Reports of meetings

Asian Science Editors' Conference and Workshop 2014

2-4 July 2014, Seoul, Korea

The Korean Council of Science Editors organized the Asian Science Editors' Conference and Workshop 2014, July 2-4 in the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Building, Gangnam, Seoul, Korea. 160 editors, manuscript editors, managing editors or staff members of publishing companies from 13 countries (Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Mongolia, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Russia, the United Kingdom, and Australia) attended the meeting. The Korean Institute of Science and Technology Information participated as a co-organizer, and the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies and the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia also supported the meeting.

On July 2, there was a conference on topics such as the current status of scientific journals in Asia, and an introduction to national and international editors' organizations, including a report on the increased visibility of scientific journals from Asia through ScienceCentral (http://e-sciencecentral.org). In the first session, scientific journal editors from each attending Asian country presented. These were Drs. Tuvdendori Galbaatar (Mongolia), Banh Tien Long (Vietnam), Komang G. Wiryawan (Indonesia), Worachart Sirawaraporn (Thailand), Ramanathan Subramaniam (Singapore), Evelyn Mae Tecson-Mendoza (Philippines), Qifeng Zhou (China), Toshihiko Yamada (Japan), and Kihong Kim (Korea). Although some of the issues raised were specific to particular countries, most of the problems and difficulties posed to journal editors and publishers in all locations are fairly similar. Firstly, with the exception of a small number of publications, it is difficult for journals to attract the submission of top-notch manuscripts, since those manuscripts are usually submitted in the first instance to international journals indexed in high-impact literature databases such as Web of Science™. Secondly, there is a shortage of professional manuscript editors or managing editors, such that researchers are often required to work voluntarily on the processes of journal editing and publishing. Thirdly, most scientific journals are published for non-profit purposes by academic societies or universities, and thus the budget for the journal is limited, making it difficult to engage high-quality professional editorial services. There is an urgent need for professional editors and manuscript editors in Asian countries. However, there are some countries in which scholarly journal publishing has been supported by the government, namely, Republic of Korea, Japan, China, and Indonesia. An interesting observation during this session was that, perhaps because of these difficulties in the scientific publishing environment, open access publishing policies have been introduced with relative ease to scientific journals published in Asia.

After lunch, 15 posters were presented; the production of Journal Article Tag Suite XML was introduced; the journal history of some countries was presented; and an output analysis of science and technology publications in Asia was presented, which showed that most research papers produced in Asian regions appear to have lower citation rates and are therefore often devalued.

During the session on editors' organizations, the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME) was introduced by Dr. Jeong-Wook Seo from Seoul National University. APAME was launched in 2008 and has opened the Asian Science Editors' meeting every year. The success of APAME is due to its collaboration with the Western Pacific Regional Index Medicus team, which is supported by the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organization. During the process of establishing APAME, members of the Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors showed strong leadership. Subsequent to the launch of APAME, editors' associations appeared in individual countries, including Japan (2008), Mongolia (2008), Singapore (2010), Philippines (2011), and Malaysia (2011). The Korean Council of Science Editors was introduced by Prof. Hyungsun Kim from Inha University. It was launched in September 2011, and within 3 years was circulating its journal to more than 200 members. There were 12 workshops and several seminars on publication ethics, establishing it as an invaluable organization for the development of scientific journals with training for editors and the introduction of a recent international standard of journal publishing. In all, the session on editors' organizations provided good guidelines and a model of how to learn from other countries' organizations.

My presentation on ScienceCentral described the new Journal Article Tag Suite (JATS) XML-based full-text database platform for journals published directly by academic societies. Any scientific journal article that is produced according to the JATS XML standard can be deposited to ScienceCentral, regardless of its language. ScienceCentral includes a variety of additional functions, including Google translation into 80 languages. This database may contribute to increased visibility for small society-sponsored journals.

The last session of the conference was the inaugural Assembly of the Council of Asian Science Editors (CASE). CASE aims to improve the quality of science research journals published in Asia, by advising members about international regulations on, and guidelines for the editing and sharing of information about scientific journal editing and publishing, thereby contributing to the development of science and human well-being. The background to the formation of CASE was reported as follows: In recent years, the quality of scientific research in Asia has continuously improved, and accordingly, scholars in Asia are publishing a greater number of research papers. However, because the majority of

outstanding papers by Asian researchers are being published in non-Asian journals, many of the remaining papers that are being published in Asia have not drawn the international readership that they deserve. In order to continue the improvement of Asian scientific research publication that is necessary for attracting international attention, it is essential for those who are involved in scientific research and publication to work together within a structure such as CASE, since the cooperation of nations across Asia is likely to have a synergistic effect.

Emeritus Professor Jong Kyu Ha was elected as the first President of CASE and Professor Hyungsun Kim as the first Secretary-General. It was announced that 137 editors from 21 countries had applied to become, and were accepted, as CASE members.

