

EASE-Forum Digest: June to September 2016

You can join the forum by sending the one-line message "subscribe ease-forum" (without the quotation marks) to majordomo@helsinki.fi. Send in plain text, not HTML. Details at www.ease.org.uk/node/589.

Recommendations for reference storage systems and postgraduate courses in publishing

Pippa Smart asked if anyone knew of a system that could label online pages and allow her to call them up as citations. John Cathey suggested Zotero, which he said can create a bibliography and export to paperpile, a purchasable reference manager, or could be used as a citation tool (<https://www.zotero.org>).

She also requested recommendations for postgraduate courses in publishing that were not so expensive as many masters courses offered by UK universities. Valerie Matarese provided a list of publishing programmes in the main anglophone countries: www.sspnet.org/careers/publishing-and-library-programs/

Quantities before or after the noun?

Valerie Matarese had noticed that some journals placed quantities after the noun and gave the Lancet and beclomethasone 100 µg as an example. She had understood quantities should be written before the noun, eg 5mg lysozyme, which on the basis of the 'adjective before noun' would make sense grammatically. She wondered if placing the quantity after the noun was a practice preferred in some disciplines or by some journals. Yateen Joshi thought it was a stylist preference rather than a disciplinary difference and was not aware of any scientific style guide or dictionary that stipulated the sequence. As an aside Yateen commented that the BIPM (Bureau International des Poids et Mesures) suggested a space between the value and the percentage sign

but that few publishers followed this recommendation. Torkil Christensen concurred. As an editor he would place the quantity before the noun but when preparing a manuscript for submission he would check the journal itself for the practice adopted. If no system was apparent, as often journals did not seem to care deeply about the sequence, he would ensure that the manuscript was consistent within itself. John Cathey thought the quantity after the noun practice may have derived from the way prescriptions and hospital orders are usually written with the name followed by the dose.

Valerie also asked for views on an 'of' between a concentration and the substance, which she would edit out, eg she would change 10 mM of NaCl to 10 mM NaCl. She wanted to know if there was a 'rule' that would justify this edit. Sylwia Ufnalska thought the quantity acted as an adjective and therefore 'of' was not appropriate, although it was included for weights, eg 10 mg of NaCl.

Information on peer-review criteria

Marjolaine Hamelin is a member of the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) that is collecting information on the peer-review criteria used to evaluate data papers for use in internal short courses on data paper publishing. She wondered if anyone could provide her with information. When preparing his courses Andrew Davis had found the following site useful: <http://citingbytes.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/how-to-review-dataset-couple-of-case.html>

Elise Langdon-Neuner (compiler)

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Discussion initiators

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EASE Conference 2018

Bucharest, Romania

No firm date yet for your diary,
but probably in June.

Ideas for topics welcome:
overall theme
plenary lectures
parallel sessions
workshops
any other ideas?

Please send all ideas and suggestions to Joan Marsh
joan.marsh@lancet.com

New EASE members

Welcome to the following new EASE members:

- Jhony Alberto De La Cruz Vargas, Peru
- Carmel Williams, New Zealand
- Adeniyi O. Adekunle, Nigeria
- Hera Moon, Canada
- Renata Franc, Croatia
- Nelson Santiago Vispo, Ecuador

Corporate members

- ASEP, Russian Federation
- OAE Publishing Inc., China