European Science Editing

Contents **Vol. 32(1)** **February 2006**

European Association of Science Editors **www.ease.org.uk**

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From the editors' desks

Contributions for the journal should be sent to the Chief Editor or the appropriate section editor listed above. See Instructions to authors in this issue and on EASE's web site (www.ease.org.uk).

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Something new
If you read the Council update in August 2005, you'll know that a new EASE logo was approved. Council decided to make the transition in two steps. The old logo has taken on a new look and will be used on *European Science Editing* and some other documents until plans to revise the formats in use are complete. One document that has taken the final step is the promotion brochure. A copy is enclosed, and anyone wanting copies to distribute at meetings and conferences should contact the Secretary (ease@pp.inet.fi). A copy will also be available on the web page for downloading. We welcome all efforts to spread the word about EASE.

Council plans in action
See the editorial by Rod Hunt, who is guiding Council efforts to obtain EU funding, for the rationale behind Council plans in this direction. In addition, Council had approved participation in a recent EU Conference, and Rod's report of the meeting is also included in this issue.

Kraków in June
The second circular for the **Ninth General Assembly and Conference** on 15–18 June is being sent out with this issue**.** The early registration deadline is **15 March** and you will need to download the registration form from the web site (www.ease.org.uk), or contact the Secretary (ease@pp. inet.fi) to get a printed copy. In addition, check the web site for the courses that are being offered in conjunction with the Conference.

New index available on the web
An index of the last two volumes of *European Science Editing* (30 and 31, 2004 and 2005) has been placed on the web. Anyone who wants a paper copy should contact ease@pp.inet.fi.

New editors needed
Due to the policy of limiting editors' terms that became effective in 2003, several members will step down from the Publication Committee during 2006. Anyone interested in working with *European Science Editing* or the *Science Editors' Handbook* should contact Hervé Maisonneuve, the chief editor (hervemaison@wanadoo.fr). The Committee is especially looking for a production manager, as Maeve O'Connor is one of those due to go.

Apologies/With this issue
We apologize for the quality of the figure in chapter 1-5.2 of the *Science Editors' Handbook* distributed to members with the November issue. The figure has been improved and the chapter is now reissued, with two new chapters.

We are also sorry that the Editor's Bookshelf is missing. We hope it will reappear before too long.

The Editors' WebWatch
Topics for the Editors' WebWatch are now rarely suggested and the section will no longer appear regularly. However, all ideas will still be welcomed by the compiler, Moira Johnson-Vekony (ESE@DunaScripts.com), and the journal will continue to publish the section when items are available.

Contributions for the May issue
Contributions for the next issue (May) are invited and should be sent to the appropriate member of the Editorial Board (see the list on the left, and see "Instructions to Authors" in this issue or on the web at www.ease.org.uk). The deadline for the May issue is **15 March 2006**.

Editorial

EASE in the EU?

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Your Council is considering a very ambitious development which could have far-reaching impacts on EASE's mission to enhance science editorial skills, communication and fellowship, and on EASE as an organization.

Though EASE has members in more than 50 countries worldwide, it is nominally a European organization. However, it has never sought support from the European Commission (EC), even though the match between what we do and what they want to see happen is not trivial.

In science, the mission of the EC is not to fund research or research publishing *per se*, but to pursue an actively pro-European agenda, such as improving the competitiveness and world standing of Europe through elimination of duplication of effort and ignorance of best practice, and through increased harmonization, integration, cooperation and standardization. EASE has already supported steps in this direction by organizing a workshop at the recent conference entitled Communicating European Research (report on p. 16).

Funding by the EC is awarded competitively to successful international consortia of applicants who have a clear aim towards one or more of the EC's own objectives, address actions that are only practical at a pan-European level, and offer to carry out specific, pre-listed activities and tasks which deliver specific results or outcomes on time and within budget.

For EASE, the obvious contribution to EC objectives comes in the form of our own triennial General Assembly and Conference series. The ninth of these events will occur this summer in Kraków (see p.23 and enclosed information). Council thinks it would be marvellous if the tenth event could be an EC-funded European super-conference in our 2009 slot.

The idea is that we would apply for EC funding to set up a much larger event than usual, with a much deeper and wider penetration into the world of European science editing. For example, paid researchers would identify and approach all European science editors; an international panel would design the Conference; an administrator or agency would be appointed to run it; all "old EU" editors might be offered partial sponsorship to attend the Conference; for the "new EU" editors (eastern and southern states) complete sponsorship might be given. The themes of the Conference would be several of the EC's own (as above), but within the special context of science publishing. We would appoint staff, hold pre-congress workshops, launch working parties, have dialogues with leading journals and publishers, conduct research on who is editing what and where, have further re-launches of the *Science Editors' Handbook* and EASE web site, and maybe still more. When it is all over, the benefit for EASE would be a permanently increased membership, enabling it to sustain much of the new activity itself.

If we went ahead with this plan, what would it involve for EASE? We would need to form, out of EASE and elsewhere, a high-quality, inter-disciplinary, multinational consortium and put together a lengthy and detailed proposal for submission to Brussels. Forming such a consortium is often a difficult task for European researchers, but EASE has the advantage of already being an innately multinational consortium.

Without the support of the membership at large, however, this task will be impossible. It is not a job for Council alone. There are criteria (both explicit and hidden) for membership of such consortia; these have to be satisfied and the whole thing has to be costed-out, with the possibilities defined in detail. Making the proposal is a considerable project in itself and action must begin during 2006.

So, who among the current EASE membership would like to become involved in this venture? Do you yourself have experience of European science funding? Have you ever been part of an EC science consortium? Would you be willing to join the proposal team? Please contact me at the address above with any ideas you may have, or suggestions for your own involvement. With enough support internally, EASE can contemplate making a truly major step forward that will be of permanent benefit to the Association and its aims.

Article

Annotating electronic documents: can it be made as useful as annotating paper documents?*

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Abstract
Annotation of documents is widely used at many stages in publishing — by authors creating documents as well as by readers/ reviewers. People are reluctant to create electronic annotations because the computer tools for creating them are generally more difficult to use than their paper equivalents. In this article we briefly identify some opportunities offered by electronic annotation and look at threats to making the electronic world better than the paper world. In particular we examine the possibilities provided by proactive annotations, lifelong repositories of annotations and shared annotations, and new ways to bring the paper and electronic worlds together.

In practice, reading, writing and annotating go together at most stages of publishing (Brown & Brown 2004). Readers make notes to highlight important points for their own benefit or to provide feedback to authors. Authors frequently read other documents to inform their writing and make notes on ideas or material to incorporate into their work.

Paper documents can be annotated quickly and easily by writing directly onto the paper. An annotation made in this way is usually attached to a particular portion of the document (known as its *anchor*). Although electronic document systems may provide a way of attaching electronic annotations to anchors in the document, these systems are often tricky to use and mechanisms vary considerably from system to system. Paper annotation wins easily on speed and ease of use, but written annotations can be difficult to find and compare later. Conversely, electronic annotations can be difficult to create, but they provide a much greater potential for searching and collating at a later date. The theme of this article is that it should be possible to make the electronic world better than the paper world for annotation by both readers and authors and hence to improve the overall publishing process. In the following sections we briefly identify opportunities and threats offered if this goal is achieved. There are seven opportunities and three threats.

Opportunity 1: proactive annotation
The key to improving the electronic world is not just to create electronic facilities that imitate the paper world, but to provide facilities that go far beyond what paper can ever achieve. One way this can be done is to provide proactive annotations.

Two experimental systems developed at MIT show how this might be done. The Remembrance Agent (Rhodes & Maes 2000) is designed to proactively suggest documents that are relevant to what an author is currently writing. It may, for example, suggest one or more documents the author might wish to read, as they appear to cover the same material as the current paragraph. Similarly, if the author has just typed a person's name, the Remembrance Agent might bring up a link to the most recent e-mail received from that person. Clearly such proactive behaviour could become an annoying distraction. To combat this, the Remembrance Agent provides a discreet interface using proactive annotations and plenty of user controls. Thus, in the first example above, the Agent annotates the paragraph being written with the name of a paper the user might want to read. Clicking on this annotation leads, via increasing levels of detail, to the content of the suggested paper.

The second system, Margin Notes (Rhodes 2000), is designed for readers rather than authors. It proactively adds annotations to each web page the user loads (provided the user has asked for the facility). These annotations relate the new page to the user's current work: that is, they dynamically personalize the page.

Opportunity 2: lifelong annotation
Our second opportunity applies to annotations that are designed to add long-term value to a document. The purpose of such an annotation is that it will be visible when the underlying document is re-read, which could be months or years later. If annotations are automatically stored in a repository it would allow, for example, all annotations made by the reviewers of a book to be retrieved and compared. Possibly all annotations about the work of one or more authors could be captured in a repository. The vision is therefore to exploit the use of repositories to provide lifelong annotation.

In order to get the best value from repositories the nature of the annotation should be captured when it is created. The repository system itself should automatically record information about the author of the annotation and the time it was created as well as the contents of the annotation itself and its anchor. Ideally, it should also allow the creator to distinguish different types of annotation (e.g. by noting reasons for making the annotation, such as "Quotation",

*Based on a presentation at the EASE seminar "Habits in science communication and science publishing", held in Barcelona, 29 April 2005.

"Theory", "Citation", "Error"). We return to this theme in opportunity 4.

Annotations in a repository can be searched, arranged into structures and selectively retrieved. Users could ask, for example, to see all annotations containing the word "statin" (either in the annotation itself — assuming this is textual — or in its anchor within the original document). These selected annotations could then be used to find the original annotated documents and display the annotations *in situ*. The result is a facility that not only enhances the advantages of conventional annotations but also extends to encompass the functionality of bookmarks and user trails and provides a new form of information retrieval.

