European Science Editing

Contents **Vol. 30(3)** **August 2004**

European Association of Science Editors

From the editors' desks

Contributions for *European Science Editing* should be sent to the Chief Editor or the appropriate section editor listed above. See Instructions for authors on EASE's web site (www.ease.org.uk/).

The journal is published in February, May, August and November, free to paid-up members of EASE and available on annual subscription of £50 to libraries and other non-members.

Printed by Unwin Brothers Ltd, Old Woking, GB-GU22 9LH

May meetings of EASE

Those unable to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the first EASE Seminar, "Scientific Publications in a Digital Age", in May missed a very rewarding experience. At the AGM, John Glen, a long-term and dedicated member of EASE, was awarded honorary membership for his hard work for EASE over the years. In addition, many thanks are due to Remedios Melero for gathering together six excellent speakers for the seminar. Everyone present will agree that they came away with much food for thought. You will find one of the presentations in this issue, and reports of the others. Summaries of all the presentations can be found on the web (see www.iata.csic.es/~bibrem/EASE-Seminar/seminar-barcelona.html). The EASE Council and EASE Publication Committee also met in conjunction with the AGM. Reports of those meetings appear in this issue too.

Second EASE seminar and next AGM

Reserve 29 April 2005 for a day in Barcelona. The second EASE seminar and fourth AGM will be held then. Thanks to the gracious invitation of Ricardo Guerrero, the venue will be the same, namely the excellent facilities of the Institute for Catalan Studies. The theme for next year's seminar will deal with information-seeking habits in the world of science.

Membership matters

The work of the secretary and treasurer is changing again. Subscriptions, the database and finances will be handled completely in-house as soon as possible. Many practical problems must be solved before the new system is in place, so we ask you all to be patient in the interim. For example, work on the membership CD has had to be delayed. Look for it in the autumn.

Ninth general assembly and conference

Plans for "The Culture of Science Editing", 15–18 June 2003**,** continue. A preliminary programme is in place, the venue has been chosen (the conference centre in Kraków), and Witold Zuchiewicz has agreed to head the local organizing committee. See the update in this issue (p. 98–99) and look for more concrete details in the next issue of *European Science Editing*.

Change in Handbook editor

The *Science Editors' Handbook* has a new editor. Moira Vekony, familiar to all readers of "The Editors' WebWatch", is taking over this important position. Please contact Moira (DunaScript@editors.ca) or Hervé Maisonneuve (hervemaison@wanadoo.fr) with your suggestions for new chapters or to volunteer to write a new chapter.

New editor still needed

Because Moira has agreed to act as the SEH editor, the need for someone to take over the Reports of Meetings section of *ESE* has become more urgent. Please contact Hervé Maisonneuve, the journal's chief editor and head of the Publication Committee, if you are interested.

An apology

In the May issue our Elisabeths became confused in this section (p. 43). Elisabeth Kessler was the person who organized the course in Beijing, not Elisabeth Heseltine. The production manager apologizes to both.

Contributions for the November issue

Contributions for the next issue (November) are invited and should be sent to the appropriate member of the Editorial Board (see left) by **15 September**. For the instructions to authors see www.ease.org.uk/.

Editorial

The squeaky wheel gets the oil

Alison Clayson
10 Sq Alboni, 75016 Paris, France; alison@mail.francenet.fr

I must confess to moments of panic before doing the Members' Survey. Being new to Council, not an expert in survey techniques, and chronically insecure, I immediately imagined the worst. I would be unmasked as a fraud. I would be a laughing stock. My lack of statistical savvy would be revealed for all to see. And in a strange parallel to the question: What if we threw a party and nobody came?, I imagined creating a survey that no one would bother to answer.

But there's nothing like a deadline — the editorial equivalent to imminent execution — for focusing the mind. So despite the anxieties and tergiversation, the survey was drafted, circulated, revised and finally sent out with *ESE*. Typos and all, just to see if you sharp-eyed editors are really as observant as you claim to be.

