European Science Editing

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European Association of Science Editors

From the editors' desks

A success!

Despite all the unrest on the world front and the threat of a Sars epidemic, the Eighth General Assembly and Conference in Bath in June was definitely a success. The final number of participants came to 202. For reports on its lively workshops and other sessions, see this issue and the next. Many thanks once again to all those who worked so hard to make the Conference possible.

Winner of the draw

All those who turned in their badges to help further recycling efforts at the end of the Conference will be happy to know that Jane Sykes of The Netherlands was the lucky winner of the badge draw. Congratulations Jane! You can expect your prize of *Schott's Original Miscellany* via the mail.

Science Editors' Handbook

As promised, all those who registered for the Bath Conference received the 47-chapter edition of the *Science Editors' Handbook*, complete with a handsome blue looseleaf binder. Paid-up members who couldn't get to Bath will receive the new chapters within the next couple of months but will have to buy the binder separately. The binder costs £7.50 if sent to addresses within Europe, outside Europe £11.00. The binder and all chapters cost £18 within Europe, £21.50 outside Europe. Orders should be sent to Georgianna Oja, Nyyrikintie 14 A 1, FIN-33540 Tampere, Finland; e-mail secretary @ease.org.uk.

Time to visit Cracow

The Council has decided that the Ninth triennial EASE General Assembly and Conference will be held in the beautiful city of Cracow, Poland, the tentative schedule being the third or fourth week of June 2006. So please mark your calendar.

Members retiring from the Editorial Board

The Editorial Board extends its heartfelt thanks to its retiring members, Jean Shaw, Pehr Enckell and Arjan Polderman, all of whom have worked long and hard to make EASE publishing efforts a success. The Editorial Board now answers to the new Publications Committee listed on the right.

Roger Bénichoux

We regret to announce that Professor Roger Bénichoux died on 20 June 2003. A long-standing member of EASE, he was a former Vice-President and member of Council and was also a member of the Editorial Board.

Contributions for the next issue

Contributions for the next issue are invited and should be sent to the appropriate member of the Editorial Board (see right, and see the Instructions to Authors on the EASE web site: www.ease. org.uk/). The deadline for the November issue is **15 September**.

Editorial

Who owns intellectual property?

Small have continual plodders ever won,
Save base authority for others' books.
Shakespeare: Love's Labour's Lost

These are exciting times we live in. A dynamic online era is upon us. The questions are many, the answers few. Where are we going? Are we prepared to play an active role in what the near future might hold for us as disseminators of scientific knowledge? What can we as EASE members do to help the science community find alternatives to the current institutionalized form of publishing through commercial publishing houses? Will the commercial publishers be given a back seat in academic initiatives for change in the future?

For decades now universities, researchers, and academic institutions have been denying themselves the rights to the scientific information they produce. They have, almost of necessity, forfeited their rights to ownership of their research results with very little due compensation. Why? Mainly because there have been few if any alternatives. This situation has led to the development of core journals with high impact factors and increased visibility of research results. Few researchers would forgo the opportunity to add prestige to their work. Add to this the value of recognition and promotion within one's field of research. Should we wonder then at the individual scientist's urge to become one of the few to receive recognition by these means?

The major drawback to this situation in publishing is that for years universities and the research community have been obliged to buy back at great cost the results of their research, in other words their own intellectual property. Librarians, who struggle year after year to balance their budgets, have pointed out again and again, with varying degrees of success, that commercial publishers have continued to increase journal prices while library budgets have been subjected to enormous cuts over the past few years. We are left with a remarkable equation with no solution in sight. A new equation needs to be formed, one with a solution that leads to equity in publishing and the dissemination of scientific knowledge throughout the academic world at least cost.

Publishing disparities are an international phenomenon; they affect many of the small non-profit publishers whose journals are often the first to be removed from the library shelves, mainly because they do not belong to the core journals with high impact factors that librarians are more or less obliged to have on their shelves or online. However, high impact factors depend to a large extent on an international journal's visibility in a broad research community. How visibility can be improved when a journal is not even on shelves or online at libraries is another issue. This is not only a problem for non-profit journals in "developed" countries; it is also a major obstacle to small scientific journals published in emerging countries, many of which are completely disregarded by the organization responsible for applying what has become a quality hallmark in science, i.e. ISI. However absurd this may seem, the hallmark is with us today and is accepted and employed within the academic community.

A change is sorely needed and change is coming, a change that will in large measure be driven by the scientific community itself. The internet and online publishing are paving the way for change — for a rapid, less expensive, way to communicate science. Innovative models have been initiated in the past few years and are now being tested by researchers, universities, and not-for-profit organizations around the world: witness the Public Library of Science (PLoS), the Scholarly Publishing and Resources Coalition (SPARC), BioOne, and the Open Archives Initiative (OAI), to mention only a few of the key players. These players are also being backed up by scientists, librarians, editors and others around the world. The success or failure of any initiative to return intellectual property rights to the academic community will depend in large degree on the academic community itself — universities, researchers, institutions, editors, referees.

As mentioned, most researchers have been only too content to see their research results published in core journals, visibility and prestige being important to scientists, as well as being career assets. But is the cost to the academic community as a whole worth the sacrifice on this altar? Is the more or less inelastic economy of science publishing truly adequate for international academic needs? Does the academic community really wish to continue to produce scientific information at an ever-increasing cost to itself?

Let us return to the question of what organizations like EASE can contribute to the debate, and to easing the path to system change and a new and dynamic future for science publishing. The changes foreseen are bound to affect most EASE members in one way or another. A first step for EASE would be to form a small standing committee to monitor the many initiatives already under way, and to analyse the current position as it relates to EASE members and to the organization as a whole. Should we be making contact with organizations with similar goals to discover possible forms of cooperation? As an organization we must take an active part in the ongoing processes in the publishing marketplace. EASE members have quality know-how to sell. As editors, we have an important role to play in the changes now affecting the whole publishing world and our professional lives.

EASE is not an organization of "plodders" and never has been. Let us pool the combined knowledge inherent in EASE with that of others: universities, researchers, library groups, and all those engaged in redirecting ownership of intellectual property back to the academic community and the general public.

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Editing in my country

This article initiates what we hope will be a series of presentations reflecting the changes in scientific editing in various countries during recent decades. The limited space in the journal suggests that authors should restrict themselves to a specific field or specialty, or even a specific problem, rather than try to present the overall situation in their countries.

Scientific medical journals in Poland

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To start, some basic changes observed in the field of editing and publishing of scientific medical journals in Poland are presented. A specific factor, experienced by at least some other Central European countries (unlike well-established democracies), was that the changes in editing reflected not only progress in knowledge and technology, but also the important changes in the political and economic situation. Although Poland was a member of the allied coalition from the beginning of World War II, the country — after the well-known Teheran-Yalta-Potsdam sequence of events — eventually lost the war and remained behind the Iron Curtain for the following decades. All industries, including publishing, were nationalized immediately after the war. Government-owned publishing houses were subsequently established, usually one for each field. One of these, the State Medical Publishers, held the monopoly for editing and publishing medical books and journals in Poland for the next 45 years, until 1989.

State publishers worked with academic editors

How did this influence the editorial process of scientific medical journals? Fortunately, the scientific profile remained in the hands of medical professionals. Chief editors and members of the editorial boards were elected by scientific societies. Usually each major specialty society had one journal; also, most prominent institutions, e.g. the National Cancer Institute, could edit their own journal and elect their editors. Medicine was regarded by the communist party officials as a relatively non-political matter and it therefore enjoyed less political supervision than other, more "suspicious" disciplines (like history, philosophy or social sciences). All the work other than peer-review and eventual acceptance of papers was performed by the State Medical Publishers. They also covered all the publishing costs, using government money. They had easy access to the official deliveries of paper, and also access to state-owned printing machines (others were not available) — in centrally governed countries this was more treasured than money in those days. They could also progress their products smoothly through the Censors' Office (do not imagine that, although regarded as relatively "safe", medical journals were not read carefully by state censors). Thus State Medical Publishers were offering journal editors the comfort of taking care of everything other than scientific assessment of articles. The posts of chief editor and membership of the editorial boards could therefore be offered to the most prominent scientists, without bothering them with the "know-how" of the technical editorial and publishing processes, or the need to care for financial support. The "editorial office" was most often the medical office of a professor currently holding the post of chief editor, and the "editorial staff" was most often his secretary.

The decline of medical journals in the 90's

All this changed dramatically after 1989, with the symbolic fall of the Berlin Wall and the beginning of the "democratic transformation" in Central Europe. Several government-owned institutions were either gradually swallowed up by international financial institutions or disappeared. Profit became the prime objective and publishing medical scientific journals was then regarded as non-profitable. The State Medical Publishers became a private company and immediately decided to stop publishing all medical journals in the country. For a while, the situation seemed drastic. The journals lost their sources of finance. The editorial support of the state publisher was no longer there. Medical societies and chief editors were left alone with the prestigious titles of their journals, either to survive, or to perish. The ongoing technological revolution and the beginning of the "electronic era", both in editing and in publishing (requiring new skills and efforts), made the situation even more difficult. Two things were most urgently needed — money and know-how.

Industry became the source of financing

The first need was very quickly met by the pharmaceutical industry. Advertising in journals (unthinkable before) became the prime source of financing, as the income from subscribers' fees was only a fraction of what was needed. Technological progress, which was implemented very quickly in all sectors of public life, resulted here in easy access to computers, software, desktop publishing, modern printing technologies and, eventually, the internet. Thus, the "publishing" aspect was developing quickly, and the technical quality of journals soon became comparable to international standards.

Nevertheless, the implementation of rapid progress in editorial knowledge and technology varied substantially from journal to journal. Personal international contacts of chief editors (e.g. membership of EASE) undoubtedly played an important positive role. Quite soon, some of the journals reached

a level comparable to their Western European counterparts. They started to publish in English to present original Polish work to the international scientific community. This seemed an obvious direction, if we keep the assumed integration with EU countries in mind. The development of certain other journals was slower. It seemed, however, that with financial resources available and editorial skills improving, the future of medical scientific journals in Poland could be assessed as relatively safe.

However, the large advertising potential of the pharmaceutical industry (Poland with 40 million inhabitants was regarded as a very tempting market) resulted in the emergence of a new category of periodicals — those published for profit. These were private ventures, being neither the organs of highly esteemed medical societies nor the representatives of major scientific institutions. These journals started to publish translations from international periodicals and short reviews, but also included some original papers which had been rejected by more esteemed Polish journals. Being an "easy read", published entirely in Polish, they gained considerable popularity among less demanding readers.

An entirely new development in this race for a share in the advertising market was the recent introduction of Polish language versions of major international journals (e.g. *JAMA*, *BMJ*, *Lancet*). A ranking system to define the journals presenting original work and to assess them according to their quality has now been introduced. It also aims to index the contents of those journals in the form of abstracts and present them worldwide in the form of a large database. This project is called Index Copernicus. It may eventually serve the entire region, and it deserves a separate presentation.

Correspondence

"Rejected but available": a new way for journals to be open to innovative ideas

How can scientific publishing help promote a more open and tolerant scientific communication system while also maintaining quality? The history of science shows that on many occasions innovative discoveries (Horrobin 1990) or important articles were rejected by referees and editors of academic journals (Campanario 1995). At other times, challengers to dominant theories and paradigms have had a hard time getting published in mainstream journals (Martin 1999). These dissidents sometimes complain about censorship in science. Such complaints can reduce public confidence in science by creating an image of corruption and abuse by gatekeepers of orthodoxy.

Editors of academic journals argue that they have to reject many papers because they contain mistakes, or are not of sufficient quality or novelty, or just because journal space is scarce. They also want to protect readers from bad science. Readers trust academic journals when they believe that referees are doing their work properly. However, this process sometimes causes editors to reject path-breaking work: had the authors of some important discoveries not persisted, some Nobel-Prize-winning contributions might have been effectively suppressed (Campanario 1995).

How can the gatekeeping role of journal editors and referees be squared with openness to unorthodox but potentially important contributions? Some attempts and experiences exist on the publication of non-accepted papers (e.g. Marshall 2003). For example, articles posted on Netprints "have not yet been accepted for publication by a peer reviewed journal" (http://clinmed.netprints.org/).

Another cheap and simple way to avoid scientific suppression is for every issue of a journal to devote a page to a list of authors and manuscript titles that have been recently rejected and also include a full URL address on the journal web site from which an electronic version of the rejected manuscript can be downloaded. Authors could choose between this approach and the traditional system in which their manuscripts are processed confidentially. If they prefer the new option, their rejected manuscripts would be labelled as "rejected but available". Readers interested in these manuscripts could download them and judge at their own risk. Even better, if referees agree, readers would also be entitled to web access to referees' reports to discover the "mistakes" in the manuscript or the reasons for the rejection.

With this new system, many innovative and unorthodox papers would be made available to interested readers; in some cases those papers could be inspiring. For many challengers of dominant paradigms, having papers "rejected but available" would be enough to announce their ideas to the world and their complaints would be avoided. Journal editors could experiment with this system that would allow more openness in science.

Given that a public rejection can be embarrassing, only scientists who strongly believe in the soundness of their work would be likely to follow the new track. Journal editors could ask authors to reveal whether any submission on a topic had been previously "rejected but available"; with access to referees' reports, this information would reduce the global workload on editors and referees. Having such a publication outlet could well increase the amount of more speculative work. Charges of censorship and abuse of power by editors would be easily refuted.

A by-product of the above approach is that referees would be more accountable. This new method would also avoid the risk that authors are forced to publish their articles in obscure and/or inadequate journals after some rejections. Another by-product is that many manuscripts that are considered good but

not good enough to warrant publication, because of lack of space in the journal or other reasons, could still be made available to readers on the journal web site. As is often said, the reader is the ultimate referee.