Three threats

Having identified two opportunities, we will balance them by looking at three threats:

Paper is easier: as noted earlier, users prefer to annotate paper artifacts because making electronic annotations is relatively tedious. This is a serious threat, but in the next section we discuss a possible future opportunity to combat it.

Breaking the flow: when we are reading, an interruption of more than a few seconds is detrimental. The same applies even more strongly when we are writing. This threat relates to the previous one: readers prefer to make annotations on paper because they can do this quickly without breaking the flow. For authors, any proactive annotation system that distracts their attention starts with a big negative cost. Thus, any suggestions made must be good to combat this cost.

Change: if annotations are stored and later re-used, the underlying document may have changed in the meantime. We discuss this issue, which threatens our second opportunity (the use of a repository for lifelong annotations), towards the end of the article.

Some of the opportunities we describe below relate to tackling these threats.

Opportunity 3: bringing the paper and electronic worlds together

We have implicitly assumed up to now that paper annotations apply to paper documents and electronic annotations to electronic documents. However, there are several initiatives attempting to bring real physical paper into the electronic world. These include the use of electronic pens on specially produced paper (Dymetman and Copperman 1998, Anoto 2005) and the use of the DigitalDesk (Wellner 1993) to allow electronic annotation of paper documents and vice versa. The DigitalDesk is an ordinary physical desk with a video camera and projector mounted above it. It also has a light-tipped pen that acts as a pointing device (see Fig. 1). The images from the video camera can be used to find the position of any documents on the desk and to recognize the individual words of text on these documents. The position of the light on the tip of the pen can also be determined from the video images, thus allowing the pen to act as a pointer; in addition, the projector can beam information down onto the desk or the documents on the desk.

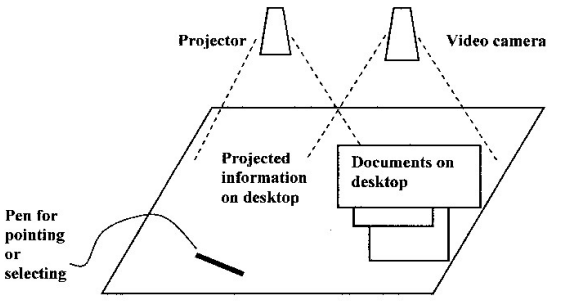

Fig. 1. The DigitalDesk.

Work at Cambridge University (Brown et al. 1998) showed how the DigitalDesk could project electronic annotations onto paper documents on the desk. This work used ordinary published paper books — in particular simplified children's versions of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* — with corresponding electronic SGML versions containing additional information on the part of speech of every word in the text. It used the camera to recognize the text on the open pages of the book on the desktop and matched this up with the relevant part of the book's electronic text. The additional information from the SGML version was then used to provide simple grammar lessons for students working with the paper book. The lessons included annotations projected onto the book to highlight, for example, all the nouns or all the verbs on the open pages. In this case the annotations were coloured rectangles beamed onto the relevant words. This highlighting was either under control of the student ("Show me all nouns") or under the control of specific lessons provided by the system. The system could also ask the student to try to identify grammatical objects for themselves ("Find two adjectives") and then, if necessary, highlight words to show a correct answer. Figure 2 shows the Alice book in use on the DigitalDesk. Projected information can be seen beside and above the paper book; also visible is the light-tipped pen used to point to information on the open pages of the book.

Fig. 2. The Alice book in use on the DigitalDesk.

In this work the annotations produced by the system were derived from the markup in the SGML

version of the document. In other applications, annotations might be created on the fly (e.g. annotations showing possible translations of words into other languages could be generated via dictionary look-up) or annotations written by the user onto a paper document could be captured electronically, stored by the system, and then projected back onto any copy of the same paper document next time it is opened at that page on the DigitalDesk.

So far neither the DigitalDesk nor the technology for using electronic pens on special paper has become widely used. However, the emergence of systems integrating paper into the electronic world has huge future importance. In terms of annotation, it allows users to read and write with paper while keeping all the advantages of saving and retrieving electronic annotations. Thus this third opportunity offers a possible answer to our "paper is easier" threat.

Opportunity 4: multiple sets of annotations

In the previous section, we outlined a grammar-teaching application. This application provided several different collections of annotations covering all the different grammatical constructions in the underlying document. The user could choose to view collections of annotations for nouns, adjectives, verbs, and so on. Many other annotation systems provide similar facilities for multiple collections of annotations relating to a single document or document collection. To distinguish the different sets and provide a means of presenting them to users, some form of additional information or data type is needed. These data types can encompass the "dimensions" identified in Marshall's extensive study of annotations (Marshall 1998).

Simple data types chosen by the creator of the annotation (as mentioned previously when we discussed lifelong repositories) can help considerably, but ideally the data types should support hierarchy and aggregation as in object-oriented programming languages. Thus in our grammar-teaching application it should be possible to have higher-level sets of annotations with data types relating to sentence structure as well as a "Part-of-Speech" data type with many sub-types, including "Noun" and "Verb". There are potential problems with this scheme for individual annotations that possess several different data types. Nevertheless our fourth opportunity is to add richness to electronic annotations by allowing multiple sets of annotations with data types.

Opportunity 5: sharing of annotations

There are several easy ways to share electronic documents, such as e-mailing them to several people or making them available via the web. There are also CSCW (Computer Supported Cooperative Work) systems to help collaborative working on documents, but these are not widely used even for documents with collaborative authorship. The reason is that CSCW brings a host of new and difficult issues. Above all it is hard to make CSCW systems easy to use, compared with personal systems.

We believe the same applies to sharing of annotations. It is possible to share an annotated electronic document via e-mail or the web in the same way as the original document. For ethical and copyright reasons, however, it is important that there should be a clear distinction between annotations and the original document. If other users want to add their own annotations to an already-annotated document, the use of multiple sets of annotations (as outlined in the previous section), with one set for each user, should normally be sufficient. A study of personal and collaborative annotations (Marshall & Bernheim Brush 2004) concluded that personal annotations are different to collaborative ones. In particular, collaborative annotations take on the characteristics of discussion groups. As we are concerned with making electronic annotations as easy to create as paper ones, we do not believe it is sensible to take on the extra baggage of CSCW systems. Therefore our fifth opportunity (albeit a backhanded one) is to throw away the collaborative baggage and concentrate on sharing individual sets of annotations.

Opportunity 6: capturing the user's preferences

The information explosion is a huge problem in publishing, as in other fields. An approach to taming this is the use of agents that supply the user with appropriate documents — perhaps with relevant sections highlighted — and filter out unwanted documents. The problem here is capturing information on what the user wants. As most users are reluctant to fill out forms giving such information, their needs usually have to be captured automatically. If the user takes the trouble to make an annotation it usually means the material is important to them. Thus any automatic system for capturing preferences (by analysing web pages visited and links followed, for example) could be improved by analysing users' annotations as well. Our sixth opportunity is using annotations to capture a better view of the user's needs.

Opportunity 7: enhancement-annotations and edit-annotations

Up to this point we have been considering annotations that are essentially icing on top of a document; the original document remains unchanged and entirely visible. These might best be described as *enhancement-annotations*. There is, however, a different form of annotation that we shall call an *edit-annotation*. This can be considered as an augmented form of an enhancement-annotation that allows deletions, insertions, and replacements in the original document. Thus a set of proofreader's marks represents a set of edit-annotations, and a series of edits performed by an electronic text editor could be represented as a sequence of edit-annotations.

User interfaces are not a prime topic of this article, but electronic annotation systems should allow edit-annotations to be shown superimposed on the original document (as for enhancement-annotations) or embedded in the original document (Zellweger et al. 2001). Thus an edit-annotation representing a replacement would replace material the user sees,

and a deletion would delete the material. This form of interface would cover applications where the user is just interested in the final product (i.e. the document generated after applying the annotations), and not in the mechanisms used to produce it (i.e. the individual annotations). In particular it covers the production of different versions of documents, where one version might be generated by a proofreader, another by a reviewer, and the final version by an editor. Thus our seventh opportunity is to generalize the notion of annotation to include editing, and to provide flexible user interfaces that allow annotations to be displayed either in-line or out-of-line

Issues of change

Having covered all the seven opportunities, we now return to our third threat: change. We discuss this now, at the end of the article, because it is such a ubiquitous threat. When we annotate a document the annotations are normally saved separately from the underlying document. After the annotations have been saved, the original document may change over time, unknown to the annotator. In particular the positions where the annotations should go, the anchors, might change or disappear. (Worse, the underlying document may disappear altogether.) In this situation, there are two possible cases: either users are only interested in the original document or they want their annotations to be carried over to any updated version of the original. The first case is easy to handle by saving a copy of the original document along with its annotations. Several projects have worked on the second case, using intelligent methods to adjust anchors when the underlying document changes (Röscheisen et al 1995; Bernheim Brush et al. 2001). Although these projects have achieved considerable success, any approach, however clever, breaks down if the underlying document is changed enough.

To take a wider view, the inability to cater for change is a threat to almost any IT project. How many web sites have fully up-to-date information and error-free external links? In our case, change is a threat not only to the opportunity to use a repository to store annotations over time but to several other opportunities too. For instance, the user's style of assigning data types to annotations might evolve over time. Nevertheless the threat of change can be exaggerated: it leads to our data being imperfect, not useless. So just as web users accept dangling links as a fact of life, users must accept the occasional wrong or lost annotation.

Summary

Our analysis of making electronic documents as easy to annotate as paper ones has identified seven opportunities, which we believe more than outweigh the three threats we discuss. The opportunities associated with repositories, data types and multiple sets of annotations are important, but simply exploit the computer's ability to store and search large amounts of information. Some of this could be replicated (with difficulty) on paper. Proactive annotations and the ability to capture the users' needs automatically, on the other hand, are completely new facilities that are virtually impossible to replicate in the paper world.