You are indeed a very alert and articulate group. You communicate by e-mail, web, fax and good old post. Sometimes simultaneously. Those in faraway places often made a special effort to affix a colourful collector's stamp to the envelope just for my pleasure. Some of you attached your business card, some scribbled comments in the margin, some drew arrows and balloons to mark my way through the jungle of thoughts, and some wrote whole pages of additional commentary. Some apologized for having nothing to add, or being critical; some took issue with the wording of the questionnaire or thanked me for my work. Some waxed poetic about EASE. Several patiently explained for the benefit of the newcomer that they had been among the founders or early pioneers of EASE. Some volunteered their help.

It is strange, but having worried so much that no one would respond, I was suddenly surprised by how many of you did. And by the quality and thoughtfulness of your replies. These were unfailingly helpful, offering clear and constructive ideas for improving EASE. I was touched by the warmth and goodwill and humanity suggested in the individual answers. EASE has a heart and a brain. But I shouldn't have been surprised, for these are exactly the qualities that were singled out by members as our finest asset: that EASE is a friendly and open association, that it is international in outlook, that it encourages the exchange of ideas and information.

At our Council meeting in Barcelona (May 2004) we reviewed your suggestions and we are already acting on them. The web site is being revamped to become more dynamic and interactive. Since everyone agrees that EASE deserves greater visibility, we shall try to do just that by building links to sister organizations, making it EASEier for people in related fields of science communication to find us, and encouraging representation at meetings. Later, the journal may get a more modern look and new columns will be added, including better international coverage, how-to articles and profiles of institutions and individuals. Members who would like to help organize an activity or contribute a short article are invited to contact the Chief Editor. The *Science Editors' Handbook* will be expanded. We will try to offer more workshops and seminars, especially on "hot topics" like the one held in Barcelona on electronic publishing in a digital age.

So, dear readers, to all you squeaky wheels who took the time to respond, a big thankyou, along with a drop of oil. For those who did not answer the questionnaire, no problem: comments and suggestions are welcome at any time, and the survey itself is still available on the web, at www.ease.org.uk/survey0402.html.

Highlights from the survey are reported on pages 89–90 of this issue.

Articles

Information-seeking behaviour and the digital information world

T.D. Wilson
Information Research, InformationR.net, Sheffield S10 2SE, UK; t.d.wilson@sheffield.ac.uk

Abstract
This paper explores the nature of information-seeking behaviour, showing how behaviour in relation to electronic databases and the World Wide Web may be formed through previous experience of non-electronic sources, such as the telephone directory and the book index. Models of information-seeking behaviour are presented and the difficulties experienced by people in discovering how to search for information are explored, with reference to research in information science.

Scholarly information behaviour today is governed to a significant extent by the existence of a wide variety of electronic information sources, from the online databases that emerged more than 30 years ago, to electronic journals and the World Wide Web. In academia, the use of libraries as places in which to search for information is being replaced, to an increasing degree, by access to these information resources from the scholar's office desk, from the desk at home, from the laptop in the conference hotel, or, with the increasing pervasiveness of wireless connectivity, from the airport lounge. With this increasing mobility come challenges for the developers of information services to develop systems that support the user in his or her search.

Models of information-seeking behaviour

Various models of information behaviour and information search behaviour exist, usually based on different assumptions. For example, that of Ellis (1989, 1993) attempts to describe the characteristics of information-seeking behaviour, identifying a number of activities that are not assumed to take place in any specific sequence, but which may be undertaken to varying degrees and at different times. The list of activities is:

- Starting — deciding to undertake the search;
- Chaining — following citations backwards and forwards in time;
- Browsing — casual, relatively undirected search;
- Differentiating — discriminating among potentially relevant items;
- Monitoring — regular scanning of sources for items of interest;
- Extracting — taking information from sources;
- Verifying — identifying potentially useful citations correctly;
- Ending — completing the process.

All of these activities will be well known to anyone who has ever embarked on a search for information in relation to, for example, preparing a research proposal.