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Reports of meetings

Interacting with the digital environment: modern scientific publishing

46th Annual Meeting of the Council of Science Editors (CSE)
3–6 May 2003; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

The digital age is here with its myriad new technologies. What is the impact of these new technologies? How will they change the very nature of the scientific publishing business and scientific organizations? What are the ethical issues raised by digital technology? What will happen to long-established institutions, such as copyright, the embargo system, and methods of peer review? How will the day-to-day business of publishing and printing be impacted? What needs to be overhauled or re-engineered? What are some new and more effective ways to present scientific information and improve our understanding of scientific information access, use, and readership? These are some of the questions discussed at the recent CSE meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

According to Brenda Gregoline, 2002–2003 Program Chair, this meeting was attended by over 350 people, including many who were new members or attending the conference for the first time. She noted the high quality of the presentations and the professionalism of the speakers, as well as the hard work of the CSE members who constituted the program committee.

The conference comprised 32 concurrent sessions, a keynote address, and two plenary sessions. Below are some highlights.

Keynote address: Author/institution self-archiving and the future of peer-reviewed journals

Stevan Harnad for 12 years has been arguing that the current system of researchers giving all rights to journal publishers restricts access to research information. He believes that authors should be able to post their peer-reviewed articles in freely available archives. This would increase the impact of their research on the progress of science. As it stands now, publishers are the primary beneficiaries of research information because they charge others for access to the material. Access to the material, therefore, is restricted to those who can afford to purchase it, such as institutions. A comprehensive treatment of Harnad's argument can be read in the September 1998 *American Scientist Forum* (www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/~harnad/Hypermail/Amsci/subject.html). Through an "open access" rather than a "toll access" method for disseminating research information, citations of articles will increase and therefore the goal of scientists will be achieved, that goal being to advance the progress of science.

Plenary address: Ethics, science, and politics of cloning: the costly dilemma

Bypassing peer review is a great concern when it comes to any scientific innovation, but particularly when it comes to issues involving the beginning of life. Robert A Weinberg explained the two types of cloning — reproductive and therapeutic — and the push to grab headlines, bypassing peer review. Reproductive cloning, such as in the instance of Dolly the sheep and subsequent claims of cloned humans, is of great concern, according to Weinberg, because many reporters accept such information without question. Biotechnology companies have jumped in feet first, cloning cows and other animals, then going directly to the press with their results rather than publishing their findings in peer-reviewed journals to allow scientific scrutiny. Debates about the morality of cloning have resulted in a decrease in federal funding; however, the private sector continues with cloning despite the controversy. Because people differ in their beliefs about when life begins, the cloning controversy will continue.

Concurrent sessions

The concurrent sessions included practical discussions about daily operations in the editorial office. For example, how does one select a web-based database for manuscript tracking and peer review, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of choosing a commercially available product over a custom-developed system? Tables and graphs, a staple of scientific communication, and how to use them effectively to transmit scientific information, provided a lively discussion, with participants critiquing examples. The

other type of medical visuals — images — was discussed. Effective use of biomedical images in science articles requires considerable thinking and planning, according to Cassio Lynm, a medical illustrator, who emphasized that visual communicators must "develop a critical eye" to "maintain scientific integrity and standards of publication excellence".

A very useful session discussed the best ways to compose author queries to obtain the information you need in an author-friendly manner. Sessions on the future of e-journals, the news embargo, the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOI), the expanding use of personal digital assistants (PDAs), what librarians want and need from journals, the reading process, challenges to the tradition of copyright, medical robotics, security concerns in the light of bioterrorism and the potential misuse of scientific information, and much more, provided stimulation and inspiration to attendees at this year's conference. With so much pertinent information delivered, I am sure everyone went home with much to ponder.

Detailed reports of all the sessions will be available in *Science Editor.*

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Editing and scientific "truth"

Eighth General Assembly and Conference of the European Association of Science Editors
8–11 June 2003; Bath, UK

Authors' misconduct
(M1, moderator Elisabeth Kessler)

Elisabeth Kessler started this workshop by listing the forms of misconduct by authors: plagiarism, piracy, multiple submissions, falsification of results, using other people's data, republishing the same paper with a different title or in different journals, falsification of authors' names including naming co-authors without their permission. She asked us to consider how widespread the problem is and how referees, editors and authors' editors can help to identify cases. She hoped the workshop might help to provide guidelines for editors in dealing with this problem.

Roger Wäppling then gave us a few examples. Chance often plays a big part in identifying misconduct, for example when a repeat paper is sent to the same referee by the second journal or when a Chinese translation of the paper was published and seen by an aggrieved Chinese author whose work had been misused.

Bruce Dancik advised that sending copies of the receipt advice to all named authors dealt with the problem of "authors" who did not know their name was being used. Linus Svensson asked whether journals ought to bring cases of misconduct to the attention of the authors' institutions, and Barbara Burlingame replied that one could not always trust a challenge; one should first inform the author and only go further if there was no satisfactory explanation or reply.

There was some discussion of whether authors of a paper which had been held up for a very long time by one journal ought to be free to submit it elsewhere, and also whether a paper that had been published in one language, particularly not one commonly understood, might also be published in another such as English. It was generally agreed that this was acceptable if both journals knew about it and agreed, and if due reference to the original paper was included.

The role of authors' editors was discussed; they may be in a good position to identify some forms of misconduct, but were not necessarily able to report it easily. There should be a clear route by which authors' editors could raise such queries without any danger of their being punished for "whistle blowing".

Guidelines to authors issued by journals ought to make clear what was regarded as misconduct, and referees ought to be encouraged to inform editors of any misgivings they have.

We were challenged to produce concrete evidence that misconduct was on the increase. Certainly most of those present felt it was, but did we have real evidence other than an increase in the number of cases reported? This might be due to increased awareness or an increased reluctance to sweep cases under the carpet. Perhaps someone (possibly EASE) should ask editors about the incidence over past periods of time.

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Editorial bias/Bias from all sources
(M2/M6, moderators David Sharp and Magne Nylenna)

"From bias free of ev'ry kind, this trial must be tried." So declares a court official in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury,* and those attending this combined workshop in Bath were happy to accept that the rule applied to trials of the scientific kind too. Perhaps not all bias was bad, in the sense that journals are entitled to have (preferably declared) selection policies such as "no animal studies" that authors might perceive as bias. Topic fatigue was also recognized. The two moderators next persuaded the group to list all points in the scientific publication process where bias might arise and then to come up with ways of preventing it, a difficult task in the time available because the opportunities for bias soon grew to about 15, though well short of the 50 recorded by one expert. Peer review was looked at to eliminate some biases, though this scrutiny of papers could itself introduce bias unless there was great

care with the choice of referees and considerable intimate knowledge of their potential conflicts. Conflict-of-interest statements may help too, not so much in preventing bias as in warning editor, referee and reader where there may be a risk of unbalanced interpretation of data. Andrew Herxheimer (UK) noted that a simple conflict statement is not always very revealing; sometimes an editor might have to interview an author to explore potential conflicts. Jaffar Al-Bareeq (Bahrain) described what sounded like institutional bias. His journal struggles to achieve high standards while being starved, he claimed, of resource and support locally, and this experience served as a reminder of the harsher world that some journals face.

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Is rewriting ethical?
(M4, moderator Elizabeth Wager)

Liz Wager introduced the session by pointing out that there is a spectrum of rewriting, in terms of style and content; we would all recognize the extremes. Expertise in a subject is useful, but even lay readers can spot flaws in logic. Does "it" work? We don't know what "it" is — something that happens between acceptance and publication does improve readability slightly, and improves the quality of reporting. We don't know if house style helps. She asked, what is the difference (other than competing interests) between an authors' editor doing "heavy editing" before acceptance, and a journal editor doing it?

Musical quotations provided a counterpoint to Ivor Cavill's contribution. The methods of producing data impact on the validity and interpretation of results; rewriting helps authors present useful data and to concentrate on presenting the data, rather than on the writing. It can also help authors tobreak away from over-analysis. What we do with data is a subjective thing — if rewriting helps the reader to see this, it's good. He identified some writing syndromes: AAS, anxious author syndrome, characterized by repeating concepts at frequent intervals, especially in the discussion section; EAAS, extremely anxious author syndrome, repeating concepts in consecutive sentences; and RAS, reflective author syndrome, characterized by quaint asides, an omphaloscopic viewpoint, and overuse of "interestingly". Rewriting by the author should clarify, specify the essentials, and remove speculation; rewriting by the editor is permissible if it clarifies, saves the author embarrassment, and doesn't alter the message — but not if it shows off the editor's erudition, puts the editor's spin on the piece, or inflates the editor's ego.

Yes, it is ethical to make the text understandable to the reader, argued Karen Shashok, but "there's no need to correct anything if the reader will understand it". Her goal is to make sure that the reader of the final version doesn't have the problems she had with the original submission. Beyond having editing qualifications, you need to know your target readership. If the author's first language isn't English, it's helpful to know the source language and have the untranslated document in front of you: "the sooner you can fix the problems, the better off the author and reader are going to be".

Non-specialists can pick up on logical failings that peers won't — peers are intrinsic experts and won't pick up that outsiders will need some extra information.

Just because we *can* make something more readable and accessible, does it mean we *should*, asked Pritpal Tamber. Ego-driven decisions are made by journals that have a brand; he's not sure every journal has to do this. Specialists know what specialists are on about. Use of individual articles, not tied to the journal name, is changing the economy of how users pay for science. But do we know enough about what's being written, and about what's being read — and are we justified in what we do to text, if we don't know how people read? He deplored the trend for authors to write abstracts to market their article. It's important to make sure articles can be found — use the right words so that indexing services can pick them up, and get the references correct so that automatic links can be made. If 80% of what's published is never read (or at least never cited), can you justify paying a copy editor? The ethics of rewriting depends on the timing — at what point do we get involved — and is complicated by inadequate disclosure — are ghost writers authors, should they sign a competing interests form? "Get it out in the open and we can all talk about it."

From the discussion it emerged that most abstracts in journals are unintelligible; synonyms should be liberally used to make articles more retrievable; authors' editors should be acknowledged; the lifespan of a product determines how much editing is needed or should be done; rewriting can remove an element of danger and protect both readers and authors; authors want to be published, so they will agree to revisions; authors who need the most work done on their article are the least able to tell if it's been altered wrong; it is to be hoped that authors will learn from the rewriting experience; authors can't do their own shortening, and it's mostly shortening that's needed. It was re-emphasised that the aim of rewriting is to make an article as clear as possible, and we were reminded that sometimes readers do show some signs of intelligence.

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Non-commercial publishing: is the internet really a new challenge?
(M11, moderator Paola De Castro)

The question posed in the title of the workshop was a real challenge. Of course it was not solved in the two hours in which presentations were followed by amiable and informal debate. This workshop seemed to be the natural continuation of the one on "Open access to scholarly publication" (moderated by Reme Melero) held earlier and most of the attendees were the same, so the themes of free and open access and the different concerns and interests of editors, readers and librarians in the changing editorial environment were debated in depth.

Paola De Castro (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome) described the publishing procedures of her institute, which had played an important role in the promotion of public health in Italy, and told us how

these procedures were being modified in response to the changing needs and attitudes of those involved in the information production chain.

Tony McSean (British Medical Association) described the particularities of his library which, although it is one of the largest medical libraries in London and looks after the needs of the more than 100 000 members of the BMA, has very few physical visitors. He said that publishers are reluctant to offer consortia deals for electronic journal subscriptions to libraries like this and discussed some of the access problems of electronic journals for its users.

Hooman Momen (World Health Organization) then spoke about the challenges faced by an editor of a scientific periodical published by a government institute or intergovernmental organization. Despite disadvantages such as these journals being perceived to be "endogenous", the internet has given their editors new tools to exploit their advantages — such as the ability to experiment with open access and open archives as they do not rely on subscriptions for most of their income. The session ended with a general discussion on the problems of access to the scientific literature, especially for developing countries, and the fair use of copyright.

In the lively discussions after the presentations the opinions of Jean Claude Guèdon (University of Montreal) were particularly appreciated.

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Learned society journals
(M15, moderator Douglas Simpson)

The ideal arrangement for avoiding conflict in the publishing of journals by professional bodies is where the editor is also the publisher, at least so far as the main titles are concerned. That was one of the conclusions drawn by Douglas Simpson (former editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*). That is the set-up at the British Medical Association with the *BMJ*, and at the British Veterinary Association with the *Veterinary Record*. Mike Grace told the workshop that he too had a combined role, as editor of the *British Dental Journal* and director of publishing at the British Dental Association.

Professional bodies are increasingly seeking to make money though their publishing activities. The need to attract advertising could lead to pressures on editors. Editors are in a better position to withstand inappropriate pressure when they also have the publishing role.

Another means of lessening conflict is for editors to have responsibilities and relationships with other staff clearly defined. Professional bodies are entitled to set strategic goals for their titles but, within that, editors should have freedom to conduct their journals without interference.

Another point the moderator made was that professional bodies could change their nature and this could lead to problems for their editors, who might not personally approve of the new direction of travel.

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Choosing and keeping referees
(W2, moderator Markku Löytönen)

In this workshop "choosing" was taken to include not only selecting names from an existing database of referees but also the search for new people, without whom the database would stagnate. From the disciplines of medicine, geography and genetics, speakers Torben Schroeder (Denmark), Paul Fogelberg (Finland), David Sharp (UK), and Waleria Mlyniec (Poland) all in different ways stressed the importance of having a keyword-searchable, preferably computer-based referee database that recorded not just the special interests of referees and their contact details but also their previous and current work for the journal and notes of matters such as absence on holiday or sabbatical. New names can be added, even if not for immediate use, from sources such as letters to the editor, international publication databases, conferences, and authors' own recommendations. Few journals can afford to pay referees and anyway the amounts can never reflect the work done. Speakers and other workshop attendees agreed that referees ought to be thanked even if there is no reward such as money, an annual dinner, book tokens, or subscription vouchers (or the chocolate sent to one deprived emigrant referee). And not just thanked but also kept in the picture about the progress of the paper they have reviewed. As with so many suggestions, this is resource-dependent, but subject to that limitation — a limitation made less onerous if the journal is fully electronic or uses a web site for submission and peer review — journals can let referees see other referees' reports; they can update referees on editorial decisions including the final one; and they can circulate the revised papers. Naming referees in papers when published was thought dangerous because it might imply that the referee had voted for acceptance, but there are other ways of achieving public acknowledgment such as an annual listing of referees who have assisted the journal, published in the paper journal or on the journal's website.