This article has merely scratched the surface of what we believe to be an exciting field for the future. A host of opportunities exists for producing new software tools to help all stages of publishing by generalizing current facilities for electronic annotation. As with any opportunities there are pitfalls, as exemplified by our three threats, but an awareness of the enemy is a great aid to defeating him.

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Editing around the world

Publishing and editing learned society periodicals in Finland

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The starting point of scholarly publishing in Finland, at that time a part of the Kingdom of Sweden, was the foundation of a university in Turku in 1640 (transferred to Helsinki in 1828; now the University of Helsinki). The publications issued were dissertations of different kinds, at first exclusively in Latin, but towards the end of the 18th century also to some extent in Swedish as well as in Latin. The first Finnish learned society, *Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica,* was founded in 1821, and the first scholarly academy was the *Finnish Society of Science and Letters*, founded in 1838. From the very beginning these associations issued publications, at first mainly in Swedish, then gradually and increasingly in German and French, and in the 20th century in English. By the end of the 19th century there were 31 societies of different categories, both general and specialized, in the humanities, social sciences, and medical and natural sciences. In 1899 an umbrella organization, the *Federation of the Finnish Learned Societies*, was founded, which now has 231 societies as members. A number of these societies publish scholarly journals and monographs, with at present a total of 72 refereed journals and other serials, two-thirds of which use English as their principal language. Other publications of these societies include newsletters and popular periodicals. Other institutions publishing research are the universities, research institutes and, to a lesser extent, private commercial publishers.

Society periodicals during the first post-war decades

Traditionally, society scholarly publishing in Finland has been widely characterized by small editions, amateur editing, and very little strategic planning. Printing costs used to be almost wholly covered by state subsidies. Editors were either not paid or received merely a symbolic remuneration, and their role was often that of a post office: for receiving manuscripts from authors and forwarding them to the printers. Peer review either had a very formal character, based on the authority of senior members, or did not exist. Very little was done to introduce publications into the market. However, since the time the first scholarly societies were founded there had been strong efforts to spread their publications internationally through publication exchange. English (and formerly German) has been widely used as a publishing language within science in Finland, so many of the publications could also be read by non-Finnish scholars. The number of society serials was much greater than the number mentioned above, but many of them were published only sporadically.

Important changes since the 1960s

At the end of the 1950s the *National Science Foundation* in the USA and international organizations such as *UNESCO* became anxious to enhance the quality of scholarly publications, emphasizing particularly the active and creative role of editorship and an efficient process of peer review. The new ideas gradually found their way to Northern Europe, where all Scandinavian countries faced the same problem: how to reach the scientific community in other countries. Disseminating periodicals through publication exchange was not considered efficient enough, particularly since many important internationally renowned journals had become commercialized and thus were no longer available for exchange. It is practically impossible for small journals in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to compete on the international market. This led to cooperation: Scandinavian international journals in the fields of, *inter alia*, physics, chemistry, biology and geology, were founded. The idea was to replace national society periodicals with these international versions but this proved only partly successful, mainly because of local patriotism and conservative attitudes. Scandinavian journals have nevertheless established themselves as renowned publications internationally.

The *Nordic Publishing Board in Science*, the supervisor of these new journals, also felt a need to educate editors and it arranged meetings, mostly annual, for Scandinavian editors, which became quite popular. Quite a number of Finnish editors of research periodicals attended the meetings, met one another and colleagues from other countries, and learned useful skills and acquired new knowledge. The Board also published a newsletter containing articles on topics related to publishing and editing.

In Finland, the state body for research financing known as the *Academy of Finland* (though it is not a learned academy in the real sense of the word) had in the early 1970s been entrusted with the responsibility of allotting financial aid to the publishing scholarly societies, which had formerly been the task of the Ministry of Education. In order to devise a strategy for the financing, the Academy carried out a thorough study of contemporary publication activities. This study showed that society publishing was, by and large, badly organized and partly parochial. It lacked an efficient peer review process, and the distribution of publications was inappropriate. The Academy formulated rules for granting subsidies covering publication costs that included demands for more efficient editing, financing based on sources other than state grants, clear separation of publishing and

other costs in the bookkeeping, and refraining from unnecessary and excessive free distribution as well as unnecessary exchange of publications. Publishers were also urged to intensify marketing of their publications. These demands almost destroyed the publishing routines of some of the societies, many of which were treading well-beaten paths, but on the whole these endeavours of the Academy can be considered to have been a healthy and invigorating exercise.

In these conditions the *Federation of the Finnish Learned Societies* was ready to respond to the requirements of its member associations with regard to publishing. The Federation set up an editorial bureau offering copy-editing services, hired a publication manager who was also responsible for marketing operations, and opened a book store selling publications issued by the member societies. It has also regularly organized seminars for editors and publishers on selected topics related to publishing.

Besides taking part in the Scandinavian and national editors' meetings, many Finnish editors of scholarly periodicals have become involved in EASE and taken part in its triennial conferences. In relation to its total population, Finland has the largest share of members of all countries where EASE has members (Fogelberg 2000). In 1985, a Finnish association of science editors and journalists (FASEJ) was founded and this has proved to be an active forum with an ever-growing membership (at present more than 600 personal members). The idea of founding this association arose among a group comprising predominantly editors of society and research institute publications, but during the preparations science journalists and information officers became interested in joining and it was unanimously agreed to include all these groups in the membership. This has resulted in fruitful contacts and exchanges of experience and may be considered an important reason for the viability of the association. It is to be noted that the association has a broad scholarly scope, with "science" having to be interpreted in the sense of the German concept *Wissenschaft*, comprising all learned fields. It may be noted that a few years after FASEJ was founded there was an attempt to found a common editors' association for all the Nordic countries, but it faded away soon after the start.

The present situation

The publishing activities of the member societies of the *Federation of the Finnish Learned Societies* have become more and more professional, even though most editors do the work in their spare time. The structure of publication has also been rationalized, with a concentration on fewer serials. It is difficult to judge the efficiency and level of the peer-review process, but the 72 serials of the Federation's members claim that they base the selection of papers for publication on peer review. More and more Finnish researchers submit articles to international journals, but only a few papers from outside Finland find their way to Finnish society publications.

Because of the move into the electronic age many editorial practices have completely changed. Since typesetting by printers has become obsolete, and publication is now based on the electronic text delivered by the author, editing is done on screen, and one important task of the editor is to provide the authors with detailed advice concerning style and typography — and to insist that authors follow the rules and to monitor that they do so.

Even if progress from manuscript to publication is a wholly computerized process, most scholarly periodicals are published as printed versions. Only one is published only online, whereas five are issued as both printed and online versions. Three of the printed serials can be read online after some delay. Despite the encouraging activities of the Federation, most publishers have been reluctant to switch completely over to internet publishing. In many cases, and in many scholarly fields, their reluctance is quite well-founded.

A national advisory board on research ethics was founded during the first years of the 21st century and it has been made part of the Federation. The cases brought for its consideration have mainly been related to plagiarism. No cases involving editors have been reported.

In the future editors will always be needed — as gate-keepers basing their decisions on peer review; as managers of the whole publication process; as authors' editors giving advice and assistance enabling authors to prepare the electronic manuscript in its final shape; as innovators who develop themselves by following international trends in publishing; and as advisers to their employers, the publishers.

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Viewpoint

Small science journals: stay alert for potentially dangerous information

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Abstract
Bioterrorism has become a key subject in global communication, forcing the scientific community to deal urgently with problems of security and the publication of potentially dangerous information. While editors of big science journals, supported by a rigorous peer review system, seem to be generally aware of security implications and how to handle them, greater attention to security issues should be paid in the editing of small science journals and institutional reports, where sensitive information is more likely to be published. Some practical suggestions are also recommended to help evaluate when the potential harm of publication outweighs its benefits and when a submitted paper should be modified or even not published.

Not a day goes by without the subject of terrorism being mentioned in the mass media or other form of public health communication. Themes and terminology such as bioterrorism, security concerns, potential misuse of scientific discoveries and weaponizing anthrax or smallpox have become commonplace in our daily routine, especially when an act of terrorism occurs.

The phenomenon of terrorism has become a key subject in global communication. At different rhythms it has forced governments to implement security legislation, the general public to change or adjust their behaviour to new rules and procedures, and intellectuals and historians to ask themselves about its causes, which increasingly escape from any form of standard classification.

Some interesting questions arise. When did the scientific community perceive this phenomenon and understand that the community can no longer consider itself exempt? In which way has it faced or is it facing up to this? How important has the threat been considered at the international level and, more importantly, at the local level? What measures have been studied and implemented to counteract this threat? These are the questions on which the scientific world is reflecting — delicate themes that academic and scientific societies, along with those entities charged with public security, are discussing in depth.

In addition, the online availability of most science journals as well as many institutional reports makes the protection of sensitive data difficult. The fact that online access to journal articles is often restricted (registration or payment may be required) does not represent a major hindrance to potential terrorists looking for "useful information".

If the internet favours the dissemination of sensitive data and information, the editorial responsibility in publishing such material is ever-increasing. Furthermore, institutional repositories are rapidly developing all over the world under the auspices of the Open Access Initiative (www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml). For various reasons the information contained in open access archives may represent an even greater threat in terms of security than regular publication in print: systems of this kind can host preprints, self-archived material and articles which have not been evaluated or refereed, and last but not least access to them is free and unrestricted.

The Statement on Scientific Publication and Security: big journals take action

In February 2003 some researchers from prestigious universities and professional associations, along with the editors of over 20 international science journals, under the name of the "Journal Editors and Authors Group", signed a Statement on Scientific Publication and Security [1] which was published simultaneously in many of the journals involved (including *JAMA*, *Nature*, *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Science*), often accompanied by editorials and comments [2].

