News notes

News notes are compiled by John Hilton (johnhiltoneditor@gmail.com)

Some of these items are taken from the EASE journal blog (http://ese-bookshelf.blogspot.co.uk) where full URLs may be found

Transparency principles updated
Revised Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing were published in January 2018. Co-developed by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), the principles were first published in 2013 and updated in 2015. The new version, available from the websites of the contributing organisations, includes 16 guidelines covering a broad spectrum of topics.

Open Access Journal Finder
Editorial services company Enago has developed an open access journal finder. The journal finder uses algorithms to search more than 10,000 journals listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals. It is free to use on Enago's website (enago.com/academy/journal-finder).

OpenAIRE advances
OpenAIRE (openaire.eu) is the organisation that supports open access mandates in Europe. From January 2018, the OpenAIRE-Advance project (openaire.eu/advance) will work on promoting open science and "reshaping the scholarly communication system towards openness and transparency serving as a trusted pillar of the European Open Science Cloud". The overall aim is to enable the conduct and dissemination of research findings in a more transparent and efficient way. You can read more at openaire.eu/advance.

Research integrity: what is it?
Editors may think they know what research integrity means, but what about researchers? An analysis of interviews with Swiss researchers found that while some researchers considered research integrity to be the absence of misconduct, most thought of it as a broader term, referring variously to honesty, transparency, and objectivity. You can read more in the journal *Accountability in Research* (2018; Jan 1).

Marine science preprints
MarXiv is a new preprint server for ocean and marine-climate science. It is one of several initiatives of OCTO (Open Communities for the Ocean; octogroup.org) and is hosted by the Center for Open Science (cos.io) preprint platform. You can read more at marxivinfo.org, and you can access the repository at marxiv.org.

Publishers block China papers
In November 2017 publisher Springer Nature removed access to a number of articles in China, to comply with Chinese regulations. Earlier in the year, another publisher Cambridge University Press had removed articles from its Chinese website in response to a request from the Chinese government, but later reversed the decision following criticism from some academics who saw it as censorship. Springer Nature said its action was "deeply regrettable but has been taken to prevent a much greater impact on our customers and authors".

Manuscript-writing robot
Could a machine produce the first draft of a paper? That's the challenge attempted by Manuscript Writer, a tool developed by the team behind sciNote, an open-source electronic lab notebook. As reported in Research Information (researchinformation.info; December 2017), the device collects data stored in sciNote and presents it in the form of a draft article, using artificial intelligence. The developers argue that with this starting point, the data is systematically organised and traceable, thereby improving reproducibility. Try it yourself at scinote.net/manuscript-writer.

Frictionless data
A project called Frictionless Data (frictionlessdata.io) run by Open Knowledge International (OKI; okfn.org) aims to develop tools and services to help organisations publish open data. OKI is now building this work with funding from the Open Data Institute (theodi.org), to improve data publication workflows. You can read more on the OKI blog (blog.okfn.org).

FAIRsharing
Formally known as BioSharing, and now expanded beyond life sciences, FAIRsharing is a "curated, informative and educational resource on data and metadata standards, inter-related to databases and data policies". FAIRsharing (fairsharing.org) was set up by a team at the University of Oxford e-Research Centre, who have recently published a summary of their work in bioRxiv (245183; 17 January 2018).

UCL Press megajournal
UCL Press (ucl.ac.uk/ucl-press), the publishing operation of University College London, is launching its own 'megajournal' (as yet unnamed) in collaboration with the Science Open platform (scienceopen.com). The journal will start by covering environmental science, and ultimately provide broad coverage. More details are available on the Science Open blog (blog.scienceopen.com; 23 January 2018).

How much does *eLife* cost?
eLife, the open access journal set up in 2011 by a group of major research funders, has recently introduced publication fees, after a period of offering free publication. An informative blog post (elifesciences.org/labs; 2 November 2017) explains this move in the context of a broader discussion of the running costs of the journal.