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Guides to authors and the peer-review process (W5, moderator John Glen)

The speakers in this session were Lindsay Haddon and Ron Price. Participants agreed that authors often ignore or misinterpret journal instructions, so most of the session dealt with current practices and suggestions for encouraging authors to adhere to journal standards.

Guidelines vary widely: some are minutely detailed, and others touch on only a few issues. Some authors obey flawlessly, and others ignore

instructions. Some editors are nit-picking fusspots, and others are widely tolerant. One editor wonders if we're overdoing the emphasis on conformity. Others have detected a trend toward less rigid standards. Many current guides were written when secretaries prepared manuscripts, but most authors now do their own, suggesting the guides might need revision. One editor put his journals' guidelines online and found they were better read than paper ones — and can easily be updated. If reviewers were asked to comment on whether a paper follows instructions, would authors be more likely to follow the guides? Participants said referees are too busy looking for big things and should not be expected to worry about trivial ones. Journal editors judge whether the manuscript meets style standards and may send it back for corrections before or after the review. If authors fail to conform to the style guide, will their papers be rejected? One editor said no but sometimes returns non-conforming manuscripts for revision before sending them to reviewers (if the paper has a repeated problem such as omitting titles from references). A managing editor of four related journals recently reviewed and revised their guides. She made them similar so that their disciplinary connection would be more recognizable but also emphasized what kinds of papers each journal considers. Authors for her journals have recently been asked to submit papers electronically; in the first month, only 12 of 200 papers arrived on paper!

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In the public interest?
(W8, moderator Roderick Hunt)

This, the last workshop session listed at Bath, attracted a couple of dozen participants who gathered to consider some big imponderables. Moderator Roderick Hunt (Sheffield, UK) opened the discussion by approaching "public interest" through a personal view of the main theme of the conference, namely the nature of scientific "truth". He described a cascade of different forms and degrees of truth, derived from both Eastern and Western traditions. In the Vedic philosophy, he explained, the absolute truth is directly accessible only to exceptional prophets, philosophers or gurus. Access by others to secondary versions of this truth is possible, but only by means of careful preparation of mind, body and spirit. Scientific truth is, therefore, a tertiary form of truth, concerned with everyday verifiability but not necessarily with absolutes. It is simply, in Hunt's personal definition, an "informed consensus". Though we still expect it to look towards inaccessible absolutes, scientific truth is actually valued more because it works than because it we believe it to be true.

Gaining access to this scientific truth is clearly an evidence-based activity. But as evidential observations, either direct or indirect, are made by imperfect, fourth-level processes, they can be further corrupted by faulty writing and/or editing at a fifth level. So science editing has a clear duty, from its lowly position in this "truth hierarchy", to do what it can to move things along in the right direction, or at least not make matters any worse.

Steve Hughes (University of Exeter, UK) continued by exploring the ways in which scientific truth can enter the public domain. Fifty years or more ago science was itself an open community, visible to both the direct participants and a wider public. Recent practices however, have drawn science into a more private form of publication. Was this trend acceptable? Should the public pay for their science only to see it, for all practical purposes, withheld? For example, the patenting of GMOs (genetically-modified organisms, with genomes modified by man rather than by evolution) is technically a form of publication, but one which is, effectively, almost secret.

The companies involved in the development of commercial GMOs are few and powerful and are able to control access to the knowledge they generate. They may be justified in withholding "knowledge how", but isn't "knowledge that" the public's own property? GMO patents commonly lack true innovation; they are simply observations. To withhold knowledge is wrong: it arrests the correct appropriation of the scientific truth. "Knowledge that" should all be in the public domain. Intellectual property rights are all very well but should not be allowed to control the flow of knowledge; "freedom to operate" should be given to other practitioners. In software engineering there is an "openware" model, whereby multiple authors can access and improve upon preceding work. This could, with benefit, be adopted by genomics.

Keith Dawes (Mannheim, Germany) then considered the role of the pharmaceutical giants and the copious patent filings which emerge from their massive R&D operations. These companies are driven by the "need to succeed" and the long, long pathway from idea to product is patiently but ruthlessly pursued as thoroughly as possible. Publication *is* an objective because it helps to drive the research cycle but, that apart, its significance to the company is subtly different from the norm. Manipulation of key messages is the game. "Spin", however subtle, is attempted wherever possible; suppression of uncomfortable findings can occur; multiplication or near-duplication of favourable results is encouraged; easy publication in low-quality journals is often accepted (these journals may not be weighted in any subsequent bibliographical meta-analysis — "never mind the quality, feel the width"); researchers can also be offered "help with the wording".

All of this amounts to an attempt to enjoy the benefits of scientific publication without paying all of the costs. This is *selective* evidence-based medicine. There is much room for improvement here. Real training and education needs exist. Voluntary methods have to be made to work if further regulation is to be avoided

Not surprisingly, the discussion after all of this was wide-ranging and vigorous, with prominent contributions from Iain Chalmers, Ed Huth, Richard Raper, Nina Rehnqvist, Kate Younger, and others. Because the pharmaceutical industry is reluctant to act without the prospect of benefit, increased regulation of publicly

registered trials might be the only answer. Sooner or later the issue of "freedom of information" arises and all trials should be reported anyway. But the scientific journals do not *have* to publish all the uninteresting results from unsuccessful trials; however, there should be no such thing if the trials included proper scientific questions in the first place. Perhaps non-journal forms of publication should be considered more, for example public databases? Ultimately we have to decide which is more powerful, society or the pharmaceutical companies.

On the issue of public understanding of science (PUS) there was general agreement that the quality of scientific journalism in the mass media needs to improve: there is too much "telling" and not enough "asking". The PUS approach looks more like a tactic than a strategy. But "blue skies" research cannot be driven by public demand, even if this could be better informed than at present. Science administrators cannot even show that directed research is more beneficial than interest-driven research, so how could the general public be expected to do better? Political thinking should be better informed by scientific work, so that GMO work can be *led* by legislation, not the other way round. Organizations such as the US Food and Drug Administration have to tread a delicate course between supply of information and empowerment of the public.

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[We hope to publish more reports from the Bath meeting in the next issue. Reports should be sent to Moira Vekony, DunaScripts@editors.ca. —Eds.]

EASE-Forum digest: March–June 2003

Joining the forum
Since 1 January 2003 the EASE-Forum has been hosted at helsinki.fi. Anyone who has lost contact with the forum can rejoin by sending the one-line message "subscribe ease-forum" (without the quotation marks) to majordomo@helsinki.fi; do not include a subject line or a signature or any other text. To stop receiving messages from the forum, send a similar message, "unsubscribe ease-forum", also to majordomo@ helsinki.fi.

Once you have joined, you should send messages for the forum to ease-forum@helsinki.fi. Please keep messages short: if you reply to someone else's message, make sure to quote only those parts of the original message that are essential for understanding your response. Note that if you use the "reply to" facility, your reply will go only to the original writer. To keep other forum participants informed, address your reply (or a copy of it) to ease-forum@helsinki.fi (if your e-mail software has a "reply to all" possibility, this will probably do the job). If you have problems with leaving or joining, send an e-mail message to owner-ease-forum@helsinki.fi.

Spam on the forum
The spam problem continued on the forum for some time. Tom Blom, the forum moderator, introduced more filters but then had to transform the forum into a closed list, allowing messages from subscribers only. One drawback is that the subscriber list has to be updated manually and there is a delay before new members can send messages successfully. Another drawback is that messages to the list have to be sent from the same e-mail address as was used to subscribe to the list. — But the change has stopped the spam.

Standards and style
Paola De Castro asked about titles on journal spines. The ISO recommendation (6357:1985; revised and confirmed in 2002) is that titles should read from the top to the bottom of the spine. Kathleen Lyle said that this orientation has long been conventional in UK publishing. The rationale is that if a book [or journal] is lying face up on a table, the spine title should be the right way up too. It's also more convenient when looking at books on a shelf. Mary Ellen Kerans found that all the US or GB-published journals on her shelves follow this method but only one Spanish-published journal does, and none of several others published in English in Spain or Japan.

David FitzSimons asked whether there is an agreed or recommended style for referring in written texts to domains on the internet. He has seen the following different styles: .com, ".com", <.com>

Yateendra Joshi would be grateful for a recent example (2000 or later) of a book based on conference proceedings, to update a note on citing and formatting references.

Desktop publishing program
Zsuzsanna Hegybíró, who works in geophysics, which uses a lot of mathematical and physical formulae and often a lot of tables and figures too, enquired whether more modern software is available than the Ventura software she has been using for some years, updating it from version 2 to version 7.

Maeve O'Connor replied that Ventura 8 has a quite good equation editor but is not good at importing tables. "Ventura 8 . . . should be cheap, because there's now a Ventura 10 (no Ventura 9 was produced). Ventura 10 is probably worth getting if you're using the latest Windows operating system, but not if you're using Windows 98 or thereabouts. QuarkXpress seems to be the industry standard but if you're used to Ventura it may be just as well to stay with it, especially if you can give your printers PDF files made from the Ventura-produced pages."

Technical editors and authors' editors
Joy Burrough-Boenisch initiated a discussion of the role of technical editors, saying that Tim Albert (in *An A-Z of Medical Writing*) had defined an author's

editor as a type of technical editor. "I assume the difference is in allegiance: the technical editor works for the journal, whereas the author's editor works for the author."

Kathleen Lyle agreed but said "editorial titles and job descriptions are a minefield — there is no guarantee of consistency between one publisher and another, or one journal and another." The technical editor also works with the author, as the author's editor does, but only "to the extent necessary to sort out problems such as missing references or unsuitable artwork — very rarely to substantially improve the quality of a paper." Nancy Boston said that when she had the title of executive editor she did copy-editing and proofreading after the paper was accepted, and also edited all papers which needed to go back to the authors for revision, after they had come back from the referees. "I would edit these papers to conform to journal style, to (try and) ensure that the author's meaning was clear, to check that reference citations were correct, to point out where the paper would need input from the author to answer the referees' queries and would also sometimes suggest ways to restructure the paper or format tables differently."

Kathleen said that technical editors may communicate directly with the author but the author may only see the technical editor's version at the proof stage. Substantive editing is likely to be done before a paper is accepted for publication, while technical editing is done after acceptance. Nancy would classify editing for style rather than content, done before the author gets the paper back for revision, as technical editing. "In fact . . . the editing done after acceptance to mark the paper up for the typesetter, and make it as fault-free as possible, is copy-editing."

Kathleen added that "technical editor" is probably another name for "manuscript editor". The technical editor is also responsible for copy-editing "and for proofreading (or collation), indexing, and liaison with typesetters and other suppliers. Also wrapping parcels, making coffee, and all the other things people do in offices."

Judith Taylor agreed that Kathleen was right about the minefield. "The publishing company for which I do most of my work distinguishes between technical editors, who are qualified in the discipline of the journal and concern themselves with the scientific detail of the papers, and copy editors, who do (among other things) the tasks described in Tim Albert's definition."

As a managing editor, Angela Turner does technical editing but said "I also find I have to do substantive editing, after the paper is accepted, because the Editors don't always have the time do as much editing as they could. (And they are scientists rather than trained editors so may not have presentation as a priority.) . . . Journals and publishers clearly vary enormously in how much each type of editor does. As we've said before in EASE discussions, there needs to be a better classification of editors! I'm in direct contact with authors, by email. I send them the edited manuscript because they receive only pdf proofs from the publisher and so would otherwise not see what changes have been made on the manuscript itself."

Valerie Matarese works indirectly with authors through the publisher: "Each article gets about 10 questions regarding inconsistencies I couldn't interpret as well as comments regarding my substantial changes. The authors see my changes on the proofs, while the publisher's staff is responsible for inserting any new information from the authors in answer to my queries. I reread the author's revised manuscript rarely, only when it [is] so convoluted that I couldn't finish a first reading at all." She agreed that there is little standardization in what a technical editor is called: "Copy editor, scientific editor and peer reviewer have all been used regarding my work!"

Barry Pless said that authors' editors are also known as ghost writers and asked how ghostly they should be and whether journals should insist on being told when an authors' editor is involved. Miles Markus referred to David Sharp's article entitled "A ghostly crew" (*Lancet* 1998:351(April 11):1076).

Karen Shashok wanted to get rid of "the mistaken assumption that 'authors' editors' and 'ghost writers' are labels for the same bunch of professionals. 'Ghost writer' is a label that has been misleadingly associated with both 'author's editor' and 'medical writer', which is something different from an author's editor — although both help authors to produce texts that will satisfy their readers. Authors' editors tend to work more with research papers, and medical writers tend to work more with regulatory documents involved in drug development and approval. . . . I think most authors' editors and medical writers would prefer to always be acknowledged for their input into the final text. . . . However, some byline authors are not comfortable with this, and some writing/editing/language assistants (whether staff or freelance) prefer not to insist (or are not in a position to insist) on receiving appropriate credit. There are attempts going on . . . to achieve a culture shift so that all professionals who had a hand in the preparation of the text are duly, publicly credited. What a 'technical editor' does is probably different at every journal. For that matter, what an editor-in-chief, associate editor, section editor, or peer reviewer does is also probably different at every journal. The more information we have up front about everyone's specific responsibilities, the better all around for smooth communications."

