News Notes

Elsevier buys Mendeley

The publisher Elsevier has bought the reference management and sharing service Mendeley (www.mendeley.com) in a deal reported by *The Financial Times* to be worth £45 million (€53 million). The deal was not unexpected and not hugely popular among academics, following long-running resentment of the publisher's pricing and bundling strategies. Others see conflicts between Elsevier's historic reluctance to adopt open access and Mendeley's sharing ethos and goal of being an open platform. Mendeley's founders stated that the product would remain true to its audience and that its search systems won't favour Elsevier content. Elsevier has immediately doubled the storage available on all free and paid Mendeley accounts and has pledged to provide users with greater access to data and analytics tools.

Wiley favours Readcube

Like Mendeley, Readcube was developed by frustrated academics as a way to organise references, but it has broadened into an article display tool with scholarly search and recommendation. In February, Wiley Online Library started integrating the Readcube web reader with many of its journals. Readers click on an 'Enhanced PDF' button to access the reader. Readcube is backed by Digital Science, a sister company of Nature Publishing Group.

New data journals

Nature Publishing Group has announced the launch of Scientific Data (www.nature.com/scientificdata), an online open-access journal that will include a new type of content called a 'data descriptor', which "combines traditional narrative content with curated, structured descriptions of research data, including detailed methods and technical analyses supporting data quality." The journal will open for submissions later in 2013, with launch scheduled for Spring 2014, and is working in partnerships with data repositories and other data services, including Dryad (datadryad.org), Biosharing (biosharing.org), Figshare (figshare.com) and Isatools (isa-tools.org). Another journal linking up with Dryad is *The Journal of Public Health Data* (openpublichealthdata.metajnl.com), published by Ubiquity Press. The journal, now open for submissions, publishes 'data papers', "which do not contain research results but rather a concise description of a dataset, and where to find it." The burgeoning field of of big data is also served by Springer's *Journal of Big Data* (www.journalofbigdata.com), now accepting submissions under the SpringerOpen banner. *Big Data* (www.liebertpub.com/big), published by Mary Ann Liebert Inc, is one step ahead, with its first issue out in February 2013.

Open Access in the UK

Following criticisms by the UK House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, Research Councils UK (a partnership of the seven UK research councils) has revised its policy on open access, following a further period of consultation. The new policy, issued on 9 April, clarifies that RCUK supports a mixed approach to open access, not favouring any particular route, and signals a move away from impact factor: "RCUK considers that it is the quality of the research proposed, and not where an author has or is intending to publish, that is of paramount importance."

Open access standards

NISO, the US standards origination (www.niso.org), is developing standards for open access metadata. The aim is to help readers understand the status of a given article, by standardizing metadata about accessibility, level of openness, re-use rights, and by displaying appropriate 'visual indicators' that reflect the underlying data. The project team will work aim to collaborate with CrossMark (www.crossref.org/crossmark), SPARC (www.sparc.arl.org) and other initiatives.

Text mining: what, how, why?

A new guide from the Publishing Research Consortium (PRC) explains how text mining and data mining work and how publishers can support mining by making their content more machine-readable. The guide, available from the PRC website (www.publishingresearch.net), describes how scientific articles have resulted from data mining the BrainMap (brainmap.org) neuroimaging database, and how the SureChem (www.surechem.com) chemistry search engine was created using text mining.

COPE guidelines on peer review

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) has issued new guidelines on ethics for peer reviewers. The guidelines, published in March on the COPE website (publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines), are designed to meet the needs of reviewers in any discipline who are new to reviewing and may not be aware of the ethical responsibilities that come with the role.

Men are to blame

The US Office of Research Integrity issues annual reports detailing cases of scientific misconduct. Researchers examined the annual reports issued since 1994 and found 215 cases of fraud. Their analysis, published in mBio (2013;4:e00640-12), showed that 88% of faculty members committing misconduct were male, with the gender balance being more even for students and post-docs.

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