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ECONOMICS AND FUNDING

Van Noorden R. **Open access: the true cost of science publishing.**

Nature 2013;495:426-429

This article from the *Nature* Special, *Future of Publishing*, points out the different views on the costs of publishing. It discusses the true cost of science publishing and the value publishers add for their money. While some publishers report very low costs per article, others expect their cost per paper to be much higher. If a switch to open access publishing leads scientists to drive down fees by choosing cheaper journals, it will undermine important values such as editorial quality.

doi: 10.1038/495426a

EDITORIAL PROCESS

Altman DG, Moher D. **Declaration of transparency for each research article.** *BMJ* 2013;347:f4796

This editorial is putting forward a new proposal for scientific journals to include a "transparency declaration" that authors should sign for all article submissions. The declaration asks the lead author to confirm that the article is an "honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study being reported". The *BMJ* and *BMJ Open* have already implemented this policy and are urging other journals to do likewise.

doi: 10.1136/bmj.f4796

Gasparyan AY. **Choosing the target journal: do authors need a comprehensive approach?**

Journal of Korean Medical Science 2013;28(8):1117-1119.

A prime concern for authors is whether the publication options offer good chances for citations, which are crucially important for

academic competitiveness. It has become common practice to initially target high-impact journals and, in case of rejections, approach lower rank journals. What might suffer as a consequence of the global competition is quality, which thereby demands a more comprehensive approach to the avenue of publication and its promotion.

doi: 10.3346/jkms.2013.28.8.1117

Kachewar SG, Sankaye SB. **Reviewer Index: a new proposal of rewarding the reviewer.** *Mens Sana Monographs* 2013;11(1):274-284

In this article the authors propose a novel idea of a Reviewer Index (RI), Reviewer Index Directory (RID) and Global Reviewer Index Directory (GRID), which would strengthen science by focusing on the reviewer, as well as the author. These can be applied to all journals, irrespective of their specialty. Adopting this approach would make available well-trained reviewers of high quality and sufficient quantity.

doi: 10.4103/0973-1229.109347

ETHICAL ISSUES

Al-Herz W, Haider H, Alò-Bahhar M, et al. **Honorary authorship in biomedical journals: how common is it and why does it exist?** *Journal of Medical Ethics* e-pub 17 August 2013

The article intends to determine the prevalence of honorary authorship in biomedical publications and identify the factors that inspire it. Results of a survey showed that honorary authorship is relatively common. Each institution should encourage its researchers to comply with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) criteria for authorship, recently revised.

doi: 10.1136/medethics-2012-101311

Bošnjak L, Marušić A. **Prescribed practices of authorship: review of codes of ethics from professional bodies and journal guidelines across disciplines.** *Scientometrics* 2012;93(3):751-763

The lack of and variety of authorship definitions in journals and professional organizations across scientific disciplines may be confusing for researchers and lead to poor authorship practices. This study assesses the prevalence of authorship statements, their specificity and tone, and contributions required for authorship in selected scientific journals and codes of ethics from professional organizations.

doi: 10.1007/s11192-012-0773-y

Salem DN. **Conflict of interest in open-access publishing.** *The New England Journal of Medicine* 2013;369:491

Open access publishing generates numerous legal issues including ownership of intellectual property, licensing, embargo periods, consent, copyright, expiration of older literature, "fair use" policies, indexing and archiving, and preservation of works. Overall, the most relevant issue is the rigorous scrutiny of potential conflicts of interest, like for example, the inherent conflict of interest in the "author pays" model.

doi: 10.1056/NEJMc1307577

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Moher D. **The problem of duplicate systematic reviews.** *BMJ* 2013;347:f5040

The best way to reduce unnecessary duplication of systematic reviews may be to make it compulsory for reviewers to identify existing relevant reviews, either protocols or completed reviews, before conducting their own. PROSPERO is an international prospective register that can be used to search for existing systematic review protocols.

doi: 10.1136/bmj.f5040

LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Benau D. **On educating the medical writer.** *Medical Writing* 2013;22(1):26-28