Marie-Louise Desbarats-Schönbaum drew attention to an article entitled "AMWA position statement on the contribution of medical writers to scientific publications" (*AMWA Journal* 2003;18(1):13), which covers the question of "ghost writers" in depth. "Then there is that antique, but still valid if now incomplete, pamphlet from the Jet Propulsion Lab. in Calif[ornia]: *Levels of Edit*."

Scandinavian alphabet

Helle Valborg Goldman asked where one should place names starting with the Scandinavian letters Å and Ø in the reference list of an international, English-language publication. "In the Scandinavian alphabets, these letters (plus Æ) are at the very end of the alphabet and this is reflected in bibliographies.

But I think that non-Scandinavian readers would more naturally look under 'A' and 'O' for names like Åsmoe or Ørbæk."

Nancy Boston and Angela Turner always treat these letters as if they were plain A or O because that's where most readers expect them to be. Kathleen Lyle quoted the normal indexing rules for English: "In English-language indexes accented letters are normally interfiled with the unaccented equivalents" (Pat F. Booth, *Indexing: The Manual of Good Practice*, K.G. Saur, 2001).

Helle received a reply from Grace Townshend pointing out that non-English marks like little circles and slashes can disappear in electronic systems.

Pehr Enckell had a somewhat different take on the matter. He said that å should be regarded as "aa" (as indeed it is often written even in Scandinavian texts); ä (a Swedish letter, not common in Danish or Norwegian) should be treated as "ae"; and ø and ö (the Swedish equivalent of ø) should be treated as "oe". Thus, the names Ørbæk, Orange, and Århus and Argyle would be alphabetized this way:

Århus (= Aarhus)
Argyle
Ørbæk (= Oerbaek)
Orange

Following Pat Booth and others, the same names would be listed in this order:

Argyle
Århus (= Arhus)
Orange
Ørbæk (= Orbaek).

Two-language references

Joy Burrough-Boenisch enquired about references that an author had cited in English although the original publications were in Dutch. Shouldn't the titles of references must be cited in the language in which they were published? "In the past, authors have also sent me reference lists in which the Dutch titles of references have been followed by an English translation in brackets. I have always deleted the translation in brackets. . . . Was I wrong to do so?"

Nancy Boston frequently sees "either the title in English followed by (in Dutch) (in Japanese) etc., or the English translation (in parenthesis) following the original language title (it's not usually necessary to state the original language in that case). Some journals even insist on an English translation or only allow titles in certain languages." Deleting translations depends on house style and would sometimes be wrong. Bad translations could of course be replaced with better ones.

Thomas Redl added that the source publication may also be involved, "since in some journals the article titles (and abstracts and maybe even figure legends and table titles) are provided in more than one language, one of them being English. Thus, the article could indeed be identified by its supplementary English title just as easily as by its original-language title, although this would not require that always both versions of the title must be documented."

Georgianna Oja consulted *Documentation — Bibliographical references — Essential and supplementary elements* (ISO 690-1975), which stated that references should contain both the original title and a translation. She usually follows this recommendation, for three specific reasons: "1. Having a standard to back me up makes it easier to deal with authors. 2. The original title will cut down on a reader's time if he or she wants to access the original document. 3. The translation will at least give readers some idea of the content of the article if they cannot read the original title."

Publication practice for pharmaceutical companies

Liz Wager drew attention to her publication about major new guidelines designed to increase transparency and encourage the responsible and ethical reporting of clinical trials (Wager E et al. 2003. Good publication practice for pharmaceutical companies. *Current Medical Research & Opinion* 19(3):149-54). "Good Publication Practice for pharmaceutical companies (GPP) is the first set of international publishing guidelines developed within the industry for the industry itself. The GPP guidelines call on companies to endeavour to publish results of all their clinical trials of marketed products. They also recommend practical steps to reduce publication bias and redundant publication. One unique feature, not covered by guidelines from journal editors, is that they address the role of professional medical writers and, especially, writers' interactions with authors. This is the first time that people working in or for pharmaceutical companies can find a single source of guidance about the particular ethical issues that they face. GPP goes beyond the scope of and is intended to complement statements from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and CONSORT."

Open access

Reme Melero forwarded the address of the Directory of Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org) and mentioned a press release entitled "Lund University Launches Directory of Open Access Journals". Continuing with this theme, she quoted an advert in *The Scientist* (2003;17(12):37, June 16; www.the-scientist.com) announcing an open access choice for authors of *Physiological Genomics*. "Starting 1 July, authors can choose to pay $1500 to have their article immediately and permanently accessible online without charge. Copyright, however, seems to remain with the journal. So not quite 'true' Open Access according to open access definition, but clearly a welcome step in that direction."

She also forwarded a message released on 20 June by a forum attended by foundations, scientists, editors, publishers, and open access proponents that includes a working definition of open access and the reports of three working groups.

Various

Rabi Thapa wanted to hear of publications in the fields of environmental science/policy, geography or development issues, and the names of the editors

involved.

Jenny Gretton passed on a request for EASE's participation in a salary survey for the European Technical Communications industry. The results of this survey should now be on the STC Europe web site (www.stc-europe.org).

Marie-Louise Desbarats-Schönbaum mentioned that SENSE (the Society of English Native Speaking Editors in the Netherlands) is launching a Handbook on professional practice in editing and translating. Information is available from Cecilia Willems (ce. willems@zonnet.nl or cecilia@gretton-willems. com).

Yateendra Joshi asked whether anyone was willing to share information on the circulation (print run, number of subscribers, or some such number) of any learned, peer-reviewed journal, the information to remain confidential.

Helle Valborg Goldman gave a warning about e-mailing to authors any reports which would-be anonymous reviewers had sent in as Word attachments. "A clever author may have figured out that if she opens the Word document, then goes to File, then to Properties, and then looks at Summary, the name of the creator of the original file is sometimes plain to see."

Regina McMahon informed us that two of Britain's biggest buyout firms will merge Bertelsmann AG's science publishing unit with a company acquired in 2002 to challenge Reed Elsevier Group plc's business.

Jenny Gretton noted that some orders for binders for the *Science Editors Handbook* had arrived without the name and address of the sender.

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Book reviews

Robert Holder. 2002. **How not to say what you mean: a dictionary of euphemisms**, 2nd ed. Oxford. Oxford University Press. 501 p. Hardback. £9.99. ISBN 0-19-860402-5.

To avoid using words or expressions that we think our audience will find insensitive, offensive, or disagreeably blunt, we indulge in *euphemism*: that is, we choose language that we judge to be milder, less offensive, or less discomforting. Usually, the wording we choose is less precise or specific, or hints at a meaning rather than states it in full. Since a principal objective of writers and editors of scientific papers is to produce accurate and explicit texts, there should be little room for euphemism in most scientific writing, especially in writing for international audiences. Robert Holder's dictionary will therefore be an optional extra for most readers of *ESE*, but for anyone intrigued by the psychological and social aspects of language behaviour, it will be a rewarding investment.

We use euphemism extensively when we deal with sensitive or taboo subjects, or with situations that alarm or embarrass us. For example, a person nervously contemplating a visit to a general practitioner might say: "I'm going to see the quack because I reckon my ticker's a bit dodgy" (= "I'm going to see my doctor because I suspect there is something wrong with my heart"). The speaker's choice of *quack* is an effort to make light of the decision to seek serious professional help; acknowledgement of a *dodgy ticker* is an understatement that masks anxious hope that there is nothing seriously wrong.

Though euphemisms should rarely appear in reports or papers, many writers feel there is a taboo against writing explicitly about death or sex. Holder cites as a euphemism for death "negative patient care outcome". I read recently that "the highest dose of X

administered without causing any lethality was . . .". In attempting to avoid saying "without causing death", that writer introduced the novel concept of degrees of lethality — an extreme example of how not to say what you mean.

To acknowledge that euphemistic language behaviour has more to do with interpersonal relations than with accurate and economical communication is not to condemn its use. Medical practitioners undoubtedly find euphemism essential in their face-to-face contacts with patients and patients' relatives. Delivering bad news sensitively, or even just discussing symptoms and treatments in terms that are comprehensible and comfortable for patients, requires considerable skill in adjusting language to audience and context.

Holder first gives an alphabetical list of euphemisms and their definitions, and then lists the topics or themes that we commonly avoid. The longest list presents euphemisms for copulation (which Holder admits is itself a euphemism that he uses because alternatives such as *f...* are "ugly words which jar with constant repetition"). Other long lists are euphemisms for brothels, death, defecation, drunkenness, homosexuality, parts of the body, suicide, and — a nice euphemism from Holder — sexual variations.

Holder points out that the subjects about which we use euphemisms change along with social attitudes. He emphasizes that one woman's euphemism may be another man's *dysphemism* — the substitution of a derogatory or unpleasant term for a pleasant or neutral one. As an "oldie", "wrinkly" or "senior citizen",

I sense that there is currently more use of dysphemism than was common a decade or two ago: it is fashionable in some circles to be "in yer face". Also, modern political correctness (a euphemism?) has led to euphemistic behaviour that would have seemed unnecessary when I was young.

Some things don't change much, though. We still use euphemisms that reflect, as Holder puts it discreetly, "the 17th century antagonism between England and the Low Countries", and we still often describe illogical or defective behaviour by referring euphemistically to the Irish.

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Doreen Blake, Michèle Clarke, Anne McCarthy, and June Morrison. 2002. **Indexing the medical sciences**. Sheffield: Society of Indexers, Occasional Papers on indexing No. 3. viii + 84 pages. Indexed. Paperback, UK GBP17.50 (15.00*), Overseas GBP20.00 (17.50*).

Overview

This revised edition aims to benefit professional indexers and editors with some experience of indexing and serve as a guide by clarifying the complexity of indexing with "how to" options for different types of indexes. Additional contributions are supplied by five leading indexers of the British Society of Indexers to make this publication an authoritative guide for preparing indexes to publications on medical and veterinary topics. Accessibility is enhanced by a neatly presented list of contents and a thorough index. It covers most bioscience disciplines, linked with anatomy, diseases, human and animal physiology, neurology, mental health disciplines, population studies and statistics. Despite the diversity of subject material, common basic principles of indexing and the options available are outlined. Publishers and editors will find the advice helpful, particularly for assessing indexes prepared by authors as well as professional indexers. The text concludes with a "further reading booklist" and list of web site resources.

Contents

The early chapters describe the types of publications in hardback and paperback formats. Indexing electronic publications is discussed in some detail for applications on the internet and CD-ROM.

Established practices of indexing are compared with ISO 999:1987 and its standard applications for all publications. The number of headings, depth of indexing and density are briefly explained, with guidance on different arrangements of entries. Chemical and biochemical compounds are discussed in some detail. Alphabetical arrangement of chemical terminology is well described, with the significance of selecting the correct letters for sorting explained. Abbreviated names or acronyms for many chemical names are listed. This study admits that the highly complex and evolving disciplines for terminology are huge, and reference resources are supplied at the end of the book for further guidance. Scientific names are explained clearly, with examples, and editors are reminded that they should not be overlooked. Pharmaceutical terminology is supported by generic and proprietary synonyms. No indexer can be expected to know them all, but some details are supplied about pharmacopoeia and other data resources. In psychiatry and psychology mention is made of the wide variety of terminology used.

The next chapter of this booklet outlines the layout of indexes, choice of headings and the importance of cross-references, the objective being to make the index accessible according to the diverse search routes of its users. Different styles of indexing are offered for laboratory manuals, monographs, non-clinical nursing textbooks and books for the general public. The second section, on journals, is well worth study by all editors. The booklet concludes by examining specific problems that are surprisingly detailed in spite of the limitations imposed by the booklet's size. Also included are notes on final preparation of the index text and on editing and proofreading, with comments on the benefits gained from submitting indexes back to the indexer for a final proofread.

Conclusions

The 84 pages of this manual succinctly supply a useful, wide-ranging and practical guide for indexing biomedical publications. It also takes into account the growing technical developments in publishing.

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*For members of indexing societies.

Alexander R Margulis. 2002. **Be in charge — a leadership manual.** San Diego: Academic Press. xii + 118 p. Hardbound. Price USD29.95. ISBN 0-12-471351-3.

I thought this book would be interesting for readers of this journal because I expected it to contain information that would help with managing an editorial office ("[It] gives practical tips on how, among other things, to budget time efficiently"), dealing with difficult authors, etc. It promised to do this also for those working in an academic environment: "While the ways to successfully deal with situations and busi-

ness and academics are often similar, the differences are most important, and this manual tries to address them." And I expected this to be done in a convincing way, as the author is, according to Jeffrey Immelt (Chairman of the Board of General Electric) in his foreword to the book, "one of the great leaders in academic medicine."

How disappointed I was after reading the book! The 24 chapters are, on average, four pages long, which indicates that they cannot go into much detail. Even worse is that they consist largely of one-liners: "Leadership is the ability to inspire others to follow and change the future", "Do not strive to be loved", "Do not show your own feelings in public except to inspire", "Your time is the most precious resource that you have", "Don't have modest plans for the future: shoot for the stars", etc.

Margulis is truly thinking big: only half a page is devoted to small companies of a size comparable to that of large editorial offices. And being (and thinking) big apparently means being important and, particularly, trying to become even more important. The motto of the book seems to be: try to impress those who can help you in your career (a whole chapter is devoted to "promotion to the next step of chief"). You can, for instance, invite a superior home for dinner (p.77): "Wines should be excellent but not ostenta-tiously expensive. Always offer after-dinner coffee and cordials. (Port, Armagnac, Cognac or liqueurs should be the choices. In cognacs try to offer X-O quality, Armagnac should have a vintage.") It is the type of snobbishness that sometimes makes this world unliveable.