The Statement is in four parts, preceded by a preamble where the importance of the scientific publishing process is underlined: this process allows and ensures the dissemination of that scientific knowledge which is crucial to society since it improves the human condition in myriad ways. However, "new science, as we all know, may sometimes have costs as well as benefits" [1]. The four parts of the Statement were conceived from this starting point and under the urgency of dealing with terrorism. These parts can be briefly summarized as follows: (1) protect the integrity of the scientific process; (2) understand the need to urgently face up to terrorism and security; (3) find new processes for the control and review of scientific papers before their publication; (4) avoid publication of papers if deemed by the editor to be potentially dangerous.

As expected, this Statement raised considerable clamour and also negative comments. Principles of ethics and academic freedom [3] were called upon, the potential danger of "censoring science" was raised [4–6] and it was also noted how the Statement basically failed to provide clear guidelines for editors [7].

Regardless of the correctness and potential effectiveness of this Statement, undoubtedly it was a necessary step by the scientific editing community in answering terrorism and a first step in trying to lay the foundations of the previously undefined

boundaries between freedom and security, between replication of the results of an experiment and their potential misuse and harm.

Security concerns and small science journals

It may be necessary to look again, with greater incisiveness, at the aspects of security in scientific editing. It may be even more important to put the question about whether papers containing "sensitive" information should be published directly to the players (editors, referees and authors) not so much in the big journals (internationally known journals with a high impact factor) but also in the so called small journals, namely science journals distributed at national and even local level which still strive for visibility in the scientific world [8].

It is these latter that should be educated, made aware and guided along these lines, for at least two reasons:

(1) The peer review system used by less prestigious journals is far less selective and rigorous than that used by journals with higher rejection levels. Wager et al. have defined this approach as "bottom-up" [9]. The philosophy of the less prestigious journals is to accept anything that "meets their minimum standard" [9]. Therefore it is more likely that articles with potentially dangerous information might evade the control of the reviewers or editors, or both, who often learn their trade "on the job" and also work under the pressure of the "publish or perish" principle (which is applicable to journals as well as to authors).

(2) Original articles that report results relating to innovative techniques, important scientific progress or discoveries are unlikely to be published in journals with no impact factor or a limited one. However, it is in these journals that articles might be accepted for publication that give precise and detailed descriptions of events or places and known methodologies and techniques in such a way as to allow their reproduction even by untrained people.

Learning from practical experience

Our own experience has led us to ponder this issue. The recent appearance of two articles within a short period, one in a quarterly science journal (*Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*) and the other in a series of institutional technical reports (*Rapporti Istisan*), attracted our attention. Both are published by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (National Institute of Health, Rome).

The first article, on risk assessment in nuclear facilities, was based on a hypothetical severe accident occurring in a non-operational nuclear power plant or in other nuclear facilities such as provisional radio-active deposits, research centres or spent fuel storage pools. The radiological impact and emergencies were also evaluated. One of the referees highlighted the paper's potential danger and suggested that the article should be revised: the title needed to be changed slightly, specific sites and their locations should not be named, and all the elements (including the special terminology) which could attract the attention of malicious persons should be deleted.

The second article was a technical report dealing with operating strategies and effective measures for preventing potential terrorist attacks through a waterworks system. The report also contained detailed information on substances which could be hazardous to public health. Here it was not the referee (since the publication is not peer reviewed) but the editorial staff who reported the problem to the authors. A useful exchange of opinions between the researchers and editorial staff followed, leading to a change in the title of the report and also aimed to reduce the risk of retrieval by internet surfers using search engines.

Some useful hints and suggestions

Greater attention to security issues should be paid not only by small science journals but also in the so-called grey literature, which — though not commercially published and generally printed in a limited number of copies — is now often freely available online, mostly through institutional web sites. Such literature contains specific and detailed information that is usually not subject to the peer review process and responsibility for which lies with authors, editors and the issuing organizations.

Even in the absence of peer review, however, an institution's responsibility cannot be disregarded. The editorial staff inside the institution or those who are responsible for the editorial policy should advise authors of the potential risks of spreading sensitive information. While editors and reviewers working for big journals are generally aware of the security implications which lie behind the publication of potentially dangerous data, authors of articles in the grey literature or small journals often disregard them.

Practical suggestions for editors of small journals or institutional reports include:

- Consider in depth these aspects whenever evaluating manuscripts for publication
- Share this responsibility with others (co-editors, editorial staff, colleagues, authors, research leaders, etc.)
- Include in the instructions to authors, and in guidelines to referees, a specific reference to this issue; for instance a question such as "Does this paper contain any sensitive data?" might be added
- Draw up in-house procedures, to be periodically revised, for defining criteria to help editors to evaluate when "the potential harm of publication outweighs the potential societal benefits" and decide that "under such circumstances, the paper should be modified or not published" [1].

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From the literature

The blinded leading the blinded?

Two features of peer review which vary between journals are whether authors' names are removed from papers, so that reviewers are blinded to authors' identities, and whether reviewers' names are revealed to authors (so-called open review). Editors, reviewers and authors often have strong feelings about which system produces the best and most equitable method of review. Even within medicine all three methods are used (unblinded but anonymous, blinded and open) and there is no clear evidence about which is best.

One reason for variations in practice may be discipline size. In small fields, anonymity may be valued because authors and reviewers are more likely to know each other or be concerned that future career paths will bring them into contact. Yet, paradoxically, in such small fields it may be impossible to effectively mask identities, since authors and reviewers are more likely to be familiar with each other's work and interests. Variations between disciplines may be one reason why earlier studies about the effects of blinding and masking have produced contradictory results [1].

Three studies reported at the peer review congress in Chicago in September 2005 (see *ESE* 2005; 31(4):119–120) provided more food for thought for journal editors and congress organizers.

Ross et al. looked for evidence of reviewer bias before and after the American Heart Association (AHA) introduced blinded reviewing of abstracts [2]. They focused on bias against abstracts from institutions outside the USA, less prestigious US institutions (based on published hospital rankings and the amount of funding they receive), non-English-speaking countries, and industry-funded studies. Cardiology is undoubtedly a big discipline and the AHA receives around 13 500 abstracts each year. Since 2002, author names and affiliations have been removed before abstracts are sent to reviewers.

Blinded review was associated with a significantly higher proportion of abstracts being accepted from non-US institutions, non-English-speaking countries, less prestigious US institutions and commercial companies. The authors found that, in previous years, unblinded review had led to bias in favour of US institutions, especially prestigious ones, and against non-English-speaking countries and commercially funded studies. They concluded that scientific meetings should use blinded review to select abstracts.

So does this mean that, by extrapolation, journals should use blinded review to minimize reviewer bias? Not necessarily. The AHA study considered reviews of abstracts, which generally contain no references. Also, the study dealt with a very big discipline (you would have to have a lot of friends to know even 10% of the submitting authors). Both these factors increase the likelihood of blinding being effective. One problem with simply removing names from papers is that authors tend to cite their own work, and there may be other clues about their identity in the funding source or acknowledgements. In smaller disciplines, reviewers may already be familiar with the authors' work, thus making blinding impossible.

Two other studies examined open review. Schroeder and colleagues from the *Journal of the Danish Medical Association* examined the performance of 364 reviewers randomly assigned to open or anonymous review [3]. Unlike previous studies at the *BMJ*, which found that open review had little or no effect on review quality, the Danish study found the quality of signed reviews to be slightly, but significantly, higher than that of anonymous reviews. However, one third of reviewers indicated that they preferred to be anonymous, while 9% indicated that open review would cause them to modify their review, and in most cases to be more meticulous.

The other study came from the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*, which introduced open review in 2002 but allowed reviewers to remain anonymous if they objected to this, as 43% (173) did [4]. Perhaps not surprisingly, reviewers recommending rejection were almost twice as likely to request anonymity as those recommending acceptance. However, only 2% of authors requested that their names be removed from papers before reviewing — but perhaps that will change after they read the results of the AHA study.

So, what should journal editors do? The AHA study is one of the most convincing pieces of evidence to date that blinded review can reduce reviewer bias.

However, it was not a randomized study, and we don't know if the same effect would be seen with full papers rather than abstracts. The Danish study hints that open reviewing may raise the standard of reviews, at least in this field, while the American pharmacy study suggests that open reviewing may not be acceptable to many reviewers. Once again, journal editors will have to choose the system they feel is most appropriate to their own discipline, basing their choice not on hard evidence but on their understanding of their own authors, reviewers and readers.

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Reports of meetings

Editing issues emerge at 13th Cochrane Colloquium

Melbourne, Australia; 22–26 October 2005

The Cochrane Collaboration is in the business of conducting and publishing systematic reviews of the evidence that supports (or does not support) medical treatments. As technical editing is, in my rather biased view, important in any publication process it was reassuring to see various aspects of editing get an airing at the annual meeting of this worldwide group. Five or six sessions ran concurrently in the two time-slots for the half of the day not taken up by plenaries and special meetings, giving plenty of opportunity for editing issues to emerge.

In the first plenary session, Cindy Farquhar (University of Auckland) made the point that training in writing and editing is needed, and Mike Clarke (UK Cochrane Centre) was keen to get reliable, manageable, and accessible information. (Technical editors can, after all, make a huge difference in making information accessible.) New formats, such as summary tables and plain-language summaries, can have a great effect on how reviews are accessed and interpreted, and there seems to be some eagerness to adopt these new formats and thus improve the accessibility of information. *The Lancet*'s summary of the conference (2005;366:1760) mentions "the possibility of rewriting turgid reviews in a form that can be more easily understood and acted on."

Ways of presenting summary data and making evidence-based information accessible came up again and again in the sessions. Brevity, clarity, and accuracy were emphasized in the workshops on technical editing that Laura Mellor (John Wiley & Sons) and I presented to the review group coordinators, the people responsible for much of the technical editing (the slides from these are available — free — in the "talks" section on bmj.com). In another presentation, the importance of the audience was highlighted: at the moment it is mostly researchers who read Cochrane reviews, but it is becoming more important to put findings into different formats for different audiences (a new type of job for technical editors?).