On July 3, the first day of the Science Editors' Workshop, Ms. Rachael Lammey from CrossRef gave two presentations: one on present CrossRef services, such as DOI, CrossCheck, CrossMark, and FundRef, and the other on future plans of CrossRef, such as text and data mining, and other services. She introduced the CrossRef Metadata search tool available at http://search.crossref.org/, which, although it does not enable complete data access, is invaluable for searching the approximately 67 million journal articles that exist. Collaboration with Cambia is a planned new service designed to link 10,694,365 linked citations from 6,729,459 different patent documents to the scholarly literature. The CrossRef API is a tool available in alpha version at https://github.com/CrossRef/rest-api-doc/blob/master/funder_kpi_api.md to support key performance indicators for funding agencies. It may be used to locate funder ID, publication types, number of DOI deposits by a journal, or specific topics. It will be a powerful tool for use by managers of journal literature databases. Since it is difficult to obtain permission to use data in articles that are not in open access journals, CrossRef's new system for data mining represents a great opportunity for researchers. Through this system, researchers can access data from an article through CrossRef metadata or their click-through service and metadata. In the click-through system, a publisher contacts a researcher using CrossRef's click-through service, while a researcher contacts a publisher through metadata. They exchange tokens, and after confirming the token supplied from the researcher, the publisher allows the researcher to access the full-text of an article. Several other topics, such as small publisher tools, widgets, linked clinical trials, and citing ephemera, were also discussed. The existence of CrossTech, which is the CrossRef Publisher Technology Forum, was also noted. This is where new developments by CrossRef are introduced and discussed.

Following the CrossRef session, Dr. Jeong-Tae Kim, editor of Archives of Plastic Surgery, discussed the management of a journal run by his local scholarly society. He gave an engaging presentation on his experience managing his journal. When the journal's language was changed from Korean to English, he had to negotiate over the objections of a minor group within the associated professional society. In addition, he described the extensive work involved in seeking an editorial consultant, printing company, cover and layout designer, manuscript editor, e-submission system provider, XML producing company, illustrator, statistician, and English proofreading company. He aimed to appoint the best company or specialist in each service in order for his journal to be acknowledged as one of the most respected in the field worldwide. This kind of extensive, detailed search for vendors and resources is a common endeavour of many editors of journals working independently of major publishing companies. Next, Mr. Simon Goudie from Wiley Asia presented on how to develop journals from the point of view of a large publishing company. He stressed the importance of having a step-wise development plan that utilizes an understanding of the current landscape, defining unique aims, and searching for a niche for the journal's identity. He suggested that journal development could be achieved by building a passionate team that shares a common vision, performing analysis of present strengths and weaknesses, undergoing regular journal updates of the style and an annual audit of journal success. This presentation showed how a large company systematically manages and assists editors with the publication processes.

On the second workshop day, Ms. Pippa Smart from PSP Consulting presented an entire day of material on

journal management. Ms. Smart was invited to provide comprehensive, up-to-date insight into the knowledge and methods of journal development. She described the present 'big-picture' in the world of journals, including journal development strategies, partnerships, and building on strengths and weaknesses. Her informative explanations of the differences between partnerships and service providers and between publishers and online hosts were of great interest to the audience. She explained that there are four types of publishing agreements. Type I is a full-service contract agreement under which a professional society (academic society) retains ownership and editorship of the journal. The commercial publisher provider supports everything; however, this can be expensive. Type II is a minimal service agreement under which a society retains ownership and editorship of the journal and the publisher provides the online hosting and financial handling, which can still be expensive. Type III is a sale agreement, whereby a society retains its editorship of, and association with a journal, which may be lucrative; however, the society cannot maintain editorial control of the journal. Type IV involves online hosts to which a society sends PDF files for display. This type of agreement provides the opportunity to guarantee the visibility of journal articles. There are additional aspects of these agreements that require negotiation, such as editorial office management, subscription management, marketing, and typesetting and production. The presentation provided timely information for editors reconsidering the optimal journal development model for their needs. Overall, the topics in this session were new to the Asian editors present, and the workshop attendees showed great interest in Ms. Smart's presentations.

In summary, the 2014 Asian Science Editors' Conference and Workshop aimed to foster a highly interactive environment for the professional development of participants. During the conference, attendees were encouraged to communicate with each other to promote their journals and to apply international standards for journal publishing. Editors from a variety of countries reported that they were "very impressed at this conference," and that they "learned much on editing and publishing". Ongoing interest in collaborative editorial and publishing activity was evident from comments such as "I would like to organize an editors' council in my country", and "I hope to open a conference next year in my country". On behalf of the conference organizing committee, I was pleased to hear such positive feedback. In particular, the launch of CASE was a significant advancement for the promotion of science journals from Asia. The next CASE conference was discussed with Vietnamese delegates and tentatively proposed to be held in Hanoi, August 20-22, 2015. CASE will provide support for initiatives to organize editors' associations in each Asian nation.

Sun Huh
Department of Parasitology and Institute of Medical Education, College of Medicine, Hallym University, Korea
Chair of Committee on Planning and Administration, Korean Council of Science Editors
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8559-8640

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350 years of journal publishing

The Royal Society
6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London
Friday, March 20th, 2015, 5:30pm

In 2015, the Royal Society and a team of researchers at the University of St Andrews will hold a conference on the history of the scientific periodical as part of the 350th anniversary celebrations of Philosophical Transactions, the world's oldest scientific journal.

The programme will include a panel discussion on the current state of science publishing and future challenges facing it, involving editors and publishers representing commercial, learned society, and open access publishing. Confirmed participants include Stuart Taylor (Commercial Director, Royal Society); Eva Baranyiová and Professor Diana Worrall University of Bristol; Scientific Editor, MNRAS. The event is open to all and free to attend; join us for a stimulating and wide-ranging discussion.

More information can be found at:
https://royalsociety.org/events/2015/03/publish-or-perish/
https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/philosophicaltransactions/publishorperish/