Kuhlthau (2004), on the other hand, proposes a process that links stages in the search to associated feelings:

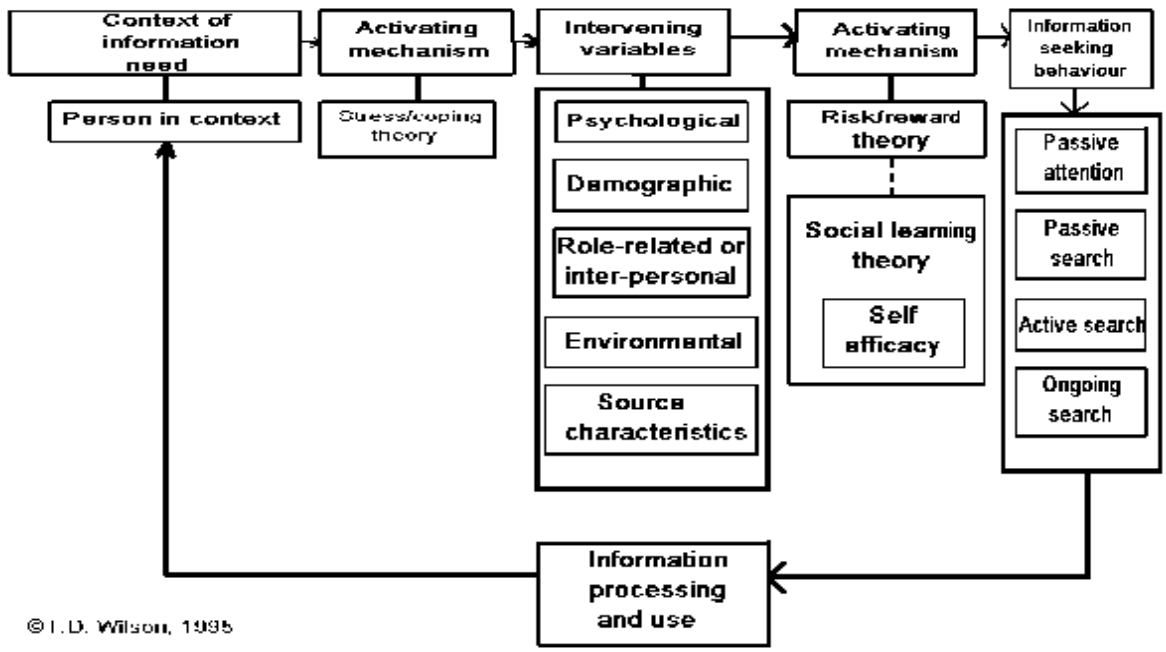

Fig. 1. A general model of information behaviour.

- Initiation of the search: associated with uncertainty;
- Selection of potentially relevant items — optimism;
- Exploration for further material — confusion, frustration, doubt;
- Formulation of a clear strategy — clarity;
- Collection of further material — sense of direction, confidence; and
- Presentation of results — satisfaction or disappointment.

Several models have been proposed (Wilson 1981, 1997, 2002) — Figure 1, from 1995, is a development of a model first proposed in 1981, which drew attention to the link between cognitive and affective elements in the motivation to search for information and which suggested that "barriers" (here referred to as intervening variables) existed between the need for information and the decision to search for it.

The 1981 model was further developed through an analysis of research on information-seeking behaviour in a variety of fields from consumer research to health information management.

The third model (Fig. 2) involves the idea of a problem-solving process to which recurrent searches for information are connected as information problems are experienced in the process of solving the more general research problem. This model was tested in a study of uncertainty in information seeking (Wilson 2002).

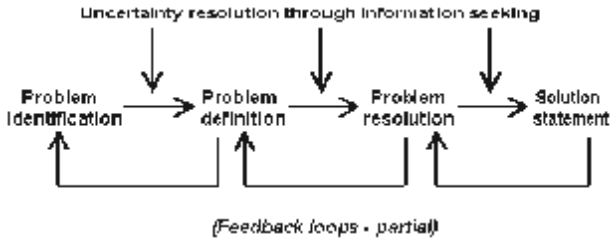

Fig. 2. A problem-solving model of the search process (Wilson 2002).

These models are described here since they may help the editors of science journals to envisage the circumstances in which journals may be used and to illustrate the complexity of the information-seeking process. In the world of electronic information resources it is also reasonable to ask whether all appropriate steps are taken to make the search for information in electronic journals a "comfortable" process for the information seeker.