Improve the quality of primary studies, urged Elizabeth Waters (Deakin University, Australia), and statistician Doug Altman (University of Oxford, UK) emphasized the importance of abstracts in systematic reviews – and the importance of providing confidence intervals, event rates and sensitivity analyses. Authors and readers need to remember that a significance of $P<0.05$ is only suggestive, not highly significant. The number of studies and the number of participants must be given. And it is important to distinguish between evidence of effect and evidence of no effect. In her talk on evaluating sources of bias, Anne Carter (University of West Indies) expressed surprise at how many trials do not compare two arms, just the baseline and final results in the treatment group. Better primary research is needed — many of the studies on Medline are poor, with missing information and missing numbers. (Should journals therefore maintain higher standards; should reviewers and editors check submissions more carefully?)

Once systematic reviews have been beautifully written and edited, how do you get them noticed — especially as evidence-based medicine often gives negative messages. Produce better summaries, and improve relations with the media, were the main messages of the session on improving the quality of media coverage. Alison Booth, coordinator of National electronic Library of Health's "Hitting the Headlines" project (www.nelh.nhs.uk), contentiously said that one important factor was "the red pen of the subeditor, over which nobody has any control but the subeditor" – but fortunately most articles in her project were accurate reports (though journalists rarely question the quality of information or put it in

the context of the evidence base). David Henry (*Media Doctor*) advocates telling journalists that their stories should contain certain elements, and said that print media make better use of press releases than online media. Plain language summaries are most helpful – editors should take the hint. Alan Cassels, author of *Selling Sickness*, pointed out that systematic reviewers are impartial sources of information, and journalists do love to have sources who will reliably phone them back.

Other, wider, issues were raised. There is a moral obligation to encourage "the right" research, said Prathap Tharyan (Vellore, India), speaking from the developing countries' perspective. He added: "academic medicine has become so corrupt . . . we have to ask about how it's serving the public". Another issue arising in developing countries is the use of local expertise, an aspect that is often overlooked in setting up and interpreting research. It is not news that the poor quality of writing in English disguises the interest of the results: this is another area where technical editors can make a difference.

In July *The Lancet* announced that authors will be required to provide a summary of other evidence on their topic to place their trial in context: will these "lay" systematic reviews chip away at what Cochrane is doing, or will they make Cochrane reviews all the more valuable?

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English language professionals on their mark in the Mediterranean

Mediterranean Editors' and Translators' Meeting
Barcelona, Spain; 4–5 November 2005

The time was right in late 2005 for the first Mediterranean Editors' and Translators' Meeting: a day and a half of workshops, plenary addresses and panel discussions that brought together practitioners and academics from Spain and other countries. Language and communications experts discovered their varied backgrounds and welcomed the opportunity to share experiences and examine together some of the practices that help authors whose first language is not English to communicate more effectively with their intended audience. Some of the themes that emerged, and some of the recommendations speakers offered for language professionals, are summarized here.

Translators, authors' editors and journal editors agreed that dialogue with authors was often needed to discover the meaning behind unclear writing or confusing translation. Aleksandra Misak, senior editor at the *Croatian Medical Journal* (Zagreb, Croatia), urged translators to familiarize themselves with what the authors' target audience might expect for terminology, style and appropriate language. She noted that knowing the author's first language enhanced the editor's ability to identify and amend problems in the text. Mary Ellen Kerans, freelance author's editor and translator (Barcelona, Spain) and organizer of the meeting, explained how editing faults discovered by translators can be integrated into the journal's bilingual publication process. Karen Shashok, freelance translator and editorial consultant (Granada, Spain), encouraged authors' editors and translators to be proactive in consulting with authors in order to dispel ambiguities that readers might interpret as careless science or inadequate writing, editing or translation. Freelance authors' editor Joy Burrough-Boenisch (Goring-on-Thames, UK) advised colleagues that knowing the difference between an error (an oversight that authors agree to amend when it is pointed out to them) and a mistake (when the author is actually wrong about something but has not realized it) facilitates productive interaction with authors by defusing their defensiveness about mistakes. Freelance editor Malcolm Hayes (Lleida, Spain) explained a successful system of providing coded feedback to authors about the different levels of editing needed. He noted that the method motivated authors to improve as writers, lessened their dependence on outside help, empowered them as communicators, and improved customer satisfaction.

In her plenary address Burrough-Boenisch noted an issue of concern to language professionals who work with scientists and other authors whose first language is not English: the globalization of English and of publishing, and the continuing evolution of the language as it absorbs inputs from ever-growing and increasingly varied populations of new users. Several speakers observed that the standards for appropriate language can be hard to define in these times. Ian Williams, a professor of English Philology at the University of Cantabria (Santander, Spain), showed how Spanish and English language writers differ in their preferences for organizing the Discussion section of IMRaD manuscripts, and noted that wrong placement by non-native writers of English of background information was likely to be rejected by native-English readers as a sign of unacceptable writing or thinking rather than accepted as a reflection of cultural differences in writing patterns.

Participants in the workshop on the editing tasks implicit in translation (mostly native users of English with many years' experience) concurred about the lack of consensus on "good scientific English" by indicating that all had seen the dreaded "Please have a native speaker of English revise this manuscript" admonishment in at least one editor's report during their career. Under the circumstances, determining what the author's target audience will find acceptable

and unacceptable remains a major challenge as the language evolves and standards shift (some would say downward).

In her keynote address Ana Marusic, editor of the *Croatian Medical Journal*, noted some of the challenges to producing and disseminating good science in good English from a small community. To meet these challenges she and her staff have developed "author-helpful" strategies to prepare authors — especially those from developing countries — for the rigours of international peer review and publication. Marusic emphasized that editorial feedback from her journal aims to motivate authors to become autonomous and develop confidence in their skills as scientists and communicators.

Also discussed at METM 05 [1] but not covered in this brief report were referencing skills, critical reading skills, translation studies, publishers' expectations for language service providers, the interactions between authors and their language consultants, university language services, skills needed by medical writers, and the history of Mediterranean science communication. The full programme of the meeting and information about future activities can be checked on the METM web site at www.metmeetings.org. In 2006 METM hopes once again to provide a forum where language and communications practitioners can interface with academics to enhance the quality of each other's work.

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Communicating European research 2005

A conference organized by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research
Brussels, Belgium; 14–15 November 2005

This large conference and exhibition was the second in an EC series, the first being held at a similar time in 2004. The event focused on many diverse aspects of science communication, both primary and secondary, and aimed to provide a forum and meeting place for scientists, communication professionals and journalists. Around 2100 participants — including project coordinators, journalists and other communication professionals, press officers and representatives from research organizations — met to promote mutual understanding of their respective roles, to share best practice and to define strategies to improve communication, outreach and dissemination of research results to the public and the press at a European level. The conference web site, which now contains photographs and transcripts of some of the presentations, is at http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2005/cer2005.

EASE was invited, among many other organizations, to submit proposals for one of the contributed forum sessions which complemented the high-profile plenaries. The Association was fortunate to be awarded one of only 16 slots from a pool of more than 160 applications. Our participation in this conference was part of EASE's long-term strategy to get more visibility and involvement on the EU stage (see this issue's Editorial, p. 4). EASE representatives took the opportunity to speak to a number of people who might help us to move in that direction. The conference revealed a great level of interest in the media's role in science and our session also generated interest in EASE's training workshops.

The EASE session was entitled "Advancing European protocols for science communication" and aimed to address the difficulties now facing editors and other professionals involved in science communication. The recent expansion of the European Union, at a time of rapidly changing publication technology, has led to an urgent need to harmonize methods and training in these important areas. As the leading European organization in this field, EASE provides access to information on best practice in science communication, primarily in the EU, but also wherever European standards in science communication are admired. The session aimed to bring together science communicators at all levels, with a view to identifying key areas where technical and cultural differences in methods and training might readily be harmonized into a workable set of pan-European guidelines.

Opening the session, the EASE President, Dr Elisabeth Kessler (Editor-in Chief of *Ambio*, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences), spoke about the harmonization of methods in the publication of primary science. In the journey from research to research communication, we have inevitably to face the realities of international publishing. The scene is changing fast and any "business as usual" model is out of the question. The January 2004 declaration by OECD Science Ministers, on access to publicly-funded research data, demanded open access to, and unrestricted use of, such data in order to promote scientific progress and to maximize the derived value of the data (www.oecd.org/

dataoecd/42/12/35393145.pdf). Dr Kessler outlined the benefits, both to the scientist and to society, of publishing research results in scholarly journals. Many factors influence researchers/authors in their search for a suitable scholarly journal, especially the developments in electronic delivery of scientific material and the new benefits this can provide. In this new era of science and technology publishing, exciting new communication opportunities now exist for researchers and publishers alike. The science publishing market is dynamic and mobile, and developments within this market need to reflect the interests of all of the participants.

Alison Clayson (freelance writer and editor, with connections to UNESCO, Paris) spoke next on the topic of editorial harmonization (with the assistance of colleague Dr Hervé Maisonneuve, Institut Supérieur de Communication et de Management Médical, Paris). Ms Clayson's work with international organizations and intergovernmental science programmes has underlined for her the need for science and society to build inclusive communities, making science understandable within the many existing cultures and languages. Science needs transforming into accessible language that makes it useful to policy makers and citizens. The science writer's role is to bridge the gap between science and the general public. In this, it helps enormously if scientists themselves can speak one clear language and avoid jargon. Society at large uses many different languages and needs to receive appropriately interpreted messages because it is usually suspicious of the scientific language itself. But communication is a two-way street, and the editor must facilitate an exchange of ideas between scientists and the public in an atmosphere of willingness to hear the other view and tolerance of different perspectives. By a process of iterative negotiation, and a belief in the importance of dialogue, it should be possible to achieve common ground which leads to harmonization of reporting protocols at both macro- and microlevels.