The author realizes that, even if you reach the top, age can force you to resign. At that time there is, of course, a "golden parachute" (because "Descending from the summit of power can be traumatic") and you can enjoy your new free time by being important in another environment: "You may still be eligible to . . . become editor of a journal" (!). This seems to be the only comment in the book that is directly related to the practice of editing.

In edited form, the entire book could be summarized in one sentence: never trust an editor-in-chief who has been parachuted by superior powers into your community. And certainly do not try to become friends. Margulis is explicit: "Close friendships are a handicap except with clearly noncompeting equals."

Reading the book, even though it took only a 2.5-hour flight, must be considered as bad time management.

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The Editors' WebWatch

The Editors' WebWatch is intended to be a membership-driven resource of web sites for editors and writers in the sciences.

Fahrenheit 451

In the last issue of the Editors' WebWatch I tried to give you an idea of how to stop unwanted material, i.e. spam, getting into your computer. In this issue I hope to give you an overview (because I am no expert and there are plenty of URLS to visit out there if expert help is what you need) of how to stop personal information and files being taken from your computer.

To reach this goal, putting a barrier — a *firewall* in computer jargon — between you and the internet is probably the third most important thing that you can do, after installing virus-checking software and making regular backups — both of which will be addressed in future issues of WebWatch—watch this space . . . .

If you work for an organization with a computer network your system administrator should take care of security issues for you. But if you use a home or stand-alone computer to connect to the internet you do need to consider security carefully. In either case the following should be of some help.

The facts

When you connect your home computer or your workplace network to the internet, you are physically connecting yourself to in excess of 50 000 unknown networks and their users. This is in the main a good thing — how else would you be able to make the best use of all the web sites that appear in this section every three months if you did not have access to the World Wide Web? However, all computers contain files and other information that should not be accessible by outside users on the internet. Also, consider that not all internet users are honest: there are a lot of bandits out there!

People who access information that they should not, or who try to do something undesirable to a network or its contents, are said to be making an "attack", and they are called "attackers".

Attacks may consist of theft of credit card and personal information, reading e-mail, planting viruses or worms, theft of online banking information, deleting files from the system, or identity theft — the fastest growing crime in America these days. Some of these are obviously an issue with a personal computer (in which data always resides on a fixed or removable physical storage medium), but because of the way in which information moves around a computer network, networks at work or at home are vulnerable to attack if left unprotected.

Network computers communicate serially: one packet of information is sent after another, and any large pieces are divided into smaller ones because computers have limited intermediate buffers. Windows NT distributes network packets in what is known as clear text, i.e. it has not been encrypted (scrambled using a mathematical algorithm to render it unreadable). Therefore, if these packets can be picked up from the network and processed, they can be read by the appropriate application. Network protocols specify how packets are identified and labelled, thus enabling the recipient computer to determine whether the packet is intended for it or not. Unfortunately the specifications for network protocols are widely published (e.g. TCP/IP) so a third party can readily interpret the network packets and develop a **packet sniffer** and use it to capture packets being sent across a local area network. From this, malicious third parties can obtain user names and passwords for networked databases.

A second method of attacking a network is **IP spoofing**. This is when an attacker outside a network pretends to be a trusted computer, either by using an IP address that is within the range of IP addresses for the network or by using an authorized external address that the network trusts and to which access to specified resources on the network has been granted. By IP spoofing an attacker can get the network to e-mail sensitive files to him, or add data or commands to an existing stream of data that is passed between a client and a server application, or peer-to-peer network connection.

Password attacks can be launched using several different methods, including the two methods mentioned above, but most often refer to repeated attempts to identify user account and password information (called "brute force attacks"). A brute force attack can be made with a program that runs across the network and attempts to access a shared resource such as a server. An attacker who gets access to such a resource then has the same rights as the user whose account has been used to gain such access. If this account has sufficient privileges a "back door" can be created that allows for future access without the need for any username or password. The consequences of this eventuality for a company or other organization can be far-reaching — someone unknown and with malicious intent can do such things as distribute sensitive information to competitors or others who would use it to the company's disadvantage.

As well as protecting your information, protecting the integrity of your actual network is a must — if you can't protect the integrity of the network, how can you hope to protect the information within it? A breach in network integrity can leave your system open to multiple and continued attacks. Methods that are used to compromise the integrity of a network are the same as those already described, but they are used in a slightly different, more extensive, way. With a network packet sniffer, if the attacker gains access to a system-level user account the information can be used to create a new account, essentially providing a back door to your network and its resources. The attacker can then modify system files, such as passwords for system administrators' accounts, the list of services and permissions on file servers, and the log-in information for other computers that contain confidential information. A network packet sniffer can be modified to add new information or to change existing information in a network packet, causing the network connections to shut down prematurely, or false information to be admitted to the system. IP spoofing can be used to compromise an organization by a malicious outsider posing as a *bona fide* employee and sending sensitive and/or embarrassing information to competitors or clients. A brute force password attack can provide access to accounts that can be used to modify critical network files and services — even changing the routing tables for the network. In other words, the attacker can ensure that all network packets are routed to him before they are sent on to their intended destination — the attacker is now in a "man in the middle" position in which he can monitor all network traffic.

Denial of service is when an attacker uses information to make a service unavailable for normal use; this can be achieved by exhausting a resource on the network or within an operating system or application. This

is of particular relevance to servers providing a service to a clientele: an attacker can request so many connections that the server is unable to give access to its *bona fide* clients.

Trojan horse program attacks are particularly nasty as the recipient often has no idea that the attack has happened until it is far too late (thus such attacks are well named). In this case the attacker replaces a normal application with a program that provides all the functions of the original program and is also able to capture user account, password and other information, which can then be sent back to the attacker. An example of this is a fake log-on screen, into which the user unwittingly enters log-on information. Trojan horses can also modify applications; one example is that the attacker can modify your e-mail account so that he is sent copies of all of your email.

So, that's the bad news. The good news is that you can do something to guard against most of these apocalyptic scenarios — install (or have your network administrator install) a **firewall**.

As the name implies, a firewall is a barrier to keep destructive forces away from your property. Originally it just meant a wall to protect property in one part of building from a fire started in another part — a form of damage limitation. Today's firewall can be used to protect your home or office network, and any stand-alone computer that is connected to the internet, against offensive web sites and potential attacks.

A firewall is a program or hardware device that filters the information coming through the internet connection into your computer or network. It essentially isolates your computer or network from the rest of the internet by inspecting each packet of data to determine whether it should be allowed to get in: if an incoming packet of information is flagged by the filters that you have set up, it is not allowed through to your system. A company should have a firewall in place at every connection to the internet.

Firewalls use one or more of the following three methods to control traffic flowing in and out of a network. (1) In packet filtering small packets of data (see above) are analysed against a set of filters. Those that fit the criteria of the filter are sent to their destination, those that don't are discarded. (2) The firewall acts as a proxy service — incoming information is first retrieved by the firewall and then sent to the requesting system. Outgoing

information is dealt with similarly. (3) Stateful inspection is a newer method that, rather than examining the contents of each packet, compares certain key parts of the packet to a database of trusted information. Information travelling from inside the firewall to the outside is monitored for specific defining characteristics, then incoming information is compared to these characteristics. If the comparison yields a reasonable match, the information is allowed through. Otherwise it is discarded.

Obviously, banning all traffic to or from the internet makes the connection itself pointless, so the firewall has to be customized. Filters can be added or removed. A common rule of thumb is to block everything, and then select what types of traffic you will permit to come through. Traffic can be limited so that, for example, only certain types of information, such as e-mail, can get through. If a particular IP address or domain name outside the network is reading too many files from a server, the firewall can block all traffic to or from that IP address (or domain name). Likewise, permission can be granted for communication with trusted IP addresses.

Similar filters can be set for protocols, the predefined way that a service user talks with that service. The service user can be a person, but usually it is a computer program such as a web browser. Protocols define the rules according to which a client and a server will interact (well-known examples are the Internet Protocol, Transport Control Protocol, File Transfer Protocol, Hyper Text Transfer Protocol, Simple Mail Transport Protocol, and Telnet). In a company, a small number of machines (or even just one) can be allowed to handle a specific protocol, which will then be banned from all other machines within that organization.

There are essentially two types of firewall: software and hardware. Some systems use a combination of both. A software firewall, such as or Norton Personal Firewall, can be installed on a home or small office computer that has an internet connection. If this computer is connected to a small-office or home network it is acting as the "gateway". A hardware firewall, which is a small box that sits between the computer and the modem, is itself the gateway and is often called a router. This kind of firewall is essential for anyone who has an "always on" internet connection (this includes most cable systems in use in Europe these days; contrast this with a dial-up

connection, use of which is often sporadic and unpredictable). Computers in a home or office network connect to the router, which in turn is connected to either a cable or DSL modem. The router is configured (set up) via a web-based interface that is reached through a browser.

For the home office user without internal network connections (and this includes many members of EASE) a software firewall is probably the easiest option. They are easy to install and configure and are not expensive, but many are now moving to a subscription option where it is necessary to pay year-by-year to get protection against the latest security threats (this in itself has a "big brother" aspect to it). A free option comes from Zonelabs, who offer a limited version of their firewall free (obviously in the hope that you will like it and consider upgrading to the paid-for version). The disadvantages of a software firewall are that a separate version needs to be installed (and purchased, although in most countries such expenses are allowable against income tax) for each computer in the network, exactly the right version must be used for the particular operating system, and computer resources are used up because firewalls run in the background all the time and can therefore slow down your system. Hardware firewalls tend to be more efficient; they can protect more than one computer at a time (because they *are* the gateway), and because they do not run on the system itself they do not drain it of resources. However, as already pointed out, hardware firewalls are more expensive than software firewalls. Whether this is economical or not depends on how many computers are on the network and how many copies of a software firewall have to be purchased. Hardware firewalls can also be challenging to configure and as such are probably best left to the experts.

Words of caution
Some people think that having a firewall between a network and the internet will solve all potential security problems. But remember that any system is only as good as its programmer, and a poorly set up firewall is more of a security risk than no firewall at all. The message here is to be aware that if you let internal security lapse because you think your firewall is impenetrable, the hacker's job has just been made a whole lot easier.

A few internet firewall resources

firewalls: This is an e-mail list where firewalls and related issues are discussed. If you have questions or ideas this is a good forum to join. Send e-mail to **majordomo@ greatcircle.com** with "subscribe firewalls" or "subscribe firewalls-digest" in the first line of the body of the text.

firewalls-UK: This is a list devoted to firewall issues in the UK. Send e-mail to majordomo@greatcircle. Com with "subscribe firewalls-uk" in the first line of the body of the text.

www.sygate.com
www.watchguard.com
www.networkdefence.com/
www.lockdowncorp.com/
www.gocsi.com/
www.cisecurity.org/
www.lavasoft.de/

For a useful list of resources related to firewalls and their use visit **http:// dir.yahoo.com/Computers_and_inter net/security_and_encryption/ firewalls/**

And for general information on firewalls, visit **www.howstuffworks. com**.

The last word on firewalls (for now)

Of course, a firewall can't protect you from every computer-related danger lurking out there. In future issues of the WebWatch I would like to investigate computer viruses (although some firewalls do offer virus protection, it is still a good idea to install anti-virus software on each computer you use) and computer crashes and other disasters. If you have any interesting anecdotes, preferable with a cautionary tale attached, please submit them for inclusion in future issues.

Good Publication Practice Guidelines

Good Publication Practice for pharmaceutical companies (GPP) has been discussed in the EASE-Forum (see p. 82). Of particular relevance to EASE members is that unlike guidelines from journal editors this set addresses the role of professional medical writers and, especially, writers' interactions with authors.

Liz Wager, a member of the team that developed the guidelines, said, "We want GPP to be a 'one-stop shop' for people working in or for drug companies. Until now, you had to look all over the place for relevant information, and even the best guidelines did not cover all the issues. We hope that *Good Publication Practice* will become widely accepted and implemented throughout the industry."

For a pdf version, including relevant articles, go to **www.cmrojournal.com.**

COUNTER

Counting Online Usage of NeTworked Electronic Resources **www.projectcounter.org/about.html** The use of online information resources is growing exponentially and it would be helpful if the use of such resources could be quantified in such a way that the data generated could be used to the advantage of the producers and purchasers of such information. For example, librarians would like to understand more fully how the information they purchase is being used and publishers want to know how their information products are being accessed. An essential requirement for meeting these objectives is an agreed international code of practice governing the recording and exchange of online usage data. COUNTER has developed just such a code of practice.

COUNTER was launched in March 2002 as an international initiative designed to serve librarians, publishers and intermediaries by facilitating the recording and exchange of online usage statistics. In December 2002, COUNTER released a code of practice (www. Projectcounter.org/code_practice. html) that includes guidance on data elements to be measured, definitions of these data elements, and guidance on the content of usage reports and their format as well as on data processing.

COUNTER will at first focus on journals and databases, mainly because these types of content are the major items in most library material budgets, have been available online for some time, and have a core of well-accepted definitions and content structures.

COUNTER will enable librarians to compare usage statistics from different vendors, make better-informed purchasing decisions and thus plan infrastructure more effectively; publishers will be in a better position to provide data to customers in the format they want, compare the relative usage of different delivery channels, and learn more about real-world usage patterns.

COUNTER is supported by the Association of American Publishers Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division, The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, Association of Research Libraries, Association of Subscription Agents and Intermediaries, the Joint Information Systems Committee, the National Committee on Libraries and Information Science, the National Information Standards Organization, The Publishers Association, International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers, and the United Kingdom Serials Group.

