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ECONOMICS AND FUNDING

Björk B-C, Solomon D. **Open access versus subscription journals: a comparison of scientific impact.**

BMC Medicine 2012;10:73

The aim of this study was to compare the scientific impact of open access (OA) journals with subscription journals, controlling for journal age, the country of the publisher, discipline and (for OA publishers) their business model. Results showed that OA indexed journals in Web of Science and/or Scopus were approaching the same scientific impact and quality as subscription journals, particularly in biomedicine and for journals funded by article processing charges.

doi: 10.1186/1741-7015-10-73

Sellwood S. **Editorial processing: to outsource or not?**

Learned Publishing 2012;25(3):225-230

This article examines the reasons why outsourcing the editorial assistant function might be of benefit to a journal, either as a temporary or permanent solution. It also examines the practical considerations of entering into such an arrangement - what should be looked for in a partner company and what can be expected from such a relationship. Finally, it offers a case study: the experience of the *Journal of Pathology*, which has outsourced its editorial assistant role for more than four years.

doi: 10.1087/20120310

Van Noorden R. **Journal offers flat fee for "all you can publish".**

Nature 14 June 2012;486(166)

An open access venture called *PeerJ* announced its launch on June 12, 2012. It aims to drive down the

costs of research publishing. *PeerJ* asks its authors for only a one-off fee to secure a lifetime membership that will allow them to publish free, peer reviewed research papers. Despite the low publication cost, its founders assure that articles will be peer reviewed for scientific validity.

doi: 10.1038/486166a

EDITORIAL PROCESS

Gasparyan AY, Kitas GD. **Best peer reviewers and the quality of peer review in biomedical journals.**

Croatian Medical Journal 2012;53(4):386-389

Evidence supporting peer review as a guarantor of the quality of biomedical publications is currently lacking. Its outcomes are largely dependent on the credentials of the reviewers. Some experts are in favor of formal education and courses on peer review for all those who will be involved in science writing and reviewing. Universities and learned associations as well may take the lead in organising educational activities.

doi: 10.3325/cmj.2012.53.386

ETHICAL ISSUES

Beall J. **Predatory publishers are corrupting open access.**

Nature 2012;489:179

Predatory publishers are those publishing counterfeit journals to exploit the author-pays open access model. They set websites that closely resemble those of legitimate online publishers, and publish journals of very low quality. Only after the paper is accepted and published, and copyright assigned, are the authors invoiced for the fees. The research community should use social networks such as Connotea and Mendeley to identify and share information on those publishers.

Kovacs J. **Honorary authorship epidemic in scholarly publications? How the current use of citation-based evaluative metrics make (pseudo)honorary authors from**

honest contributors of every multi-author article?

Journal of Medical Ethics 2012 August 3 (Epub)

In this paper attention is drawn to the unfair and discriminatory current use of citation-based metrics, that is similarly applied to authors of single-author papers and to contributors of multi-author papers. The author's proposal is that in case of multi-author articles, authors should be required to assign a numeric value to their degree of contribution. In this way, a contribution-specific index of each contributor for each citation metric could be created.

doi: 10.1136/medethics-2012-100568

Masic I. **Ethical aspects and dilemmas of preparing, writing and publishing of the scientific papers in the biomedical journals.**

Acta Informatica Medica 2012;20(3):141-148

In this paper the author discusses about preparing and submitting manuscripts - scientific, research, professional papers, reviews, and case reports. Issues are described from his perspective as an editor-in-chief of several biomedical journals, covering ethical aspects of authorship, conflict of interest, copyright, plagiarism, and duplicate publication. He also discusses important ethical dilemmas.

doi: 10.5455/aim.2012.20.141.148

Wager E, Kleinert S. **Cooperation between research institutions and journals on research integrity cases: guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).**

Acta Informatica Medica 2012;20(3):136-140

Recognising the important role that institutions have in investigating cases of suspected misconduct, but also the difficulties that sometimes arise when journals and institutions try to work together and share information on such cases, the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) has developed guidelines for cooperation between research institutions and journals on research integrity cases, also available at the COPE website.