However, Ms Clayson emphasized that there are ultimately limits to such harmonization, as it cannot substitute for more basic problems such as poor research methodology, poor structure of papers, and having unclear starting points, objectives and outcomes. Translators of scientific drafts face many potential challenges: imprecision, ambiguity, poor logic, poor linkages. But there are limits to what can be done with these defects because a translator is not an editor. New technologies have introduced a two-edged sword: the PC is a hugely valuable tool, but it makes us lazy (we cut and paste instead of thinking), it undermines linear and narrative text and, when work is transferred into PowerPoint, it gives the illusion of links. The web, too, makes random searches easy; its culture of free and uninterrupted navigation promotes the belief that "more is more". In the expanded European community, the continent has become a microcosm of the world. Science can become the lingua franca within this world. Professional organizations such as EASE help to form a virtual and collegial community through the production of the journal *European Science Editing* and the *Science Editors' Handbook*. There is an EASE forum for the discussion of day-to-day issues, and workshops, training and conferences are organized. Throughout, there is a search for common standards, but tolerance and flexibility are also sought, to allow space for divergent approaches.

Your reporter (from the University of Exeter, UK) spoke next, on the subject of technical harmonization. As a research biologist, I outlined the contrast between biodiversity (generally good) and monoculture (generally bad), but I wondered whether the great diversity in the macro- and microstructure of science journals was an equally good thing. As an example, I considered the way in which academic publications refer to each other. Taking just one of the six elements within a typical reference to a journal article (the statement of the author's name, or authors' names), it is possible to conceive of styles of presentation which differ in content, punctuation, typeface, font, and so on, such that at least 48 permutations of style can be achieved without any difficulty at all. Then, for each of the remaining five elements in the reference (date, title, journal, volume, page numbers) approximately similar numbers of permutations could also be envisaged. As these combinations all act multiplicatively, more than one third of a billion different ways of showing the whole reference can exist. If each of the (approximately) 4400 journals currently indexed by ISI were to change to a new reference style every year, it would still be 77,000 years before the complete range of possibilities was exhausted (Hunt 1994).

To stabilize this situation, some style standards have been created already. The well-known Vancouver style (International Steering Committee of Medical Editors 1979) is very sparing in its punctuation, but its abbreviations of journals' names, originally designed to save hot metal, simply substitutes hot copy editors. The date is also placed distant from the name(s), which estranges this standard from the much-liked Harvard system. EASE itself has proposed a standard (O'Connor 1991) in which these faults are rectified. To assist readability, a typographically embellished version of the EASE standard, the "British plant science" standard (Hunt 1992), has been favoured by my journal and subsequently adopted by several similar journals in its field. Are there other areas for harmonization? EASE would like to explore any possibilities in collaboration with all interested parties.

Mrs Jenny Gretton (Vice-President of EASE) next introduced her subject, the harmonization of terminology. She pointed out that in the very earliest days of European scholarship we did indeed manage to communicate, but that messages were limited by materials: bone, pottery, papyrus, parchment. There was then a cultural "big bang" with the arrival of the printed word. We had Latin and Greek, and we had gatekeepers. Much later, the introduction of electronic means of communication created a second "big bang". Instantaneous communication had arrived, reaching a potentially unlimited number of readers. Was this anarchy or freedom? It helped that we already had some established norms and

protocols, but there were still many changes and their consequences to deal with. Languages, terminologies and nomenclatures each remain in flux as they have always done, and it has now become necessary that scientists should learn formally how to communicate. Here there is a role for editing and publishing organizations such as EASE, but the increasingly international dimension of science has brought new threats to the author–editor relationship in the form of dual-language publication, translation issues and citation indices. For the future, we all want harmony and understanding, but terminology provides dangerous ground over which these sensitive areas could be disturbed.

Professor Elisabeth Heseltine was the final podium speaker. A freelance editor and trainer from St Léon-sur-Vézère (France), she is particularly interested in issues surrounding training to promote standards, with the aim of making research reports from Europe more easily recognizable to scientists throughout Europe and in other cultures. This improves the visibility of European science and, through standardization of quality (though not necessarily of content), makes science more accessible everywhere. To achieve this, reports must be as concise and clear as possible, in view of the great mass of material that practising scientists now have to read. The problem is that scientists all over the world have little training in science communication. Research itself comprises planning, execution and communication, but only the first two are generally taught. Well-planned and well-executed research technically does not exist until it is also communicated. Cultural differences in science communication mean that certain standards are necessary before any science can become understandable.

The EASE response to this problem involves various members offering courses in different aspects of science communication. Moreover, EASE has proposed a structural model based on published sources, editorial experience and uniform requirements for submissions to journals. This model has been presented in a number of European countries, but is not yet generalized. The next step is to raise awareness of the lack of training in science communication, perhaps by sending questionnaires to all European research institutions (in their own languages), which would also assist in identifying potential trainers. Following this, a meeting should be held to agree on science communication standards and identify best practices, always recognizing the differing needs of broad disciplines (e.g. biomedicine, agriculture and fisheries, engineering). Quality control of the training must be achieved, and we must supplement training with CD-ROMs, handbooks and web sites.

In practical terms, European financing will be needed before a pan-European network for science communication and training can be created, because EASE is a professional association and not a funding organization. Members of the Brussels forum were invited to participate in this venture, either by commenting on the presentations or by responding directly to EASE.

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EASE-Forum digest: October–December 2005

Variety is the spice of EASE. Over the last months we have discussed grammar, journal page margins and dropping things — qualifications, names and authors.

"Based on" grammar or linguistics?

A common habit in scientific writing is to begin a sentence with a participle. This participle can dangle if the subject of the phrase is not evident, as in "Before buying new cages, the rats were cramped". Was it the rats who bought the cages? However, "Based on" at the beginning of a sentence is in my view an exception to the dangling participle rule. Faced with a blanket change by a journal's in-house editor from "based on" to "from" throughout the text, I asked forum subscribers whether my belief was correct.

Mary Ellen Kerans responded that at first glance "based on" does indeed dangle. She considered, however, that it falls into the category of participles that acquire the character of prepositions or adverbs like the "considering the circumstance", and "roughly speaking" listed by Fowler's first edition (1926). Furthermore modern grammarians Quirk and Greenbaum state that the attachment rule does not need to be observed. Wearing the hat of a linguist who describes rather than prescribes language, Mary Ellen found a high frequency of "based on" introducing sentences in her corpus of articles on respiratory medicine. She added that in the example I had given of a change from "Based on these findings, we depleted T cells from spleen cells" to "From these findings, we depleted T cells from spleen cells" the copy-editor had not improved things by implying that the T cells had been depleted from spleen cells from the findings. Timothy DeVinney found the change priceless because it replicated the same "mistake" in a different form: both had dangling modifiers; the difference was that the original had what some might consider a dangling participle while the new version had a dangling preposition (is it "we"

who are from these findings? Or, were T cells from spleen cells deleted from these findings?).

Some people wrote that a change to "On the basis of" would have been better. Norman Grossblatt said he applies a test in these circumstances: if the original text had been "on the basis of", would any editor have said, "Oh, no, that has to be changed to 'based on'"?

In the meantime the journal editor wrote to me, "I apologize for our copyeditor's mishandling of the construction 'based on', which was mistakenly changed to 'from' throughout. This has been edited, per style, to 'on the basis of'".

Paper and economic margins

Elsevier, the publishers of Christopher Morfey's journal, are reducing the page margins from 15 mm to 13 mm to maximize page content and cut costs. Christopher thought this might present difficulties for readers once a library had bound single issues into volumes. But the publishers argued that everybody reads web pages or printouts rather than the printed journal version. Why, then, wondered J Theobald — with perhaps a touch of prophesy — were the publishers bothering to print the journal at all? Christopher had also asked what size margin is regarded as minimum for a 192 mm by 262 mm page size. Karen Shashok suggested that how "the minimum" is defined will depend on whose interests are at stake. She likes wide margins for jotting down notes but as Elsevier is a business, not an academic service (*sic*, alas), they could probably justify squeezing more print onto one page to save money.

Margaret Cooter speculated that the trend to downsize British newspapers could have a knock-on effect, prompting British journals to reduce to American paper sizes. If so Jenny Gretton warned that this could involve considerable extra cost, e.g. in trimming expensive edges and re-mastering advertisements received in European A4 PDF format that cover the entire page.

To list or not to list qualifications

Many authors write long strings of qualifications after their names. In our journal we restrict qualifications to MD, PhD or similar internationally understood qualifications (to identify the authors as a medical doctor, nurse, scientist, educator, etc.) with no "Professor" or whatever before the name. I asked the forum what other journals did and was surprised by the replies. Some journals give job titles but none admitted to publishing qualifications, except in obituaries. Moira Vekony thought qualifications made the page look messy and were often meaningless without resort to a glossary. She believed that scientific research should be judged on its own merit. This sentiment was shared by Liz Wager, who thought there was a risk of bias towards impressively qualified authors. Taking this to its logical conclusion might mean removing the names as well, but she suggested that would be going too far. But 200 years ago publications were, of course, anonymous. Liz also had the impression that US journals tended to list qualifications more than European ones, which would not be a surprise as the prose is also more pompous in American journals (Weeks WB, Wallace AE. 2002. Readability of British and American medical prose at the start of the 21st century BMJ;325:1451–1452).

