

The Editor's Bookshelf

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EDITORIAL PROCESS

Hartley J. Refereeing academic articles in the information age. *British Journal of Educational Technology* 2011;43(3):520-528

The new technology (such as ScholarOne) used for submitting papers to academic journals increases the possibilities for gathering, analysing and presenting summary data on stages in the refereeing process. The author suggests that refereeing should be "open" in this information age - ie correspondence between editors, referees and authors should be open and available, and not private. Some of the issues involved in achieving this are outlined and discussed.

doi: 10.1111/j.1467-8535.2011.01211.x

Norman ER. Maximizing journal article citation online: readers, robots, and research visibility. *Politics & Policy* 2012;40(1):1-12

This article covers some techniques that authors should consider when submitting to online journals, in order to: choose a search engine-friendly title, write accurate abstracts and inviting introductions, make the article easy to use and connect to, use media and links imaginatively, and disseminate the article after publication. These improvements are likely to be worthwhile in terms of maximizing an article's chances for better visibility, increased downloads, and higher citations later.

doi: 10.1111/j.1747-1346.2011.00342.x

ETHICAL ISSUES

Heidari S, Abdool Karim Q, Auerbach JD, et al. Gender-sensitive reporting in medical research. *Journal of the International AIDS*

Society 2012;15(11)

Women are still underrepresented in clinical trials, and even in studies in which both men and women participate, systematic analysis of data to identify potential sex-based differences is lacking. This article suggests important steps that could be taken to address the gender imbalance: inclusion of a gender perspective in the next Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) guideline revision; sensitizing the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) to emphasize in their Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (URM) the ethical obligation of authors to present data analyzed by sex as a matter of routine; and requiring journal editors to include gender analyses into their editorial policies.

doi: 10.1186/1758-2652-15-11

Sarewitz D. Beware the creeping cracks of bias. *Nature* 2012;485:149

The increasing pressure to publish is worsening the bias towards false positive results. Evidence is mounting that research is riddled with systematic errors, and that biases are not random. A biased scientific result is no different from a useless one. Alarming cracks in the scientific edifice are showing up starting from the biomedical field, as research results are constantly put to the practical test of improving human health. But systematic errors are a problem for any field that seeks to predict the behaviour of complex systems. Left unchecked, this could erode public trust.

Scott-Lichter D. Authorship disputes: me first, me equally, me too, not me. *Learned Publishing* 2012;25(2):83-85

Authorship criteria vary among journals. Some give detailed guidelines, others provide no definitions in their instructions for authors. Unfortunately, some recurring behaviours are inconsistent

with ethical scientific practice. Some examples refer to the authorship order (which often influences how the work is cited), to the guest and ghost authorship. Journal editors should define acceptable authorship criteria and encourage adherence to them. One approach that may help is requiring authors to fill the contributorship model of authorship, in which they outline their individual major contribution to the article.

doi: 10.1087/20120201

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Howard J. Citation by citation, new maps chart hot research and scholarship's hidden terrain. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 2011, Sept. 11

A team led by two biologists and a physicist has set out to build a guidance system, a sort of Google maps of scholarship, to help researchers locate hot research, spot hidden connections to other fields, and identify new disciplines. The Eigenfactor algorithm should take into account the bias towards This tool should be freely available and run on a desktop or laptop computer.

Masic I, Milinovic K. On-line biomedical databases - The best source for quick search of the scientific information in the biomedicine. *Acta Informatica Medica* 2012;20(2):72-84

Biomedical databases can be grouped into three categories: bibliographic database, citation database and full-text database. Most important databases are located in famous university/academic centers. The authors describe about 30 online biomedical databases and how to make access and search articles in indexed medical journals.

doi: 10.5455/aim.2012.20.72-84

LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Gasparyan AY, Ayvazyan L, Blackmore H et al. Writing a narrative biomedical review:

number of publisher's instructions for Authors, of guidelines from policy document of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) provide the basis for articulating best practices in authorship in scientific research and teaching about authorship and publication practices. They relate, in particular, to the following issues:

definition of authorship, police statements on duplicative publication, conflict of interests disclosure, electronic access, data sharing, digital image integrity, and subjects protection.

Marušić A, Bošnjak L, Jerončić A. A systematic review of research on the meaning, ethics and practices of authorship across scholarly disciplines. *PLoS ONE* 2011;6(9):e23477

This systematic review evaluates evidence about authorship issues and provides synthesis of research on authorship across all scholarly disciplines. It reviewed 123 articles reporting results from 118 studies. Four general themes were identified: authorship perceptions, definitions and practices; defining order of authors on the byline; ethical and unethical authorship practices; and authorship issues related to student/non-research-personnel-supervisor collaboration.

doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0023477

where to submit a review manuscript. These steps can also be applicable to editorials and commentaries.

doi: 10.1007/s00296-011-1999-3

PUBLISHING

Amrein K, Langmann A, Fahrleitner-Pammer A, et al. Women underrepresented on editorial boards of 60 major medical journals. *Gender Medicine* 2011;8(6):377-387

Significant gender disparity is still present at many levels of academic medicine. Results from a sample analysis of 60 leading medical journals in different medical specialties, published in 2011, showed that women are still a minority on editorial boards, accounting for 16% of editors-in-chief and 18% of editorial board members. A great variability (between 0 and 71%) exists among the journals and specialties analyzed. Greater participation by women on editorial boards may improve the quality and diversity of the review process as reviewer behaviour is different in some aspects between men and women.

doi: 10.1016/j.genm.2011.10.007

Macrina FL. Teaching authorship and publication practices in the biomedical and life sciences. *Science and Engineering Ethics* 2011;17(2):341-354

The examination of a limited

including mechanisms for compiling the information, ensuring data quality, and incentivizing the research community to participate.

doi: 10.3389/fncm.2012.00008

Hönekopp J, Khan J. Future publication success in science is better predicted by traditional measures than by the h index. *Scientometrics* 2012;90(3):843-853

Little is known about how future publication success can be predicted from past publication success. This article investigated how the post-2000 publication success of 85 researchers in oncology could be predicted from their previous publication record. The main findings were: rates of past achievement were better predictors than measures of cumulative achievement, and a combination of authors' past productivity and the past citation rate of their average paper was most successful in predicting future publication success. This combination of traditional bibliographic indicators clearly outperformed predictions based on the rate of the h index.

doi: 10.1007/s11192-011-0551-2

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

McMahon TM, Powell JE, Hopkins M, et al. Social awareness tools for science research. *D-Lib Magazine* 2012;18(3/4)

This article discusses social awareness tools developed specifically for science researchers that facilitate collaboration, help manage article references, and offer options for presenting findings in new ways. The following tools are described: VIVO and Profiles, ScienceSifter, Mendeley, SAT and EXPAT, and SciVee. As scientists know little about such tools, librarians could play an important role to evaluate the many social awareness tools available, to recommend them, and to help researchers use them effectively.

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