to them?
- References. Have the authors made appropriate use of published literature and presented the references in a format that is compatible with the style required by the journal?
- Spelling, grammar and style. Is the paper written in clear English that requires only minor editorial corrections, or is there a need for more substantial revisions?

\*Reproduced with kind permission from Alan Hopkins

## The origins of EASE

Maeve O'Connor

The European Association of Science Editors (EASE) is about to celebrate 30 years of existence — but a lot happened before 1982. EASE's ancestors were the European Association of Earth Science Editors (Editerra) and the European Association of Editors of Biological Periodicals (EAEBP). Both organizations started up at the end of the 1960s with examples from North America to follow. The Conference of Biological Editors (CBE) had been founded there in 1957 and in 1966 it gave birth to the Association of Earth Science Editors (AESE). Earlier, back in Europe, UNESCO was encouraged by the international unions IUGS and IUBS to promote similar organizations on this side of the Atlantic.

European earth scientists, sensibly, called their organization Editerra when it was constituted in Paris in

December 1968. The biologists, who had formed their organization in Amsterdam in April 1967, first lived with the initialism EAEBP. To everyone's relief they settled for the name European Life Science Editors (ELSE) at their first General Assembly at the Royal Society in London in 1970.

To start with, both organizations had various projects in mind. Editerra immediately produced a comprehensive list of subjects to be treated in a looseleaf handbook for editors. John Glen became editor of the handbook at Editerra's second General Assembly in Lämmi, Finland. Various working parties also came into being. Similarly, ELSE set up working parties on style manuals, refereeing, relations between primary and secondary journals, medical ethics and copyright.

From its very beginning, Editerra produced typed

reports and announcements of meetings etc likely to interest members. Known as Circular Letters, numbers M1 to M43 of these reports were sent to all members from 1969 to 1978. In addition, Circulars C1 to C4 went to Council members from 1969 to 1972. ELSE, too, produced typed newsletters, numbers 1-10 being sent to members between 1970 and 1976.

One of ELSE's projects was to produce a European version of CBE's *Style Manual* and at its 2nd General Assembly in Norway in 1973 Knut Fægri produced a plan for this that led to the publication in 1975 of *Writing Scientific Papers in English*, by F Peter Woodford and the present writer.

In 1975, although circular letters to members were still being sent out, Editerra published the first issue of a twice-yearly newsletter, *Earth Science Editing*, which was typewriter set and printed by Brown's Geological Information Service Ltd. ELSE soon became involved with this publication and the fourth issue (1977) changed its name to *Earth & Life Science Editing*. In 1981 the newsletter began to appear three times a year and it kept this name after the amalgamation of Editerra and EASE in 1982. In 1986, with issue 27, it became *European Science Editing: Bulletin of the European Association of Science Editors*. In 1997 it began to appear with volume numbers and continuous pagination, starting with vol. 23 no. 60. The bulletin was quietly transformed by its editor, Hervé Maisonneuve, into a journal with the first issue of 2002 (vol. 28 no. 1). Over the years the appearance of the publication has evolved too, and it acquired its present look in 2007.

### The amalgamation of Editerra and ELSE

Editerra and ELSE had very early realised that their interests were very similar, as shown by their collaboration on the newsletter. Then Nancy Morris, who had long been Editerra's Secretary, became Secretary and later Secretary-Treasurer of ELSE, too. Nancy was a prime mover in the amalgamation of the two associations that came about immediately after General Assemblies of the two

associations in Pau in May 1982, at a meeting organised by Henri Oertli of Elf-Aquitaine. The event was recorded in the newsletter (E&LSE No. 17, September 1982) by a poem from Nancy, as follows:

#### Ponderings on Pau

The guardians of the printed page  
Must face the Electronic Age,  
As evidenced when experts came  
To play this automation game.  
With word processors — join the Club!  
Computers have become the hub,  
Yet databases' infiltration  
May harbour useless information.  
The editor's now vital role  
Is — keep the chaos in control  
And penetrate this modern fog  
To see the "tail won't wag the dog".  
The meeting ran of course on oil  
With thanks to Henri's endless toil  
And no arrangements left to chance  
By ELF (*Easy Life in France*).  
And, staying on the lighter side,  
Some merry meals they did provide,  
A trip to Highest Pyrenees  
With snow-capped mountains, bread and cheese\*,  
And finally the Pays Basque  
What more could anybody ask?  
But one event we must record  
Which came about with great accord —  
The merging, after deep-laid plans,  
Of ELSE/Editerra clans  
And now we function under EASE  
So rally round, support us PLEASE!

\*a gross understatement!



The Pau meeting at which amalgamation of ELSE and Editerra took place (Elf-Aquitaine research centre, Pau, France, 11-14 May 1982). This picture, annotated with names of many people, can also be viewed on our website