Names lost in citation

Mary Ellen Kerans was editing some text in which a Spanish author cited a Swiss name as "Soguel et al [21]" although reference 21 gave the name as "Soguel Schenkel". She questioned whether the Spanish cultural practice of the first surname being obligatory and the second dispensable applied to other cultures. Should the correct citation be "Sogel et al.", "Schenkel et al.", "Sogel Schenkel et al." or "Sogel-Schenkel et al"? Replies from Germanic countries and The Netherlands suggested that by choice men or women add surnames upon marriage but the practice isn't rule-governed. Either the first or the second surname might be the most relevant one (the one given at birth) and for a reader there's no telling unless the person's history is known! Writing to the author does not always elicit a response. Mary Ellen decided to use the same format in the text, "Soguel Schenkel" without a hyphen, as had been used in the reference list, reflecting the PubMed entry in this instance. If the same person published another article and the PubMed entry were different, she would then follow that database entry. This raises the question of what happens to publishing records of double-barrelled names. To avoid names becoming lost in citation Mary Ellen would caution young academics to decide the format of their "academic name" early in their career and stick to the same form throughout their life. "And if the second element comes from a spouse, make sure you stay married."

The author vanishes

Marge Berer presented the forum with an ethical problem. Her journal accepted a manuscript written by three authors. The corresponding author subsequently asked that the names of her co-authors be removed because one no longer worked in her department and the other worked in a governmental department and felt uncomfortable as an author for political reasons. Marge wrote to the corresponding author requesting consent for the removal of the two authors concerned. No reply was forthcoming but Marge learned direct from the author in the government department that she wished to remain as an author. Marge wrote again to the corresponding author informing her of this and saying that leaving a department was not a ground for removing an author's name from a paper. The corresponding author agreed to retain the author who had left her department but insisted the second author had agreed to the removal. It turned out she had indeed agreed but only after being persuaded by the corresponding author that the report could get her into trouble with her governmental department. Most forum respondents felt that this was a case for the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, www.publicationethics.org.uk). Others thought the article should not be published without the withdrawn author's name on it. None of the respondents thought that the matter should be reported to the corresponding author's employers. Marge intends to

raise the matter with COPE. In the meantime she has informed the corresponding author that such behaviour is unethical and could damage her reputation in the field.

Joining the forum
You can join the forum by sending the one-line message "subscribe ease-forum" (without quotation marks) to majordomo@helsinki.fi. More information is available on the web at www.ease.org.uk.

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Book reviews

Horace Freeland Judson. 2004. **The great betrayal: fraud in science**. New York: Harcourt. 463 p. USD28.00. ISBN 0-15-100877-9.

Early in this book that describes various kinds of scientific fraud and examines what caused them, Horace Judson quotes sardonic definitions by the 19th century English physicist Charles Babbage. Perhaps best known for his attempts to build a mechanical computer that could be driven by steam, Babbage broke down scientific fraud into four classifications: hoaxing, forging, trimming and cooking.

He describes hoaxing — announcing something that doesn't exist — as deceit that is "intended to last for a time, and then be discovered." One of the hoaxes used as an example by Judson is the case of the Piltdown Man. Forging, or what we now call fabrication, is carried out, says Babbage, by someone "who, wishing to acquire a reputation for science, records observations which he has never made." Trimming, he says, consists of "clipping off little bits here and there from those observations which differ most in excess of the mean, and in sticking them on to those which are too small." Babbage did not think trimming was as serious as cooking, the reason being that "the average given by the observations of the trimmer is the same, whether they are trimmed or untrimmed."

Babbage describes two methods of cooking. One is "to make multitudes of observations, and out of these select only those which agree, or very nearly agree." The other is "when the observations to be used will not come within the limit of accuracy, which it has been resolved they shall possess . . . [then] calculate them by two different formulae. The difference in the constants employed in those formulae has sometimes a most happy effect in promoting unity amongst discordant measures."

Among the hundreds of cases reviewed by Judson before writing the book, he came across many that would qualify for inclusion in Babbage's definitions, even examples from the pioneering work of such revered names as Charles Darwin, Sigmund Freud, Gregor Mendel, Isaac Newton, and Louis Pasteur.

From those early beginnings, Judson moves on to catalogue many cases of modern researchers who have abused the norms of scientific integrity, and to examine not just their methods but also their motives. Some of these cases are psychologically fascinating; among them are the dispute between the Americans and the French as to who discovered the HIV virus, William T Summerlin's "success" with skin grafts and corneal transplants, and John Long's work with Hodgkin's disease.

A really astonishing case is that of Elias Alasabti. The Iraqi-born Jordanian citizen talked his way into research posts at five American universities and hospitals, courtesy of an immense production of research papers, until it was discovered that the papers were plagiarized and that he possessed neither the PhD nor the medical degree that he had claimed. Judson reports one instance where Alasabti stole a manuscript sent by a journal for refereeing from a departmental mailbox, touched it up slightly and then sent it to a Japanese journal, where it appeared before the original got published.

The case that gets most attention from Judson is one that involves David Baltimore, currently President of the California Institute of Technology, former President of Rockefeller University, and winner of the Nobel Prize in 1975, at age 37, for research in virology. This complicated tale focuses on a 1986 paper that listed him as a co-author, although not as principal researcher. The ramifications of this case eventually led to Baltimore resigning as President of Rockefeller and the young scientist, Margot O'Toole, who asked for the correction or retraction of the fraudulent paper, being vilified for her actions. Judson also draws attention to other "whistle-blowers" who have been badly treated by the scientific establishment.

The two main areas of scientific publication criticized by Judson are peer review of manuscripts and grant applications, and authorship. He says that present methods of peer review are open to "corruption", and he laments the many cases of failure to give some authors credit when they deserve it. He also attacks the conferring of "gift" or "ghost" authorship. On the positive side, Judson believes that the trend towards publishing on the internet, a kind of "open reviewing", will help in the uncovering of fraudulent papers much sooner than at present.

What makes this a publication to be enjoyed even by readers who are not scientists is its easy readability. Judson writes in such fluid, accessible language, and the cases he selects are so interesting, that I found the book difficult to put down. Those who know the author's work will not be surprised, for he has been a regular contributor to publications such as *Cell*, *Gene*, *Harper's*, *The Lancet*, *Nature*, *The New Yorker*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Time*. He is also the former director of the Center for History

of Recent Science at George Washington University.

In a book cover quote, Stephen Lock, Editor Emeritus, *BMJ*, writes, "Horace Judson's compulsively readable book reflects the despair and anger many of us feel against those who prefer to push dirt under the carpet . . . Medical and science authorities, who have done so little against fraud, should all be made to read this book." I believe we all should.

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Oxford Dictionary of English, revised 2nd ed., 2005. Oxford University Press. Hardcover, 2088 pages. GBP£35 including free access to the online edition until 31 January 2007 (see www.oup.co.uk/isbn/0-19-861057-2). ISBN 0-19-861057-2.

The *Oxford Dictionary of English* is hefty for a reason: Oxford University Press's biggest single-volume dictionary contains more than a third of a million words, phrases, and definitions. These paint a broad and balanced picture of the English language today, the publishers claim. This revised second edition has been compiled from hundreds of millions of words from sources as diverse as books such as Dan Brown's blockbuster *The Da Vinci Code* and works by Alexander McCall Smith and children's author Jacqueline Wilson, the obscure magazines *Jockey Slut* and *Ringing World*, television programmes (including *The Office*), internet chatrooms, academic journals, and newspapers.

Interesting new entries in this revision include "chugger," a charity mugger — someone who asks passersby for charitable donations. And if your chugger was sporting a "greige pelmet" then apparently she'd be wearing a very short grey-beige skirt. The number of insults in the dictionary (350) outweighs the compliments (40) by nearly nine to one. Insults include traditional favourites, such as "clot" or "chump," and the more modern "muppet", "fribble" and "gink". There are 50 ways to describe attractive women, including "eye candy" and "cutie", but only 20 ways of describing good-looking men: a "Greek god" is an extremely handsome man. Other new entries include "ASBO" — the abbreviation for "antisocial behaviour order", a court order with which local authorities can restrict the behaviour of someone likely to cause harm or distress to the public. A "dramedy" is a television programme or film in which the comedy elements derive mainly from the character and plot development, and a "sin-jay" is a DJ who raps and sings as part of the performance. I have to admit that I have never come across many of the new additions, and I was surprised that "Rosie Lee" and "Ruby Murray", old rhyming slang, have only now made it into the dictionary — who asks for a cup of Rosie these days?

The publishers say that their dictionaries uniquely represent the English language because they draw on the largest language research programme in the world. The Oxford English Corpus includes the British national corpus and the Oxford reading programme. Together these databases hold 77 million words selected from sources around the world. A brand new 100-million word corpus contains "real 21st century English" from all subject fields. Compilers of previous dictionaries relied on a few citations. But the lexicographers who worked on this dictionary analysed hundreds of examples for each word to see how it is used today. Specialist sources extend this general database to include topics such as food and cooking, health and fitness, complementary medicine, boats and sailing, martial arts, photography, and genetics.

This dictionary's first edition was published as *The New Oxford Dictionary of English* in 1998 and was a brand-new dictionary, without the editorial baggage that can inconvenience established works. The publishers heralded its coming with "Oxford publishes the most important new English dictionary for 100 years." And this dictionary was compiled on the basis of the way people actually use words, as opposed to how experts think people use them, should use them, or once used them but no longer do. So, not surprisingly, traditionalists and journalists couldn't wait to comment. The *Daily Telegraph* quoted an unidentified source as calling the volume "a dumbed down version of the *Oxford English Dictionary*."

The 20-volume *Oxford English Dictionary* is the king of English dictionaries, but why should we expect this offering to top the single-volume league? At the *BMJ*, we like the smaller and less expensive *Chambers 21st Century Dictionary* (£15 or free online at www.chambersharrap.co.uk/chambers/chref/chref.py/main). Or you might be better off putting the money towards the two-volume *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* (£95) or, for a US perspective, try *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* (£114). If you want a more traditional dictionary, with lots of historical notes, you might prefer *Chambers Dictionary* (£30).