doi: 10.5455/aim.2012.20.136-140

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Radicchi F, Castellano C. **Testing the fairness of citation indicators for comparison across scientific domains: the case of fractional citation counts.** *Journal of Informetrics* 2012;6(1): 121-130

The use of raw citation counts is generally misleading, especially when applied to cross-disciplinary comparisons, since the average number of citations is strongly dependent on the scientific discipline of reference of the article. The authors present a statistical method aimed at estimating the effectiveness of numerical indicators in eliminating citation biases. The method is simple to implement and can be easily generalised for various scenarios. doi: 10.1016/j.joi.2011.09.002

LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Quirk T. **Writers should not fear jargon.** *Nature* 2012;487:407

Specialised terms capture the complexity and specificity of scientific concepts. The truth tends to be complicated, and jargon offers its most obvious peek: compression. Researchers use complex language for a specific purpose, and science writers should be clear about what those reasons are. The author, a science writer, offers examples of what can be lost when jargon is not used. He believes that people seem to resent not just specialised language, but any language that requires a large degree of labour to understand, appreciate and use.

PUBLISHING

Larson EL, Cortazal M. **Publication guidelines need widespread adoption.** *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* 2012;65(3):239-246

This study aims to describe the development and adoption of general publication guidelines for various study designs; to provide an example of guidelines adapted for specific topics, and to recommend next steps. These include: increasing the use of available guidelines and their adoption among journals, educating

peer reviewers on their use, and incorporating guideline use into the curriculum of medical, nursing, and public health sectors.

Van Der Weyden MB. **On being the Editor of the Medical Journal of Australia: Living dangerously.** *Mens Sana Monographs* 2012;10(1):150-157

Editorial independence is crucial for the viability of a journal and editors have many masters - the public, the readers, the authors, and the owners. Editors are exposed to a wide range of opinions as to what should and should not be published. Their decision making is sometimes exposed to undue pressure by clinical groups. In addition, social media facilitates this manipulation. doi: 10.4103/0973-1229.91295

Lewis DW. **The inevitability of open access.** *College & Research Libraries* 2012;73(5):493-506

Using methods described by business theorist Clayton Christensen, this study suggests that gold open access, where all the articles of a journal are available at the time of publication, could account for 50% of the scholarly journal articles between 2017 and 202, and 90% of articles as soon as 2020 and more conservatively by 2025.

Morgan C, Campbell B, Teleen T. **The role of the academic journal publisher and open access publishing models.** *International Studies Perspectives* 2012;13(3):228-234

This article explores the role and value of the academic journal publisher as paradigms of open access gain momentum and challenge the standards of paid subscription models. The two main versions of open access publishing currently at large - gold and green - pose a challenge to the user-pays models that have served as a foundation of the business since its inception. doi: 10.1111/insp..2012.13.issue-3/issuetoc

RESEARCH EVALUATION

Butler D. **Scientists: your number is up.** *Nature* 31 May 2012;485:564

The Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) has been launched this year. It is an identifier system that will distinguish between authors who share the same name. It aims at reliably attributing research outputs to their true author by assigning every scientist in the world a machine-readable, 16-digit unique digital identifier. If ORCID takes off, it could increase the precision and breadth of scientific metrics and help in developing new analyses of social networks. doi:10.1038/485564a

Eysenbach G. **Can tweets predict citations? Metrics of social impact based on Twitter and correlation with traditional metrics of scientific impact.** *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 2011;13(4):e123

Tweets can predict highly cited articles within the first three days of article publication. Social impact measures as the so-called twimpact factor, based on tweets, are proposed to complement traditional citation metrics. Tweetations should be primarily seen as a metric to measure public interest in a specific topic, while citations are primarily a metric for scholarly impact. doi: 10.2196/jimr.2012

SCIENCE

Akritidis L, Katsaros D, Bozani P. **Identifying attractive research fields for new scientists.** *Scientometrics* 2012;91(3):869-894

The authors attempted to identify the research fields that could be attractive to a scientist prior to the beginning of his/her scientific career by combining the characteristics of attractive research areas and the new scholars. Conclusions showed that not all trendy research areas were suitable for new scientists but that they were also interested in not emerging scientific fields. doi: 10.1007/s11192-012-0646-4

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