Information seeking over time

A historical digression may be useful to set the present use of information resources in context. Probably the earliest form of written communication among scholars took the form of letters. Until the invention of the scientific journal and beyond, the chief means of communication among scholars in Europe was by letter and, indeed, these letters were sometimes copied and circulated to fellow scholars or, at times, summarized and built into a new letter. As might be expected the information source was conceived of as the person, rather than the means of communication. Of course, this continues today, formalized to some extent by the e-mail mailing list, but being carried on between individuals and on private discussion boards.

With the emergence of the scientific society in the seventeenth century, we have the development of the proceedings and their circulation — initially as a record of events and as a communication to members unable to attend the meetings and then as a communication to the world of scholarship at large — which, at the time, of course, was not very large. As science (under all of its definitions) grew, so journals proliferated, and also the task of keeping track of developments in any single discipline, let alone across the whole field of science — hence the emergence of abstracting and indexing services, subsequently converted into online databases with the emergence of the computer age. The World Wide Web is the present culmination of this development — but, of course, its impact is more revolutionary than evolutionary.

The development and displacement of habit

It seems reasonable to suggest that as the means for the delivery of information have changed, certain habits of searching have become embedded in scholarly practice. For example, in the early years of science, the members of scientific societies would receive the proceedings of similar organizations — there were not very many. This practice became embedded and it continues today, when it is not unusual for someone to belong to more than one society in his or her field and to receive the associated journals. The informal network also flourished, with people in the same institution exchanging information, journal copies, and, when the technology arrived, photocopied papers. With the advance in technology the offprint and the photocopy are replaced by electronic files.

Then, as libraries developed to house the increasing number of scholarly productions, people got into the habit of having a regular time to check up on the latest journal issues and to search new issues of indexing and abstracting journals as they came along. This browsing behaviour persists, although it is less well catered for in the digital sphere.

My basic proposition, therefore, is that our habits of searching have built up over time and constitute a kind of stratified silt of activities. The older we are, the more ways we will have acquired of doing things as the scholarly communication process has changed and as the technology of information delivery has changed. We will tend to fall back on the familiar when we first tackle a new technology and only slowly acquire the new habits. For the young scholar, in his/her first post-doctoral position, there is less to unlearn and the habits are those acquired over a relatively short period of time and relate to the here and now rather than the past. The disadvantage is that the younger scholar may assume that if earlier work on a problem cannot be found in the material available online, it does not exist — this ought to be a stimulus to the publishers of science journals to ensure that back files are digitized or, if this is

uneconomic, that the indexes are digitized.

Of course, something also depends upon the nature of the discipline and how far it has been affected by the new developments in communication and technology. The science disciplines have recognized the possibilities faster than others, probably because, historically, they were originally the only departments in universities that even thought of using computers. On the other hand there are still departments in the humanities in some places that are not well provided with the appropriate technology and have not yet got into the habit of equipping their students with the skills of computer use.

There is also the point, of course, that the sciences differ from the humanities in the nature of their practice — for the scientist, the record of the experiment, assuming it is validated as authentic and rigorous, is acceptable, whereas the historian will need to seek out the original records of events in preference to a secondary analysis of the same documents.

Familiar search tools

When we come to consider the way people behave in searching the "digisphere" we have to review that matter of habit, and look at the kinds of tools we are familiar with in the general area of information seeking. Probably the two commonest forms of information device that we come to know from fairly early in our lives are the telephone directory and the book index.

Consider, for example, the directory (Fig. 3).

BOWERS-GREEN L,
100 High Road, Wortley .....(0141) 268 9148
BOWES C.E., 31 Rayburn Road, 9. ..(0141) 286 5266
BOWIE K, 12 Cliffton Av, 10..... ..(0141) 320 1200
L, 137 Sandybridge Rd, 6.... ..(0141) 268 2453
M, 16 Worrlyn Pk., 4..... ..(0141) 203 1280
BOWINS K, 3/12 Ratcliffe Bank..... ..(0141) 243 0971
BOWKER P, 91 Maple Dv, 7..... ..(0141) 265 5308
BOWLER A, 61 Owen Gro, 9 ..... .(0141) 246 9734
A, 10 Hollins Clo, 6 ....(0141) 223 6133
D.R, 34 Owen Dr.,9 ....(0141) 245 7823
E, 10 Chestnut Av, 10 ....(0141) 238 9120
E, 175 Ingram Rd, 11 ....(0141) 230 4349
K, 130 Fulmere Av. 8 ....(0141) 232 1515
BOWLES D, 5 Hereford Rd, 3 ....(0141) 267 4278

Fig. 3. The telephone directory.