So should you buy the revised edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of English*? Yes. Editors may find interest in the encyclopedic information and the usage notes that appear in boxes throughout the text. Appendices include geographical data, proofreading marks, a guide to English, and even a cipher for emoticons. And this dictionary gives a comprehensive, authoritative, and bang up-to-date view of the global English that is in use today.

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Susie Dent. 2005. **Fanboys and overdogs: the language report**. Oxford etc.: Oxford University Press. Hardback, 128 p. GBP10.99. ISBN 0-19-280676-9.

This is the third of a series published annually in which Susie Dent (whom British daytime TV viewers may know as the lady in "Dictionary Corner" in Channel 4's *Countdown*) monitors the shifting language scene, attempts to record its mutations and probes the reasons for them. As she says in her introduction, one aim of this series of reports is to put down markers, not least to provide clues for the future as to what English looked like from the inside in the year under review. In this year's report she considers a number of different aspects of how English is developing and changing, most of which will be of no immediate interest to scientific editors in their day-to-day work. Developments in slang, newspaper headlines or obscenity are unlikely to cross our desks, but much of the book will be of general interest to all English speakers.

This being the 250th anniversary of the publication of Samuel Johnson's *A dictionary of the English Language*, Dent devotes one chapter, entitled "Regulating confusion: the task of dictionary makers", to discussing how this dictionary came about, and the general principles used by Johnson and how they have stood the test of time. She also lists words which, though they appear in both the 1755 and 2005 dictionaries, have changed their meanings over the period (such as aphrodisiac, autopsy and pedant) or for which the modern definition is far less opinionated. In addition she lists a number of words that have fallen out of use, some of which she feels sorry to have lost.

In another chapter ("Words apart: 1905 vs 2005") Dent does a rather similar job for the changes over the last hundred years. In chapter 13 ("For better or worse: our changing usage") she notices some undesirable tendencies to move the meanings of words, sometimes by confusing them with other similar-sounding ones, for example using disinterested for uninterested, mitigate for militate, reticent for reluctant, fortuitously for fortunately and momentarily for in a moment. She also notes a tendency to report things that are going to happen ("the Prime Minister will say at lunchtime . . ."). She does not, however, mention one change that I find very annoying — using "may" for "might", but of course she might (may!) have quoted that in an earlier volume.

In a chapter on undergarments she has one definition that came as a surprise to me — the first use in 1870 of BVDs "(an acronym for the proprietary name Bradley, Voorhees & Day): a type of lightweight boxer shorts". My wife' s Canadian forebears always used the term for combinations, i.e. Both Vest and Drawers.

Finally, in a chapter on new findings from the *Oxford English Dictionary* she reports that further research has dated the first known use of "ophthalmic", formerly given as 1728, to 1425.

Those who like this sort of thing will find much to fascinate them in this report — and probably also in its predecessors and any further editions that OUP produces.

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Hugh Aldersey-Williams. 2005. **Findings: hidden stories in first-hand accounts of scientific discoveries**. Norwich, UK: Lulox Books. Paperback, 272 p. GBP19.99/Eur30.00/USD35.00. ISBN 0-9548980-0-1.

In his introduction, the author clearly states his intention to support the view that science is a human activity by examining scientists' original papers in the context of their times. For convenience, he selects a number of papers written in the 20th century, mostly in English, and uses both rhetorical and deconstructionist strategies in his analysis.

There is a chapter for each decade of the century. The first is about work by Max Planck and the consequences of his modification of Wein's Law [the relationship of the wavelength of maximum intensity of a black body to its absolute temperature], which led to the development of quantum mechanics in the next decades. Other chapters cover genetics, Hubble's assertion that the Universe of galaxies (nebulae) is expanding at a measurable rate; the discovery of the neutron (Chadwick); the war years of the 40s with development of nuclear power, penicillin, transistors, the elucidation of the structure of DNA by "Lucky Jim" [Watson], and the Big Bang and its residual radiation noise; concerns for the global environment; the discovery of C60 "Buckminsterfullerite"; and extraterrestrial life.

One of the authors' concerns is about scientific objectivity. He asserts that scientists tend to write in the passive voice, which gives a certain anonymity to their work and hence authority. However, there are some examples of scientists using the active voice and being very assertive in doing so.

The author has done considerable work in reading a large number of original papers and relating them to the development of scientific ideas and the ways in which scientists write about them.

This was a model editing job. The book should be on the reading list for those of us who teaching courses on editing or writing.

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News from committees

Programme Committee: 6th report

The path of true love, and conference programme committees, never did run smooth, but at last the EASE meeting in Kraków (15–18 June 2006) seems settled. Initial difficulties over the venue (a new conference centre with the promise of wonderful facilities — but unfinished) have now been resolved. The opening ceremony and AGM, followed by the three-day conference, will take place at the Palac Larischa, which houses the Law School of the Jagiellonian University. The Palac is in the old city, very close to the famous Rynek, the market square, and a number of good hotels and restaurants. This historic palace has been updated to provide excellent meeting facilities, with additional rooms for small groups to meet, and a room and courtyard for those all-important coffee breaks.

The Second Circular gives details of the programme. We have been lucky enough to attract very good speakers, though some have still to confirm they can come to Kraków. Some are familiar names, but you will see we also have a number of new contributors.

There are important deadlines to note: abstracts of papers submitted for the sessions on Friday and Saturday mornings must be received by the Programme Committee before **15 March 2006** (EASE, PO Box 426, Guildford, GU4 7ZH, UK; e-mail JTGretton@ease.org.uk). If you have an abstract ready, please do send it immediately. This is also the deadline for abstracts of posters, which should be sent to the same address or e-mail address.

Hotel rooms are being held in EASE's name until 1 May 2006. Please be sure to download your hotel booking form from www.ease.org.uk and send the completed form by fax to the conference centre office in Poland at +48 12 421 26 62. Kraków is very popular as a holiday destination, so please be sure to make your hotel reservations before 1 May 2006. A map of hotel locations can be seen on the conference office web site via the link at www.ease.org.uk.

Registrations will be handled by the conference centre office in Kraków: please download your registration form from www.ease.org.uk and fax it to +48 12 421 26 62. The deadline for "early-bird" registrations is **15 March 2006**. To qualify for the substantial members' discount you must be a fully paid-up member on the day you register. If you know any non-members who are planning to come to the meeting, please remind them that becoming a member can save them 150 euro on the early registration fee. For membership details visit the web site (www. ease.org.uk).

Kraków has many places of interest, both in the city and nearby. It will be possible for you to choose and book visits to the Wieliczka salt mine, the Wawel Castle in the city, the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial site, or Zakopane, a resort in the Tatra mountains to the south of Kraków, or to arrange a tour of the city. Visit the web site http://orbis.Kraków.pl/cms/index.php?ease_conf for a full list of all the attractions in and around the city. Two special tours, The Traces of Jewish Culture, and The Paths of John Paul II, are available on some days of the week. Orbis Travel will be happy to make bookings for EASE delegates: contact them direct at www.Orbis.Kraków.pl or by e-mail at congress@orbis.Kraków.pl. There is a link to the Orbis site from the conference details on www.ease.org.uk, where you can explore the possibilities for tours and make your reservations for Saturday afternoon, and after the conference, before you leave for home.

The venue for the conference dinner on Friday 16 June will be The Orangery at Dwór w Tomaszowicach, about four kilometres from the centre of the city. You can visit this old manor house and its surroundings by going to www.dwor.pl. Transport will be arranged to take you from the centre of the city, unless you feel like working up a good appetite by walking!

The programme does not follow the usual EASE format of many parallel sessions; instead there will be six plenary sessions and two sessions for submitted papers. We hope that this format will allow for plenty of discussion between all the delegates.

We look forward to welcoming you to Kraków, and feel sure it will be a memorable visit to a remarkable city.

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Publications committee

The Publications Committee met in Paris on 26 November 2005, when it was joined by a new member, Igor Vlahovic, a geologist from Zagreb, Croatia. The meeting focused on the preparation of the forthcoming issues of the journal, and all sections were reviewed.

We regularly receive original papers and the review process (John Glen) is effective in improving the quality of contributions. However, the journal needs to attract more original articles. The peer review congress in Chicago in September 2005 attracted 400 people and some good contributions may be submitted to *European Science Editing*.

Some regular series are attractive, such as "Editing around the world" and "From the literature". The "Editors' WebWatch" column has been appearing regularly so far, and many topics have been covered. But now we have fewer suggestions and this column will probably not be included in every issue of *ESE*. The series "News from editing societies" has raised

awareness about many societies and is judged a good achievement.

The Committee is aware of some production difficulties, as some figures have not been well printed in previous issues and in the *Science Editors' Handbook*. Production of the journal will have to be improved.

The *Science Editors' Handbook* has had new chapters published and some 10 new chapters are due to appear during 2006, including two that will be distributed with this issue of *ESE*.

The Committee spent time reviewing the web site that has now been upgraded. Emma Campbell is taking care of uploading content on a regular basis, and the minor mistakes that appeared at the beginning are being corrected. It is now possible to make payments online and this service should be used for the next membership campaign and for the conference in June 2006. The contents list of the *Handbook* and a number of past issues of the journal are online at www.ease.org.uk).

The Kraków meeting was discussed, as some contributions should appear in the journal. June 2006 will see several members of the Publication Committee retiring and new blood is now needed. A new chief editor will be named in Kraków.

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ESE needs a new DTP expert and production manager

Are you an experienced user of a desktop publishing program (preferably Quark or InDesign)? Would you like to take on the work of producing *European Science Editing* and chapters of the *Science Editors' Handbook* for EASE? Or do you know anyone, preferably living in or near London, who might like this freelance job? If so, please get in touch, in the first place, with the present production manager: Maeve O'Connor, tel. 020 7388 9668, maeve.oc@blueyonder.co.uk.