Most medical writers received their education on the job rather than

through formal channels. However, formal education gives a more uniform foundation of knowledge than does experience alone. This article addresses some of the differences between education and training, educational approaches and delivery methods, and potential effects on employment prospects. doi: 10.1179/2047480612Z.00000000081

Joshi Y. **Style guides that refuse to go away.** *Learned Publishing* 2013;26(2):133-134

The article discusses the relevance and utility of the minutiae that style guides and specifications insist on in restructuring submitted manuscripts for publication. The author believes that it is time to reorient copy-editing on making the text simple, lucid, and euphonious. Problems in styling also occur in electronic books, web pages and audiobooks. doi: 10.1087/20130210

PUBLISHING

Masic I. **Medical publication and scientometrics.** *Journal of Research in Medical Sciences* 2013;18:516-521

This paper describes research methods, choice of study design, data collection methods, data analysis, and writing and publication of results. It also explains why scientific research work should be carried out and what kind of satisfaction it provides to researchers. A special emphasis is placed on the importance of scientometric indicators.

The Lancet. **Authorship and accountability.** *The Lancet* 2013;382(9894):744

The Lancet, as a member of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), fully supports the new (August 2013) ICMJE Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (previously known as URMs or Vancouver guidelines). They include a fourth criterion for authorship, that is "agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work thereby ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of

any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved".

doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(13)61815-2

Simera I, Altman DG. **Reporting medical research.** *The International Journal of Clinical Practice* 2013; 67(8):710-716

This article provides a brief overview of general principles of reporting medical research studies with a particular focus on randomised controlled trials, analytical observational studies, and systematic reviews and meta-analyses. The main reporting guidelines, such as CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, and EQUATOR are introduced. doi: 10.1111/ijcp.12168

Singleton A. **Publishing - is our love here to stay...** *Learned Publishing* 2013;26:155-156

The author examines the present challenges that exist for academic publishers and any kind of corporate publishing, such as potential technological obsolescence, legitimacy of publishers' role and of the "product" that they have been responsible for, and the rise of new systems with or without supporting business models. doi: 10.1087/320130301

RESEARCH EVALUATION

Alberts B. **Impact factor distortions.** *Science* 2013;340(6134):787

This editorial presents a statement on the misuse and overuse of the impact factor, the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). It aims to stop the use of the journal impact factor in judging an individual scientist's work, and provides a list of specific actions to be taken by funding agencies, institutions, publishers, researchers, and the organizations that supply metrics. doi: 10.1126/science.1240319

Bornmann L, Marx W, Barth A. **The normalization of citation counts based on classification systems.**

Publications 2013;1(2):78-86

This study describes an ideal solution for the normalization of citation impact through the application of a systematic, high-quality classification

system with the advantages of a simple procedure and the balance of fairness of the resulting citation counts.

doi: 10.3390/publications1020078

Mabile L, Dagleish R, Thorisson GA, et al. **Quantifying the use of bioresources for promoting their sharing in scientific research.**

GigaScience 2013;2:7

An increasing proportion of biomedical research relies on the use of biobanks and bioresources. The need to incentivise the development, maintenance, and sharing of bioresources requires an appropriate set of principles, tools, and guidelines. This article proposes to measure the use of bioresources in scientific research as an indicator of their impact, leading to the creation of the Bioresource Research Impact Factor (BRIF). doi: 10.1186/2047-217X-2-7

Mounce R. **Open access and altmetrics: distinct but complementary.**

Bulletin of the Association for Information Science and Technology 2013;39(4):14-17

This article considers the complementary relationship between open access journal publishing and alternative metrics (altmetrics). These have arisen to better assess the influence and impact of online journal articles, and are still new, relatively unexplored and underdeveloped.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Denecke K, Brooks E. **Web science in medicine and healthcare.**

Methods of Information in Medicine 2013;52(2):148-151

This editorial provides an overview of the landscape of medical social-media (weblogs, forums or social network platforms that deal with health-related issues) and their possibilities in supporting healthcare. It introduces three papers of a Focus Theme considering different aspects of web science in medicine.

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