The editor's bookshelf

Bookshelf is compiled by Anna Maria Rossi (annamaria.rossi@iss.it). Please contact Anna Maria if you wish to send items or become a member of the EASE journal blog (http://ese-bookshelf.blogspot.co.uk) and see your posts published in the journal.

ECONOMICS AND FUNDING

Liu JJ, Bell CM, Matelski JJ, *et al*. **Payments by US pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers to US medical journal editors: retrospective observational study.** *BMJ* 2017;359:j4619
The authors found that US industry payments to journal editors are common and often large, particularly for certain subspecialties. Furthermore, many journals lack clear and transparent editorial conflicts of interest (COI) policies and disclosures. Journal editors should reconsider their COI policies and the impact that editor relations with industry may have on public trust in the research enterprise.
doi: 10.1136/bmj.j4619

Vuong QH. **The (ir)rational consideration of the cost of science in transition economies**. *Nature Human Behaviour* 2018;2(1)
The perspective paper presents the dilemma that a modern society is facing regarding the demand for "better" cost consideration by scientists, on one hand, and the underestimation of the value that the scientific enterprise contributes to the society, on the other. The cost consideration can also become irrational and serve as an excuse for attacking science, which does more harm to the overall process of societal developments.
doi: 10.1038/s41562-017-0281-4

EDITORIAL PROCESS

Davis P. **Badges? We don't need no stinking preprint badges!** *The Scholarly Kitchen* 2018 Feb 14
Authors submitting papers to PLOS journals can now opt to transfer their manuscript automatically to the bioRxiv preprint server. In this arrangement, PLOS will perform the initial screening, which includes checking for plagiarism, previous publication, scope, ethical, and technical criteria before manuscripts are transferred to bioRxiv. It also refers to badges, that is nevertheless used to describe something still undefined, but presumably to serve as a marker to the reader that a preprint has received some as yet unknown level of reviewer/editorial scrutiny/approval.

Kasdorf B. **Why accessibility is hard and how to make it easier: Lessons from publishers**. *Learned Publishing* 2018;31(1):11-18
The requirements for providing publications in an accessible form proves difficult to accomplish for most publishers. This article examines the issues that are challenging to publishers and their suppliers, discusses the factors that make them difficult, and suggests strategies as that of building accessibility into the production workflows upfront.
doi: 10.1002/leap.1146

Matarese V, Shashok K. **Improving the biomedical research literature: insights from authors' editors can help journal editors define and refine their core competencies.** *F1000Research* 2018;7:109
Based on their experience as authors' editors, they suggest how to strengthen core competencies for journal editors so that they better respond to the needs of readers and authors. First, journal editors should ensure that authors are given useful feedback on the language and writing beyond a blanket judgement of whether the English is "acceptable" or not. Second, journal editors should be able to deal effectively with inappropriate text re-use and plagiarism.
doi: 10.12688/f1000research.13760.2

ETHICAL ISSUES

Ferris LE, Winker MA. **Ethical issues in publishing in predatory journals.** *Biochemia Medica* 2017; 27(3):031201
This paper discusses ethical issues around predatory journals and publishing in them. These issues include: misrepresentation; lack of editorial and publishing standards and practices; academic deception; research and funding wasted; lack of archived content; and undermining confidence in research literature.
doi: 10.11613/BM.2017.030

Howard HC, Mascalzoni D, Mabile L, *et al*. **How to responsibly acknowledge research work in the era of big data and biobanks: ethical aspects of the Bioresource Research Impact Factor (BRIF)**. *Journal of Community Genetics* 2017 Sep 25:1-8
There is currently no system that systematically and accurately traces and attributes recognition to researchers and clinicians developing bioresources. This article reviews the objectives and functions of the Bioresource Research Impact Factor (BRIF) initiative including the CoBRA (Citation of BioResources in journal Articles) guideline, and the *Open Journal of Bioresources*. It also presents results of a small empirical study on stakeholder awareness of the BRIF and an analysis of its ethical aspects.
doi: 10.1007/s12687-017-0332-6

Overbaugh J. **Defining the barriers to women publishing in high-impact journals**. *Journal of Virology* 2018 Jan 24
This commentary describes gender differences in publication of HIV-related articles that raise questions about best practices in this important aspect of science.
doi: 10.1128/JVI.02127-17

LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Hartley J. **What works for you? The choice of titles for academic articles in higher education**. *SRHE News* Blog 2017 May 26
The range of possible forms of titles

available for authors of academic articles in higher education is considerable, but few styles are actually used. This analysis of over 250 titles from the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE) abstracts shows that authors in higher education employ colons most, short sentences next and questions least of all.