Directory of Open Access Journals

The Directory of Open Access Journals covers free, full-text, quality-controlled scientific and scholarly journals. The aim is to cover all subjects and languages. At the moment there are 15 subject categories, most of them scientific. I spent some time browsing titles I had never come across before. And here is either the problem (if you want mainstream high impact journals you won't find them here) or the beauty (if it is the under-represented, not easily obtainable titles that you are looking for) of this system. Admittedly some of the titles were rather obscure, but no less worthy of exposure than their better-known counterparts. This is a useful place for publication of material that cannot for some reason make it onto the library shelves in western countries but nonetheless deserves to get high exposure.

Cogprints

Cognitive Sciences EPrint Archive **http://cogprints.ecs.soton.ac.uk/** Cogprints is an electronic archive for self-archived papers in any area of psychology, neuroscience and linguistics, and many areas of computer science, philosophy, biology, medicine, anthropology, and other portions of the physical, social and mathematical sciences that are pertinent to the study of cognition.

There are at present a total of 1668 depositions, categorized in a hierarchal manner, with sensible subdivisions. There is a list of search options, and one has to register if one wishes to deposit work in the archive. The content of the archive seems to vary between topics, presumably according to the calibre of the researchers contributing to it. For example the section "electronic publishing" contains 47 depositions, 16 of them on peer review. However, only five were from 2000 or later,

only one was dated 2002, and one was from as early as 1985. Even closer inspection revealed that, of the 16 papers on peer review, 15 were written by the same author, thus returning us to the phrase at the beginning "self-archive papers". I would liken this to vanity publishing — most of the depositions have been published in print (thus giving a guide to quality) but some have not. Wider publicity and encouragement to deposit articles in this resource will undoubtedly enhance its usefulness.

Web-based learning

The *BMJ* published an excellent review article entitled "ABC of learning and teaching. Web based learning" (Judy McKimm, Carol Jollie and Peter Cantillon) in volume 326 (19 April 2003). The paper reviews and discusses different aspects of web-based learning, among them the practicalities of assessment, and includes a useful glossary. It can be obtained as a printable pdf at http://bmj.com/cgi/reprint/326/7394/870.

Supercourse

Supercourse is a free library of public health and epidemiology lectures (including some on more general topics), covering most aspects of science and medicine, created with the aim of "improving the teaching of epidemiology, global health and aspects of the internet in medical, veterinary, nursing schools". Faculty are asked to share their most outstanding lectures by putting them into this resource; any teacher with access to the World Wide Web can then use a lecture and present all or just parts of it. In this way Supercourse claims to support the classroom teacher by reducing preparation time and improving the quality of lectures.

To date there are 564 authors and 851 lectures. Lectures are presented as a series of screens, each containing a small amount of easily digestible material (much more user-friendly than a dense pdf — which many of us would file and then forget forever). Supercourse claims to be indexed in the categories "new and revised", "all", "alphabetical order" and "topic", but there is no search facility and the indexing itself could be improved. I spotted "How to start to write a scientific paper" by Remedios Melero in the list of authors, but I was unable to locate it by topic or other means. If you are looking for definitive health or science information this is probably not the place to go, as some of the topics are very specialized (for example "Epidemiology and control of methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus in hospitals", in Russian). So you could spend hours roaming and reading, but may not actually find what you are looking for.

MedDRA (Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities)
www.meddramsso.com/

MedDRA is the new global standard medical terminology, soon to supersede terminologies currently in use in the medical product development process. Already some major regulatory authorities in the USA, Europe and Japan are adopting MedDRA and moving towards requiring its use.

MedDRA is a standardized dictionary of medical terminology, developed to allow sharing of regulatory information internationally about medical products. It provides a set of terms which consistently categorize medical information and allow it to be understood internationally. MedDRA was developed by a group of representatives from the International Conference on Harmonization and an observer for the World Health Organization; they started with the UK Medicines Control Agency's medical terminology, and then incorporated the World Health Organization Adverse Reaction Terminology, regulatory-related terminology from the International Classification of Diseases, the International Classification of Diseases with Clinical Modification, the Coding Symbols for a Thesaurus of Adverse Reaction Terms, and Japanese Adverse Reaction Terminology. MedDRA includes terminology for symptoms, signs, diseases and diagnoses, and the names of investigations, sites, therapeutic indications, surgical and medical procedures and medical, social and family history terms.

However, MedDRA does not contain definitions. It is updated by requests by MedDRA users and is a subscriber-only service, useful to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, device manufacturers, regulatory authorities and other support service organizations. As editors, we should note its existence.

Thesaurus on Advanced Alternative Methods
http://ecvam-sis.jrc.it/cover/thesaurus.html

TAAM is the Thesaurus on Advanced Alternative Methods to animal experiments in biomedical sciences. It is a European initiative, developed by the Commission's European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods in Ispra, Italy, although it has been done in collaboration with the US National Library of Medicine.

TAAM has been created to ensure the use of appropriate terms in alternative methods (i.e. alternatives to animal testing, e.g. in vitro toxicology). It claims to differ from previous attempts to make such a database because it is based on actual phrases that occur in documents and will therefore reflect the preferred terminology of the authors of the articles used to create the database. It should be of interest to authors and editors alike. *(Contributed by Jon Richmond, Home Office, UK.)*

Directtextbook.com
www.directtextbook.com

Directtextbook claims to be the fastest textbook and book price comparison site on the internet. It is a way of finding the lowest priced copy of the book you are looking for without going through the tedious business of visiting each bookseller's site in turn. Particularly useful is that the search results give prices for used copies of book too, thus giving you a real choice. Directtextbook works by using price search software to compare dozens of online book stores to find the lowest price available.

I was impressed. Searching for *Copy-Editing: The Cambridge Handbook for Editors, Authors and Publishers* by Judith Butcher (1992) and CSE's *Scientific Style and Format* gave me seven choices of vendor for each. I had heard of some before; others were new to me. Interestingly, in several cases the used copies were more expensive than the new ones — a cautionary tale to always shop around. All prices are listed in US dollars and shipping charges are indicated next to the prices. When you have decided which option you are going to purchase you are directed to the seller's own web site where you can add your textbook to your shopping cart and then spend several hours browsing and reading reviews in the fiction section.

The main contributors to WebWatch in this issue were Paola De Castro, Margaret Cooter, Jenny Gretton, Hervé Maisonneuve and Moira Vekony. Contributions for future issues should be sent to Moira at DunaScripts@editors.ca.

News Notes

Moving forward, or stepping back?
ScienceDirect is a new product consisting of backfiles in pharmacology, toxicology and pharmaceutics. It puts, according to Elsevier's advertisement, "prize-winning articles, unique discoveries and classic theories in electronic format — all fully searchable and interlinked with today's top papers. 25,000 km long, 30 skyscrapers high, 4000 tonnes of journal articles at your fingertips." And to think we used to store all this in mere libraries!

Presenting journal collections
The BMJ Journals Library Resource Centre can be accessed via www.bmjjournals.com. It was launched in April at the UK Serials Group meeting. It contains tips on searching, FAQs, a PowerPoint presentation about online journal features, access to usage statistics, a quarterly newsletter, and promotional resources such as downloadable logos, flyers, posters and journal covers.

New edition of DOI handbook
The new edition (3.0) of the *DOI Handbook* describes tools such as DOI application profiles and the indecs data dictionary. The metadata work (based on indecs: interoperability of data in e-commerce systems) is also covered in detail in two appendices. A new glossary and completely rewritten chapters are part of the *Handbook* release. To see the *Handbook*, go to http://dx.doi.org/10.1000/182.

The DOI — digital object identifier — is a system for interoperably identifying and exchanging intellectual property in the digital environment. A DOI assigned to content enhances a content producer's ability to trade electronically. It provides a framework for managing content in any form at any level of granularity, for linking customers with content suppliers, for facilitating electronic commerce and enabling automated copyright management for all types of media. The International DOI Foundation, a non-profit organization, manages development, policy and licensing of the DOI to registration agencies and technology providers and advises on usage and development of related services and technologies. The system uses open standards with a standard syntax (ANSI/NISO Z39.84) and is used by leading international technology and content organizations.

Indexing workshops
The Society of Indexers now offers in-house workshops for editors and publishers to cover topics such as commissioning indexes and the basics of indexing. Workshop content can be tailored to the client's requirements. For further information and bookings, contact Jane Henley (tel +44 (0)1908 663532, e-mail jane.henley@britishlibrary.net).

Indexing the Medical Sciences
The latest in the Society of Indexers' newly redesigned series of Occasional Papers on indexing is now available by mail order (see review in this issue, p. 84).

US libraries challenge Springer merger
A group of six US library organizations has urged a change in the way mergers between giant STM publishers are evaluated by competition authorities. The call has come as UK venture capital partnership Candover and Cinven begins to integrate STM publishing giants Kluwer Academic Publishers and Bertelsmann-Springer. Both publishers have large operations in the USA. The libraries group Information Access Alliance claimed that such STM mega-mergers had led to unjustified rises in journals pricing over the past decade. (theBookseller.com Informer 20 June)

Fight jargon, increase readability
Bullfighter is software that runs in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, within Microsoft Windows 2000 or XP. It works a lot like the spelling and grammar checker in those applications, but focuses on jargon and readability. "Unless you believe in expressions like 'value-based paradigm shift' or in multi-syllabic sentences that run on for ages, you owe it to your loved ones and co-workers to try" says its marketing organization, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (www.dc.com/insights/bullfighter/#). It roots out consultant-speak — but also uses the same biting comments as it diagnoses one's writing.

Paranoia corner
Spyware is a relatively new kind of threat that common anti-virus applications do not yet cover. More and more spyware is emerging that is silently tracking your surfing behaviour to create a marketing profile of you that will be sold to advertisement companies. So, if you're concerned about your online privacy or (heaven forfend!) have suspicions that someone may be spying on your PC activities, you may need some anti-spyware or snoop prevention tools. Anti-spyware can detect serious spy activity like keyloggers, activity monitoring software, web site loggers and also common adware, web bugs, tracking cookies and many other items that are frequently encountered on the web. Snoop prevention tools are useful for the times when you don't want other users of the same computer to stumble across your previous activities, whether by coincidence, or by snooping around; they include internet cleanup tools, cookie managers, encryption tools, and secure file deletion tools. Sites like Spychecker.com offer freeware and software with free trials, and tools like SpyBot Search & Destroy (http://security.kolla.de/) get in there and root out the evil menace!

Legal deposit in libraries
The UK Legal Deposit Libraries Bill passed its Committee stage on 4 June; the full text is available at www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200203/cmbills/026/2003026.htm. It now proceeds on 4 July to Report and Third Reading (giving limited opportunities for further changes) before eventually passing into law. Strong assurances were given that a Technical Advisory Committee would be established to supervise the application of the scheme, and that the consultations and regulatory impact assessment to be carried out for each new regulation would include ensuring that publishers will not bear a disproportionate burden.

Good electronic publishing practice
The second edition of *Serial publications: guidelines to good practice in publishing printed and electronic journals*, by Diane Brown, Elaine Stott and Anthony Watkinson, has been published by the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers. Packed with practical information on all aspects of journal publishing, it is a valuable reference and a useful aide-memoire for even the most experienced journals publisher. It covers topics from refereeing procedures to legal deposit, electronic delivery to

copyright, and much more. Order from ALPSP via www.alpsp.org/publications/pub3.htm.

Wiley InterScience Pay-Per-View
Wiley InterScience, the online content service of publisher John Wiley & Sons, has launched a Pay-Per-View service — opening up access to its electronic journal and book material to all individuals who previously did not have access to the full range of the service's scientific, technical, medical and professional content. Offering instant access via a secure credit card transaction, the service can be utilized from any web-enabled computer — allowing users to access content irrespective of whether they or their institutions are subscribers to the Wiley InterScience service. The company has also expanded the availability of the Wiley InterScience ArticleSelect, a token-based individual article supply service for subscribing libraries, which provides access to articles and chapters in non-subscribed journals and books. (www.interscience.wiley.com)

Directory of Open Access Journals
Lund University has launched the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (see p. 81 and p.87, this issue), supported by the Information Program of the Open Society Institute, along with SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition). The directory contains information about 350 open access journals (quality-controlled scientific and scholarly electronic journals that are freely available on the web). The service will continue to grow as new journals are identified. The goal of the *Directory* is to increase the visibility and accessibility of open access scholarly journals, thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. It aims to comprehensively cover all open access scholarly journals that use an appropriate quality control system, and to include journals in all languages and subject areas. (www.doaj.org)

UK freelancers
The All Party Parliamentary Small Business Group (APPSBG) is carrying out a briefing on freelancers in the UK. This is the first time freelancers have been the subject of such a detailed political enquiry — and the first time freelancers have been invited to participate in such a manner. After evidence has been collated, conclusions will be drawn and recommendations made. The report will be made available on or before 29th July 2003. This will prove to be one of the primary reference sources for MPs and peers and is likely to influence the approach politicians adopt towards freelancers and their importance to the flexible knowledge-based economy (www.smallbusinessgroup.org.uk/). However, the lack of structure within the online consultation process could hamper the development of a really meaningful dialogue on the issue, says a commentator (www.onlinecontentuk.org/news/stateofcontent.asp).

Paramedic method of editing
Recently someone asked the Australian editors' list about the "paramedic method of editing". According to one article, the "Paramedic Method" involves bringing writing that lacks vitality back to life. It was formulated by Dr Richard Lanham, and has eight steps: 1. Find the prepositions; 2. Find the "is" forms; 3. Find the action; 4. Use action verbs; 5. Start fast — no slow windups; 6. Divide each sentence into phrases; 7. Read your sentences aloud; 8. Notice whether sentence lengths vary. (http://ronscheer.com/html/readingroom13.html)

Contributions to News Notes
Please send items for News Notes to Margaret Cooter, BMJ, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JR, UK; e-mail mcooter@bmj.com.
    Thanks to Marie-Louise Desbarats-Schönbaum, Julie Halfacre and El.pub Weekly for contributions.