How does OA affect books?
A white paper published by Springer Nature explores the impact of open access (OA) on scholarly books. The paper presents findings from a study comparing 216 OA books with more than 17,000 non-OA books. It found that OA books were downloaded seven times more often, cited 50% more and mentioned online 10 times more than non-OA books. The full report is available from www.springernature.com/the-oa-effect.

African OA platform
A new open-access platform has been launched by the African Academy of Sciences (AAS; aasciences.ac.ke). AAS Open Research (aasopenresearch.org) has been launched in partnership with F1000, following a model set up by the Wellcome Trust and the Gates Foundation. The platform will offer immediate publication of research findings from researchers affiliated to the AAS or the AESA program (Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa).

PMC Canada closes
PubMed Central Canada, one of the two members of the PMC International initiative, has closed. PMC Canada was run by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Canadian National Research Council, but is closing due to a lack of uptake and prohibitive costs needed for technical upgrades. PubMed Central and Europe PubMed Central will continue to operate as normal, and PMC Canada content will continue to be searchable via those platforms.

The Jussieu Call
In a plea for 'bibliodiversity' a group of French researchers and publishing professionals are calling for a model of open access that fosters "bibliodiversity and innovation without involving the exclusive transfer of journal subscription monies to APC payments". The Jussieu Call (referring to a Paris campus) is at jussieucall.org.

Scientific Society Publisher Alliance
A number of major scientific societies have formed the Scientific Society Publisher Alliance (byscientistsforscience.org). This collaboration aims to promote the publishing activities of 'scientist-run' scientific societies, emphasising the value of "scholarly journals managed by working scientists, and edited and peer reviewed in a fair and supportive manner by working scientists."

One lab's publishing timelines
Researchers submit papers to many different journals, so their varied experiences can offer insights into the diversity of experiences and workflows. One lab, led by Stephen Royle, a researcher at the University of Warwick, UK, has posted an informative analysis of elapsed time spent submitting and publishing 23 papers across various journals, and also offering insights into the impacts and implications. It's available on the Quantixed blog (quantixed.org; 2 January 2018).

Dimensions launched
Digital Science has launched a new product called Dimensions, which combines a broad database of articles and citations along with metrics and linked information. Dimensions includes grants, publications, citations, clinical trials and patents, and is aimed at organisations interested in discovery and analytics. Find out more at dimensions.ai or access the free version at app.dimensions.ai.

APA reporting standards
The American Psychological Association (APA; www.apa.org) has released new 'Journal Article Reporting Standards' for psychology research. There are two sets of guidelines, covering quantitative and qualitative research. Both "offer guidelines on the information needed in a research article to ensure that the elements included are comprehensible and that the study could be replicated." The standards are published (open access) in *American Psychologist* (2018;73:3-25;26- 46).

Metrics Toolkit
The array of metrics available to researchers can be confusing. A new toolkit presents evidence-based supporting information on a wide range of metrics, along with a tool to help researchers choose the most useful. The aim is to provide "guidance for demonstrating and evaluating claims of research impact." The toolkit is at www.metrics-toolkit.org.

The phantom reference
An article called "The art of writing a scientific article", published in the *Journal of Science Communications*, has been cited about 400 times, according to Web of Science. That achievement is of particular interest as neither the article nor the journal exists. It was a 'phantom reference' created for Elsevier's style guidance as an example of how to format a reference. It's not entirely clear how the article came to be cited so often, but most cases seemed to result from poor writing, a lack of quality checks, misunderstandings, or mistakes. You can read the whole story on Retraction Watch (retractionwatch.com; 14 November 2017).

TOP Guidelines 2
The TOP (Transparency and Openness Promotion) guidelines were published in 2015 by the Center for Open Science (cos.io/our-services/top-guidelines) with input from a broad range of contributors. The guidelines aim to align key scientific practices (transparency, open sharing, reproducibility) with actual daily practice. In September 2017, a workshop was held to develop an extension to the TOP guidelines that would help with their implementation, moving beyond just endorsement. You can read more about the workshop and its findings, which propose a 'TOP statement' to accompany every scientific publication, on the COPE website (publicationethics.org; 15 January 2018).

John Hilton