Kressmann C, Lang S. **Six communication rules for scientific presentations and writing.** *Medical Writing* 2017;26(4):46-47
The authors defined six communication rules for scientific writing and presenting. Both presentations and research articles should not be overloaded with details or aspects that contribute nothing to the topic.

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Delaney A, Tamás PA. **Searching for evidence or approval? A commentary on database search in systematic reviews and alternative information retrieval methodologies**. *Research Synthesis Methods* 2018;9(1)124-131
A commentary on the factors that call into question the appropriateness of default reliance on database searches particularly as systematic review is adapted for use in new and lower consensus fields. It discusses alternative methods for information retrieval.
doi: 10.1002/jrsm.1282

PUBLISHING

Gertler P, Galiani S, Romero M. **How to make replication the norm**. *Nature* 2018;554:417-419
Efforts to replicate research studies are distorted by inherent conflicts between the authors of the original work and those trying to reproduce the results. The authors surveyed 11 top-tier economics journals to find out how to fix it. A first step to getting more replications is making them easier by requiring authors to publicly post the data and code used to produce the results in their studies.
doi: 10.1038/d41586-018-02108-9

Osborne NJ, Ritskes-Hoitinga M, Ahluwahlia A, *et al*. **Letter to editor - round table unites to tackle culture change in an effort to improve animal resarch reporting.** *BMC Veterinary Research* 2017;13:314
A round table meeting was held in Edinburgh to discuss how to enhance the rate at which the quality of reporting animal research can be improved. A signed statement acknowledges the efforts that participant organizations have made towards improving the reporting of animal studies and confirms an ongoing commitment to drive further improvements.
doi: 10.1186/s12917-017-1235-9

RESEARCH EVALUATION

Brembs B. **Prestigious science journals struggle to reach even average reliability**. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 2018;12:37
Data from several lines of evidence suggest that the methodological quality of scientific experiments does not increase with increasing rank of the journal. On the contrary, some of the data suggest the inverse: methodological quality and, consequently, reliability of published research works in several fields may be decreasing with increasing journal rank.
doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2018.00037

Munafò MR, Smith GD. **Robust research needs many lines of evidence**. *Nature* 2018;553(7689):399-401
Several studies across many fields estimate that only around 40% of published findings can be replicated reliably. But replication is not enough. The authors recommend triangulation, that is the strategic use of multiple approaches to address one question. Each approach has its own unrelated assumptions, strenghts and weaknesses. Results that agree across different methodologies are less likely to be artefacts.
doi: 10.1038/d41586-018-01023-3

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Carter A, Croft A, Lukas D, *et al.* **Women's visibility in academic seminars: women ask fewer questions than men.** arXiv:1711.10985
The authors aimed to determine whether women and men differ in their visibility at academic seminars and which factors might underlie any biases. They examined the women's visibility through the question-asking behaviour at local departmental academic seminars (ie talks, presentations, colloquia, etc). Women audience members asked absolutely and proportionally fewer questions than male. Furthermore, when a man was the first to ask a question, women asked fewer questions. Recommendations for increasing women's visibility are proposed.

López-Goñi I, Sánchez-Angulo M. **Social networks as a tool for science communication and public engagement: focus on Twitter.** *FEMS Microbiology Letters* 2018;365(2) fnx246
A review on the use of Twitter in science and a comment on the authors' experience on using it as a platform for a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) in Spain and Latin America. They propose to extend this strategy to a pan-European Microbiology MOOC in the near future.
doi: 10.1093/femsle/fnx246

Noar SM, Cappella JN, Price S. **Communication regulatory science: mapping a new field**. *Health Communication* 2017 Dec 13
This is an opening article to a special issue on communication and tobacco regulatory science, that provides an example of 10 studies that exemplify tobacco regulatory science and demonstrate how the health communication field can affect regulation and benefit public health.
doi: 10.1080/10410236.2017.1407231

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