The key point is that the "search terms" are very simple — persons' surnames, followed by a brief indication of the address and telephone number. Generally, however, there are no "back indexes" that allow one to search for an address and discover who lives there, or for a telephone number to know whose it is.

The index to the classified part of the telephone directory shows a similarly simple structure (Fig. 4).

The other common tool, familiar from early studies at school onwards, is the book index (Fig. 5).

E
Ear and Body Piercing 70
Educational Services 70
Electric Motor Manufacturers and Suppliers 70
Electric Motor Rewinds and Repairs 70
Electrical Appliance Rental 70
Electrical Appliance Stores 70
Electrical Component Manufacturers 70
Electrical and Domestic Appliance Repairs 70
Electrical Engineers 71
Electrical Instruments Makers 71

Fig. 4. Index to classified telephone directory.

Again, the search elements are very simple — personal names and topics.

When we examine these familiar tools, we can readily understand why people use very few words in searching for information — several studies have drawn attention to this fact, reporting the average number of terms used in a search (without Boolean connectors) as being in the range 1.7 to 2.8.

The database search model

With the introduction of the online databases, most notably those developed by DIALOG, the academic user was introduced to Boolean search strategies — although, because these databases were not directly accessible by the end users, it was generally a librarian who acted as intermediary to carry out the search. Because the online databases needed to be searched by an intermediary, few information seekers acquired the habit of using Boolean formulations in their searches and, although today's Web search engines often allow for Boolean searches, few people make use of them.

Some years ago I had an opportunity to download the records of one million searches on the Excite search engine — this was rather more than I could manage easily to organize, but I did analyse 1000 searches. The most complex strategy was:

(bikini OR swimsuit) AND NOT (CD-ROM OR CDROM OR throbnet OR catalog OR catalogue OR video)

In fact, only 12.8% of the searches used Boolean operators, and I was generous in my interpretation of

Pisano, G., 59
Polanyi, M., 4, 71
Price discrimination, 158
Productivity
ICT and, 27
knowledge management and, 222-223
paradox of, 31-35
R&D and, 114
Prusak, L., 207-208

Fig. 5. A book index.

"Boolean" — accepting a phrase as Boolean if it contained the word "and" (as in, for example, "soccer history and the name of soccer"). However, the focus on words is a little misleading. In preparation for this paper I took a look at the data again, and found an average of 2.11 words for a search statement — but only 1.13 for the number of concepts. For example, the search statement "bose lifetime 12" has three elements, but simply defines a single electronic product — so, in general people are searching for a single concept. A number of other studies support these findings, e.g. Spink et al. 1998 and Spink & Xu 2000.

In a forthcoming paper (Wilson, forthcoming) I explore how people talk about their information problems and the factors that motivate their seeking help in searching for information. It is clear from this work that people feel that they lack the skills to conduct a search effectively and turn to the professional information worker because they believe that he or she knows how to do it.

One enquirer, for example, identified his need for information as being concerned with the "eco-vegetation of shingle plants" — this phrase revealed no sources of information either on the web or in the Web of Science databases. However, when these alternative search terms were used, relevant information was found:

* shingle AND plants AND water
* (shingle OR pebbles) AND plants AND water
* shingle AND plants AND (water OR tidal)
* (shingle OR pebbles) AND plants AND (water OR tidal)
* shingle beach AND plants AND nutrient

Conclusion

People's information-seeking behaviour is formed as they learn, throughout life — it is part of the general learning process and, in all probability, structured according to the tools they find in the course of daily learning. To a significant extent, therefore, it has been the tools of print materials that structure behaviour, of which the book index and the telephone directory are the most obvious. Increasingly, however, a new generation is arising that is accustomed to find information through electronic systems and their behaviour may be formed by the tools they find there.

In general, however, information providers must assume that information users will adopt very simple search strategies in seeking information — their systems must be structured either (a) to infer complexity from the simple terms entered in a search, or (b) provide an interactive process through which more complex requirements can be expressed. In various areas of information retrieval research both of these possibilities are being explored. However, past information retrieval research gives us little confidence that any major breakthrough can be expected: whatever tools are employed to determine semantic relationships in text, they appear to be inadequate to the task.