Forthcoming meetings, courses and BELS exams

Something for everyone
14th Annual SfEP AGM and conference
20–22 Sept. 2003   Birmingham, UK
David Crystal will give the Whitcombe Lecture during this conference. (Contact: Society for Editors and Proofreaders, General Secretary, e-mail admin@sfep.org.uk, web site www.sfep.org.uk)

Journals development
ALPSP seminar
23 Sept. 2003   London, UK
(Contact: ALPSP, tel. +44 (0)1245 260571, e-mail events@alpsp.org, web site www.alpsp.org/calendar.htm)

8th annual short course for editors of peer review journals
25-27 Sept. 2003   Tunbridge Wells
This course is sponsored by the *BMJ* and Blackwell Scientific and is run by Tim Albert Training. (Contact: Barbara Albert, tel. +44 (0)1306 877993; e-mail Barbara@ta-training.demon.co.uk. Full details can be found on the web site www.timalbert.co.uk/.)

2004

Introduction to copyright
20th International learned journals seminar (ALPSP)
26 March 2004   London, UK
(Contact: ALPSP, tel. +44 (0)1245 260571, e-mail events@alpsp.org, web www.alpsp.org/calendar.htm)

CSE 47th annual meeting
14-18 May 2004   Vancouver, BC
(Contact: Council of Science Editors, Inc., 12100 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 130, Reston VA 20190, USA [note new address]; tel. +1 703 437 4377, fax +1 703 435 4390, e-mail CSE@CouncilScienceEditors. org, web www.CouncilScience Editors.org)

12th IFSE Conference
October 2004   Mexico
(Contact: Luis Benítez-Bribiesca, *Archives of Medical Research*, e-mail luisbenbri@mexis.com or lbenitezb@cis.gob.mx)

2005

CSE 48th annual meeting
20-24 May 2005   Atlanta, GA
(Contact: Council of Science Editors, Inc., 12100 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 130, Reston VA 20190, USA [note new address]; tel. +1 703 437 4377, fax +1 703 435 4390, e-mail CSE@CouncilScienceEditors.org, web www.CouncilScienceEditors.org)

5th international congress on peer review and biomedical publication
September 2005   Chicago, Illinois

COURSES

ALPSP training courses
The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers offers courses on electronic marketing; journal production, fulfilment and finance; and related topics. (Contact: ALPSP, 47 Vicarage Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9BS, UK; tel. +44 (0)1245 260571, fax +44 (0)1245 260935, events@alpsp.org, or see web site www.alpsp.org)

Style for reports and papers in medical and life-science journals
John Kirkman Communication Consultancy courses   London, UK
One-day seminars devoted to discussion of style — tactics for producing accurate and readable texts. (Contact: Gill Ward, JKCC, PO Box 106, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 2RU, UK; tel. +44 (0)1672 520429, fax +44 (0)1672 521008, e-mail kirkman. ramsbury@btinternet.com)

Publishing Training Centre at Book House
(Contact: The Publishing Training Centre at Book House, 45 East Hill, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2QZ, UK; tel.+44 (0)20 8874 2718, fax +44 (0)20 8870 8985, e-mail publishing. training@bookhouse.co.uk, web site www.train4publishing.co.uk)

Society for Editors and Proofreaders workshops
SfEP runs one-day workshops in London/elsewhere in the UK on copy-editing, proofreading, grammar and much else. (See web site, www.sfep.org.uk, or contact Lesley Ward, 20 Howard Road, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 2BX, UK, tel. +44 (0)118 979 2571, or e-mail admin@sfep.org. uk.)

Society of Indexers workshops
Workshops for beginners and more experienced indexers in various cities in the UK. See details and down-loadable booking forms on the web site (www.indexers.org.uk), or e-mail admin@indexers.org.uk or jane.henley@britishlibrary.net.

Tim Albert Training
Courses on writing, science writing and setting up publications. (Contact: Tim Albert Training, Paper Mews Court, 284 High Street, Dorking, RH4 1QT, UK; tel. +44 (0)1306 877993, fax +44 (0)1306 877929, e-mail tatraining@ compuserve.com, web site www. timalbert.co.uk)

University of Chicago Publishing Program
(Contact: Publishing Program, Graham School of General Studies, 5835 S. Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637-1608, USA; fax +1 773-702 6814, web site www.grahamschool. uchicago.edu/contact.shtml.)

University of Oxford writing and presentation courses
Courses on effective writing for biomedical professionals and on presenting in biomedical sciences and technology. (Contact: Gaye Walker, CPD Centre, Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford, Suite 5 Littlegate House, 16/17 St Ebbes Street, Oxford, OX1 1PT, UK; tel. +44 (0)1865 286953, fax +44 (0)1865 286934, e-mail personaldev@conted. ox.ac.uk, web site www.conted.ox.ac. uk/health.)

EXAMINATIONS

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) examination schedule
17 September 2003, Miami, Florida (AMWA Annual Conference)
18 October 2003, Boston, Massachusetts. Tufts University
20 March 2004, Princeton, New Jersey
20 March 2004, Chicago, Illinois
13 May 2004, Vancouver, British Columbia (CSE meeting).
20 October 2004, St Louis, Missouri (AMWA meeting).
Register for the above by three weeks before the examination date. For more information, or to take a BELS examination certifying your editing skills and making you an ELS (editor in the life sciences), visit the web site at www.bels.org to obtain the application form and a complete schedule of examinations, or contact Leslie Neistadt (e-mail: neistadt@ hughston.com, fax: +1 706 576 3348).

The Editor's Bookshelf

This bookshelf was compiled and edited by Mrs Jean Shaw. The next one will be coordinated by Jane Moody (jane.moody@ntlworld.com). Please send Jane details of articles or books of interest to editors.

Contributions in European languages other than English, especially in French or German, are welcome.

Entries are arranged (roughly) by topic under each heading, not alphabetically by author.

We regret that copies of the material referred to in these entries cannot be supplied.

Many thanks to those who have sent contributions.

GENERAL

Labonte R, Spiegel J. 2003. **Setting global health research priorities.** BMJ 5 Apr; 326:722.
"Burden of disease and inherently global health issues should both be considered."

[Editorial]. 2003. **In praise of good mentors.** Nature (London) 27 Mar; 422:359.
Mentors can help researchers from minority groups to achieve their potential.

Smart P. 2003. **E-journals: developing country access survey.** Learned Publishing 16(2):143–148.
A survey conducted in 2002 found that the majority of publishers were involved in one or more access programmes — in both the commercial and non-commercial sectors.

Larkin M. 2003. **New internet brings medicine up to speed.** Lancet 8 Mar; 361:844–845.
Internet 2 is a high speed network currently under development.

Salzberg S, et al. 2003. **Unrestricted free access works and must continue.** Nature (London) 24 Apr; 422:801.
"Bioinformatics researchers shouldn't need coercion to act responsibly and collegially" in the release of unpublished data from genome centres.

Patterson DJ. 2003. **Progressing towards a biological names register.** Nature (London) 10 Apr; 422:661.
How taxonomy could harness the indexing and organizational powers of the internet — using taxonomic name servers that map alternative names against one another.

Butler D. 2003. **Academies wrestle with issue of Islam's flagging science base.** Nature (London) 13 Mar; 422:
Meeting of research ministers from Islamic countries which concluded that political leaders failed to appreciate the importance of scientific research. There was less agreement about the role of religion in the promotion of scientific research.

[Editorial]. 2003. **Time to unite Islam and science.** Nature (London) 13 Mar; 422:99.

[Editorial]. 2003. **A chance for change in France.** Nature (London) 1 May; 423:1.
Cuts by government — but substantial progress demands changes in the stifling organizational structure to provide "clearer goals, flexibility and cost effectiveness, and respond to the aspirations of young scientists."

[Editorial]. 2003. **Biodefence takes its toll.** Nature (London) 5 June; 423:571.
"It is ironic, constitutionally questionable and misguided that in pursuit of vaccines against

biowarfare agents, the Bush administration has attacked the very biomedical research budgets that have helped to make such defence possible."

Quality indicators?

Lawrence P. 2003. **The politics of publication.** Nature (London) 20 Mar; 422:259–261.
"Evaluation of scientific research is based on performance indicators which judge the journal rather than the research." This has numerous adverse consequences. The "cure" will need to be undertaken by authors, editors and reviewers.

Colquhoun D. 2003. **Challenging the tyranny of impact factors.** Nature (London) 22 May; 423:479.

Tornqvist TE. 2003. **Impact factors aren't top journals' sole attraction.** Nature (London) 22 May; 423:480.

Clarke T. 2003. **Copied citations give impact factors a boost.** Nature (London) 22 May; 423:373.
Citations are often copied from one list to another. Thus an unremarkable or unread paper can become highly cited. A model developed at the University of California Los Angeles suggests that if people cited randomly, the citation distribution would be the same as is found in reality.

Insall R. 2003. **Impact factors: target the funding bodies.** Nature (London) 5 June; 423:585.
The organizations that give grants should be persuaded "to reward good science, as opposed to politically successful journals."

Science and the media

Willems J. 2003. **Bringing down the barriers.** Nature (London) 3 Apr; 422:470.
"Public communication should be part of common scientific practice."

Moynihan R. 2003. **Making medical journalism healthier.** Lancet 21 June; 361:2097–2098.
"A growing body of evidence suggests that too often medical reporting looks more like promotion than journalism." Improved coverage of the whole field and a little more scepticism are amongst the recommendations made to overcome this bias.

Watts G. 2003. **TV: is this journalism that makes a difference?** BMJ 17 May; 326:1093.
"Some media campaigns, such as the *Sunday Times* on thalidomide, have

been more successful than others. Where does Panorama on paroxetine stand?"

[Editorial]. 2003. **A meeting for Europe's scientists and publics.** Nature (London) 5 June; 423:571.
The Euroscience Open Forum in 2004 is a counterpart of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and should be supported.

Evidence-based medicine

Alderson P, Chalmers I. 2003. **Survey of claims of no effect in abstracts of Cochrane reviews.** BMJ 1 Mar; 326:475.
"The impossibility of proving no effect or no difference should be distinguished from the concept used for equivalence trials, where bounds are set on the differences that are deemed practically important." Some Cochrane reviews did not set boundaries.

Pettigrew M. 2003. **Why certain systematic reviews reach uncertain conclusions.** BMJ 5 Apr; 326:756–758.

Porta M; Michelson J; Rosenfield JA. 2003. **Evidence b(i)ased medicine.** BMJ 15 Mar; 326:602.
CRAP — Clinicians for the Restoration of Autonomous Practice — the fall side of evidence-based medicine.

PUBLISHING

Guinessy P. 2003. **Bankruptcy hits publishers, libraries.** Physics Today 56(4):36–37.
Reports the effects of the bankruptcy of RoweCom, a subscription agency, that left many institutions without the journal subscriptions they had paid for and publishers with no subscriptions from those institutions.

Healy M. 2003. **Think of a number.** Library and Information Update 2(6):42–43.
Electronic output, chapters of books etc. have put pressure on the available numbers for ISBNs. Currently the preferred solution is a three-digit prefix.

Upshall M. 2003. **Content management for journal publishers.** Learned Publishing 16(2):129–133.
Discusses the relevance of content management systems to publishers.

Powell DJ. 2003. **Voluntary deposit of electronic publications: a learning experience.** Learned Publishing 16(2):149–152.

Watts L. 2003. **Document supply: the evolving needs of the library.**

Learned Publishing 16(2):85–90.
Considers the needs of libraries to provide for their readers. Consortial arrangements appear transitory and it seems "likely that pricing will become more flexible and there will be some move back to more selective purchasing".

Steele C. 2003. **Phoenix rising: new models for the research monograph.** Learned Publishing 16(2):111–122.

Youdeowel A. 2001. **A guidebook on journal publishing for agriculture and rural development.** Oxford: INASP. 99 p. $19.95. ISBN 1-902928-03-2.
Review in *Science Editor* 2002;25:161.

New models for publishing

Dryburgh A. 2003. **A new framework for digital publishing decisions.** Learned Publishing 16(2):95–101.
Proposes a new financial framework for decisions, to ensure profitability as such activities develop. Different offerings that address different parts of the market more precisely are illustrated diagramatically and in tables.

Delamothe T, Godlee F, Smith R. 2003. **Scientific literature's open sesame?** BMJ 3 May; 326:945–946.
Since most of the world's biomedical literature remains out of reach of most people who could use it, the "author pays" model might be the best way forward.

[Various]. 2003. **"Free" medical publishing gets under way.** BMJ 5 Apr; 326:766.
Open access monopoly may threaten smaller journals; Publishing is getting expensive. Letters.

[Various]. 2003. **"Author pays" as new science publishing model.** BMJ 5 Apr; 326:765–766.
Several models of scientific publishing are likely; Cautious welcome is in order; It is time to wake up to the hidden agendas of free journals. Letters.

Delamothe T. 2003. **Fees waived for university researchers publishing through BioMed Central.** BMJ 21 June; 326:1350–1351.
Agreement between JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) and BioMed Central — three months after a similar deal was struck with the NHS in England.

Morris S. 2003. **Open sesame?** Learned Publishing 16(2):83–84.
The word open is used in a number of contexts in the information world.

Considers the open access model as applied to publishing. Editorial.

Joseph HD. 2003. **BioOne: building a sustainable alternative publishing model for non-profit publishers.** Learned Publishing 16(2):134–138.
BioOne is a "co-operative venture of [smaller learned] publishers and libraries." Its progress is described to date.

Copyright

Frankel MS. 2003. **Seizing the moment: scientists' authorship rights in the digital age.** Learned Publishing 16(2):123–128.
Results of a study by the American Association for the Advancement of Science "on intellectual property and electronic journal publishing with the aim of identifying those aspects of the intellectual property regime that facilitate or constrain the effective development of electronic scientific publishing."