References

Ellis D. 1989. A behavioural approach to information retrieval design. Journal of Documentation 45:171–212.

Ellis D, Cox D, Hall K. 1993. A comparison of the information seeking patterns of researchers in the physical and social sciences. Journal of Documentation 49:356–369.

Kuhlthau CC. 2004. Seeking meaning: a process approach to library and information services, 2nd ed. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.

Spink A, Xu JL. 2000. Selected results from a large study of Web searching: the Excite study. Information Research 6(1), paper90. Retrieved 6 January 2003 from http://informationr.net/ir/6-1/paper90.html

Spink A, Bateman J, Jansen BJ. 1998. Searching heterogeneous collections on the Web: behaviour of Excite users. Information Research 4(2), paper 53. Retrieved 6 January 2003 from http://informationr.net/ir/4-2/paper53.html

Wilson TD. 1981. On user studies and information needs. Journal of Documentation 37: 3–15.

Wilson TD. 1997. Information behaviour: an interdisciplinary perspective. Information Processing and Management 33: 551–572.

Wilson TD. (Forthcoming). Talking about the problem: a content analysis of pre-search interviews. [Paper to be presented at the Information Seeking in Context Conference, Dublin, 1–3 September 2004.]

Wilson TD, Ford NJ, Ellis D, Foster A, Spink A. 2002. Information seeking and mediated searching. Part 2. Uncertainty and Its Correlates. Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 53:704–715.

Biological papers without cited voucher material are so much waste paper*

David L Hawksworth
Mycological Research, MycoNova, The Yellow House, Calle Aguila 12, Colonia La Maliciosa, Mataelpino,ES-28492 Madrid, Spain; myconova@terra.es

Abstract
***Background*: In order to be repeatable and verifiable, vouchers of the material used in biological papers need to be preserved in accessible collections where they are available to other researchers. Without vouchers (reference specimens maintained to provide permanent physical documentation of organisms used in a study), research published in biological papers may be irreproducible or unverifiable, and therefore so much waste paper.**
***Examples*: Vouchers are necessary to ascertain where there have been errors in identification of the organisms used, for precision in the recognition of pathogens, to enable work to retain its relevance as taxonomic concepts change, to check what species' genes were sequenced when unexpected molecular phylogenies are generated, and to determine or verify the characters of newly described organisms.**
***Vouchers*: The form and the preservation method of appropriate vouchers depend on the kinds of organisms, but storage needs to be long-term in public collections or other repositories which future researchers can access without prejudice.**
***Recommendation*: The preservation of voucher material of organisms used in biological papers should be a condition of acceptance of papers for publication, and the requirement should be included in instructions to authors.**
***Conclusions*: Many biological journals currently publish papers in which the location of voucher material is not detailed. If they follow the above recommendation, editors can make a positive contribution to redressing this situation. In doing so, the scientific value of articles published will be enhanced, as will their long-term value.**

Arguably the most fundamental requirement of an original scientific paper is that the work described in it is reproducible, i.e. verifiable by the scientific community at large. In most scientific papers this means describing in precise detail the procedures followed, including the manufacturers and models of equipment, suppliers and grades of chemicals, etc., and making available the data on which the conclusions are based, either in the published article or increasingly in publicly accessible databases. In papers in the biological sciences, it is the availability of the material used in experiments or on which observations are based that is the key to reproducibility. Living organisms are inherently variable, and their identification is not always straightforward. Further, the concepts of species may change over time. Reference collections provide the permanent physical evidence as to what was actually worked on in a study, and so have been termed "vouchers", at least since the word was defined in this way by Meester [1]. Without voucher material of the organisms used in a study being available to other researchers to check its identity or use in further studies, it may not be possible to confirm occurrences, reproduce experiments, and check results. This problem has increasingly come to the fore with the advent of molecular biology. Enormous numbers of gene, and increasingly genome, sequences are being generated, which are used in molecular phylogenetic, proteonomic, gene expression and regulation studies, etc. The sequences are now routinely deposited in public databases such as GenBank and EMBL, and comparative alignments are placed in other collections (e.g. TreeBASE), but what of the organisms from which those sequences came?