Muir A. 2003. **Copyright and licensing for digital preservation.** Library and Information Update 2(6):34–36.
"Describes a new project to identify copyright and licensing issues that currently hinder digital preservation and looks at whether new legislation will help."

Bide M. 2003. **Copyright and the network.** Learned Publishing 16(2): 103–109.
The laws have not changed but there are technical measures which some believe to be effective in enforcement. Others are seeking new ways of licensing usage.

EDITING

[Various]. 2003. **How political should a general journal be?** BMJ 12 Apr; 326:820–821.
We cannot be apolitical; Medical journal is no place for politics; Politics, health, and justice are intertwined; Health is political; Politics could become evidence based with the BMJ's help; Politics are part of general medical journal. 366 people responded to this editorial — 45% wanted more on politics, 31% the same and 22% less or much less.

Urry M. 2003. **Speeding up the long slow path to change.** APS News 12(2):12.
Discusses the slow progress of acceptance of women, including a report of a study of refereeing which showed both men and women rated a paper with a male author higher than an identical one with a female author.

Meyers B. 2002. **Ch-ch-changin'.** Science Editor 25(5):168–170.
The changes in scholarly communication. Technology has changed, but the way in which publishers view information as their business is more or less the same, though the containers are different. Editorial.

Drazen JM. 2003. **SARS, the Internet, and the Journal.** New England Journal of Medicine 15 May; 348:2029.
The journal's web site and e-mail listserve for subscribers were used to make information about the SARS outbreak accessible and free to anyone. Electronic communication between authors, editors and reviewers made this possible and timely.

[Various reporters]. 2002. **[CSE] Annual Meeting Reports.** Science Editor 25(5):150–160.
Keynote address: Making good science look good. Plenary presentation: Can clinicians read your journal? Peer-reviewed medical journalism in the age of clinical evidence. Panel report: Challenges in publishing multilingual journals. Session: Research sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry: what journals should know and what they think they know that isn't true. Session: Bioinformatics and publishing. Session: The future of scientific publishing in the electronic age. Session: Getting inside your advertiser's head. Session: Archiving your legacy: putting old issues online. Panel report: Science for public consumption. Session: Research integrity and publication ethics. Panel report: The new generation of style manuals.

Dancik B. 2002. **Acceptance address: CSE, volunteer editors, and peer review.** Science Editor 25(5):148–149.

[Various]. 2003. **New edicts for letters.** BMJ 3 May; 326:985.
Restrictions should not be imposed on post-publication review; Post-publication peer review should have its place; Brief letters, more letters? BMJ ought to lead its contributors by example; BMJ may lose correspondents.

Coles A, et al. 2003. **Case reports in Lancet.** Lancet 5 Apr; 361:1230.
Analysis of case reports 1996-2000 to see if any specialities were over-represented.

Hartley J. 2003. **On the presentation of book reviews.** Learned Publishing 16(3):219–220.

Different disciplines present book reviews in different ways, which are described. Some recommendations are made.

Ippolito F. 2003. **The subtle beauty of art in the service of science.** Nature (London) 6 Mar; 422:15.
Maintains that the purpose of cover illustrations is to "emphasize details, convey an idea or raise questions" and is not intended to illustrate scientific research. Reply to J. Ottino (Nature 421:474-476).

Kleinert S, Horton R. 2003. **Appealing to editors.** Lancet 7 June; 361:1926.
The tabulated results of the appeals process at *The Lancet*.

Peer review

Rennie D, et al. 2003. **Congress to be held in September 2005 in Chicago.** BMJ 15 Mar; 326:563–564.
Fifth international congress on peer review and biomedical publication.

Zhang Yehong, Yuan Yachun, Yufei Jiang. 2003. **An international peer-review system for a Chinese scientific journal.** Learned Publishing 26(2):91–94.
The process, its importance and effect on the reputation of the journal.

van Loon AJ (Tom). 2003. **Peer review: recognition via year-end statements.** Nature (London) 8 May; 423:116.
Suggests that "journals send letters to their reviewers each year stating how many manuscripts they have reviewed, with some associated measure of quality." These should constitute verifiable criteria for assessment exercises, which need to be included if the standards of scientific publications are to be maintained.

Newarth P. 2003. **Peer review and the rewards of open access.** Nature (London) 10 Apr; 422:661.
Suggests different awards for swift (and slow) reviewers.

Branham R. 2003. **Sometimes it's the ref who fouls out.** Physics Today 56(1):20–22.
Letter describing experience of abusive referees' reports and suggesting solutions, including removing referees' anonymity.

Eagleman DM, Holcombe AO. 2003. **Improving science through online commentary.** Nature (London) 1 May; 423:15.
Suggests that each record in PubMed "has a link for adding

commentary: essentially the electronic version of a Post-it note". This would give the opportunity for "immediate free and open debate of scientific ideas and results."

How international are journals?

Wilkinson G. 2003. **How international are the editorial boards of leading psychiatry journals.** Lancet 5 Apr; 361:1015.
Comment on article in *The Lancet* 361:609.

Obuaya CC; Mahawar KK; Maisonneuve H et al; Butler CD. 2003. **International submissions to journals.** Lancet 19 Apr; 361:1387–1388.
Comments on some of the initiatives suggested by leading international journals.

Catapano L, Castle DJ. 2003. **How international are psychiatry journals.** Lancet 14 June; 361:2087.
Retrospective study on four leading journals by authors' countries (the author to whom correspondence was to be sent). Two time periods are compared.

Jimba M. 2003. **One journal for Medline.** Lancet 19 Apr; 361:1388–1384.
Low income and lower-middle income countries are poorly represented in Medline, since so many do not meet their criteria for inclusion. This problem also impacts on representation on international journal editorial boards.

Professional conduct

[APS Council]. 2003. **APS expands and updates ethics and professional conduct guidelines for physicists.** APS News 12(1):1,7.
Reports the new guidelines adopted by the American Physical Society Council. The revised guidelines can be found at www.aps.org/statements/02.2.html, the new statement on policies for handling allegations of research misconduct at www.aps.org/statements/02.3.html, the statement on improving education for professional ethics, standards and practices at www.aps.org/statements/02.4.html, and federal policy on research misconduct at www.ostp.gov/html/001207_3.html.

Tarnow E. 2003. **Give credit where credit is due.** APS News 12(1):7.
Letter saying authorship guidelines are by design unenforceable and in physics largely unknown and unused.

Williams JM. 2003. **Authorship should be limited.** APS News 12(1):7.
Suggests authorship should be limited to a team leader or a designated author, with other participants in a big project listed not as authors but as valued team members.

PROBLEM AREAS

Dalton R. 2003. **Natural history collections in crisis as funding is slashed.** Nature (London) 5 June; 423:575.
Reduced public and state government funding, private donations and endowments hit by the stock-market slide and a downturn in revenue from visitors are threatening a wide variety of projects and important collections.

Knight J. 2003. **Nul and void.** Nature (London) 10 Apr; 422:554–555.
Many scientific studies which produce negative results are consigned to the bin. A handful of journals and online repositories dedicated to negative results have been set up and awareness of the problem is growing.

McSweegan E. 2003. **Lack of trained security staff delays US visas.** Nature (London) 8 May; 423:115.

Brumfiel G. 2003. **Researchers rage at tightened restrictions on US immigration.** Nature (London) 3 Apr; 422:457.
. . . but "Congressmen unmoved by foreigners' plight".

Walsh JP, Wei Hong. 2003. **Secrecy is increasing in step with competition.** Nature (London) 24 Apr; 422:801–802.
But the focus on commercialization as its cause may conceal other reasons.

[Editorial]. 2003. **Retractions' realities.** Nature (London) 6 Mar; 422:1.

[APS]. 2003. **Questioned papers in *Physical Review* journals retracted.** APS News 12(2):1,3.
Reports retraction of six papers as a result of the Lucent/Bell Labs enquiry into misconduct by Jan Hendrik Schön. Online version at www.aps.org/apsnews.

Abbott A. 2003. **Axing of website article sparks row at Max Planck.** Nature (London) 3 Apr; 422:460.
Intelligent design has been portrayed as a "front" for creationism.

SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

Kennedy D. 2003. **Research fraud and public policy.** Science

(Washington DC) 18 Apr; 300:393.
"Sound social science, not cooked data, is what we need" — to inform government policies.

Zerbinos P. 2003. **Board approves new ethics guidelines for journals.** APS News 12(4):1,3.
The American Physical Society's Executive Board has approved a revised set of guidelines for the handling of allegations of research misconduct related to APS journals.

Dawson J. 2003. **New APS ethics guidelines address research misconduct and professional responsibilities.** Physics Today 56(1):20–22.
The American Physical Society's council has adopted new guidelines clarifying the responsibilities of co-authors and urging a stronger emphasis on ethics education.

Pich J, et al. 2003. **Role of research ethics committee in follow up and publication of results.** Lancet 22 Mar; 361:1015.
Research ethics committees should assess and ensure that the findings of studies are publicly available, but this important function is rarely carried out.

Laughlin RB. 2002. **Truth, ownership, and scientific tradition.** Physics Today 55(12):10–11.
Discusses the pressures on scientists in industry to engage in misconduct and the dangers in making over universities to the image of business.

Blair A, et al. 2003. **Research, ownership, misconduct — readers reply.** Physics Today 56(4):13–18.
Letters from Art Blair, Laurence N Wesson, JA Van Vechten, Martin E Ross, James C McGroddy, Frederic A Lymna and Jed Rothwell commenting on Robert B Laughlin's article (55(12):10) with reply by Laughlin.

Brookfield J. 2003. **The system rewards a dishonest approach.** Nature (London) 22 May; 423:480.

Specific cases

Smith R. 2003. **Editorial misconduct.** BMJ 7 June; 326:1224.
"Medical editors need effective self regulation." Various existing bodies might produce a system.

Shashok K. 2003. **Pitfalls of editorial miscommunication.** BMJ 7 June; 326:1262–1264.
The publishers of *Human Immunology* retracted an immunogenetics paper that some readers felt had political content. The guest editor was blamed

but there had been no written guidance or oversight of his remit.

Levi BG. 2002. **Investigation finds that one Lucent physicist engaged in scientific misconduct.** Physics Today 55(11):15–17.
Summarizes the results of the investigation committee set up by Bell Labs to investigate the alleged scientific misconduct by Jan Hendrik Schön. For full report see www.lucent.com/news_events/researchreview.html.

Dyer O. 2003. **GMC accuses doctor of research fraud.** BMJ 22 Mar; 326:616.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Abbasi K, Smith R. 2003. **No more free lunches.** BMJ 24 May; 326:1156– 1157.
Editorial. "Patients will benefit from doctors and drug companies disentangling." Sponsorship of conferences/other events should go.

Melander H. 2003. **Evidence b(i)ased medicine — selective reporting from studies sponsored by pharmaceutical industry: review of studies in new drug applications.** BMJ 24 May; 326:1171–1173.
Investigates impact on publication bias caused by multiple publication, selective publication, and selective reporting in studies sponsored by pharmaceutical companies.

Eaton L. 2003. **Readers want transparency in link between doctors and drug firms.** BMJ 21 June; 326:1352.
Result of poll on *BMJ* web site.

Liberati A, Magrini N. 2003. **Information from drug companies and opinion leaders.** BMJ 24 May; 326:1156–1157.
"Double standards in information for medical journals and practitioners should go."

Dalton R. 2003. **Academics fume as university refuses to reject tobacco dollars.** Nature (London) 27 Mar; 422:361.
Conflict between administration and academics at the University of California.

WRITING

Lunsford A, with a section by Horowitz FE. 2002. **EasyWriter: a pocket guide**, 2nd ed. Boston (Mass): Bedford/St. Martin's. ISBN 0-312-24348-0.
Review in *Science Editor* 2002:25:163.

[Various]. 2003. **Readability of British and American medical prose.** BMJ 29 Mar; 326:711–712.
Why are unreadable articles still being written; Transatlantic writing differences are probably exaggerated; Misclassification, long words and errors may obscure real differences. Comments on original article in *BMJ* 325:1451-1452.

Knight J. 2003. **Clear as mud.** Nature (London) 22 May; 423:376–378.
"The scientific literature has become less accessible over the past half century." Some suggestions for improvement are given.

van der Blonk H. 2003. **Writing case studies in information systems research.** Journal of Information Technology 18:45–52.
"This paper is concerned with a large variety of forms of case study accounts that a researcher could choose from in writing his or her case study." — Four forms: chronology, play, biography and voices.

Barford W. 2003. **Short point.** Physics World 16(2):18.
Letter replying to earlier suggestion that at scientific conferences it is best to use "refined erudite Norman words", quoting Winston Churchill: "Short words are best, and old words, when short, are best of all."

REFERENCE

Gardner M. 2003. **Why clinical information standards matter.** BMJ 24 May; 326:1101–1102.
These are the reference sources and standards for the accurate description of medicine.

Patton M. 2003. **Useful information about rare inherited disorders.** BMJ 326:612.
A guide to available resources .

Membership list additions and changes

NEW AND REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Corporate members

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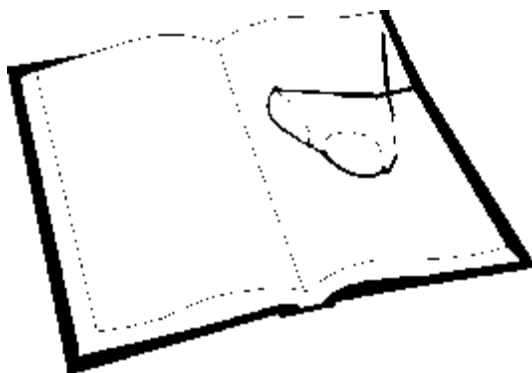Tel: +31 (0)70 373 7314

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DEATH

We much regret to
announce the death of
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