The problem applies to all kinds of biological materials, from cell lines to large mammals. However, the greatest chances of errors are in groups of organisms where identification is most difficult because of the numbers of species involved and the lack of adequate identification aids, most notably in the fungi, insects, nematodes, and protists. The issue has been raised in both generalist [2–4] and specialist publications [5–8], and the requirement to deposit vouchers (type collections) is fundamental to the description and characterization of organisms of all kinds new to science [9–10]. Yet papers in many distinguished biological journals regularly fail to state whether vouchers of material used in them have been preserved and where they can be located.

The issue clearly merits increased awareness amongst editors and referees, and here I provide a few examples of the types of errors and confusion that can arise. My examples are largely taken from mycology, but parallel cases are to be expected and occur throughout biology.

Examples

(1) *Misidentifications*: This problem was brought home to me poignantly by a reprint I received from the author of a paper in a prestigious journal in its field (*Phytochemistry*) with elegant structural chemistry but "Since named as . . . " handwritten boldly across the first page [reference not given to avoid public embarrassment]. There is an extensive literature in biocontrol in which the fungus used is named as *Trichoderma harzianum*, but molecular studies have shown that isolates published under this

*Based on a paper presented at the EASE conference in Bath, UK, 8–11 June 2003.

name actually belonged to three different species [11]. My querying the identification of a species in one paper that crossed my desk last year led not only to that identification being corrected (voucher material was extant), but also to a footnote pointing out that work described in several previous papers published in other generally high-reputation journals was not with the fungus named in them [12]. Sadly, readers of papers where the organisms have been wrongly named may never connect with critical errata.

(2) *Disease diagnosis*: The precise determination of what organism causes a particular disease now involves genotypic characterization below the species level. The extraction of DNA from herbarium specimens collected in the 1840s has recently established precisely which race of *Phytophthora infestans* was responsible for the Irish potato famine [13].

(3) *Changing taxonomic concepts*: As new information accrues, what were considered as single species can prove to be complexes of different ones. For instance, the plant pathogen *Fusarium graminearum* has now been shown to really be nine distinct species [14]. A search on Google on 26 April 2004 generated 12 400 references to this single name. In order to assign this enormous volume of published literature to one of these nine species, original material will have to be reassessed; where that material is not extant, the experimental work on the pathology etc. will have to be discarded as it will be uncertain which of the nine species was used.

(4) *Misinterpreted phylogenies*: Sequence data from wrongly identified material in respected public databases such as GenBank is an especial problem. It has been estimated that up to 20% of fungal sequences may be unreliable [15], but while the basis of that conclusion is suspect [16] this remains a major problem. Sadly, voucher material of the fungi used is often not available to check, and so misidentifications and erroneous phylogenies can be generated and published.

(5) *Unrecognizable new organisms*: For some organisms, it may be impossible to assess their position and status in the absence of living material. This is especially so in groups such as the yeasts where the unavailability of strains has frustrated attempts to assess the value of newly introduced scientific names [17].

Vouchers

The nature of the biological voucher material will vary according to the organisms used in a study. They may be dried, on microscope slides, pickled, pinned, freeze-dried, frozen in liquid nitrogen, skinned, implanted in vectors, maintained as cultured cell-lines, etc.

The vouchers need to be in public institutions, ideally ones with a long-term remit and security, such as government research institutions, museums, herbaria, aquaria, botanic gardens, microbial culture collections, seed banks, sperm banks, and zoological gardens. Vouchers maintained in the collections of individuals or university departments may be carefully curated and attended in the short-term, but can be promptly discarded when individuals retire or heads of departments change. Many depositaries are recognized by international peer organizations, such as the International Association for Plant Taxonomy and the World Federation for Culture Collections (of microorganisms), which often have internationally recommended acronyms that facilitate the citation of material deposited in their care. Many of these, such as seed banks and microbial collections, will make carefully characterized and authoritatively named material available to other researchers, subject to pertinent quarantine and health and safety legislation and sometimes with a modest charge. Biological reference collections worldwide already preserve around 2.5 billion living and preserved specimens, and an overview of their wide range worldwide is available [7]. Against such a background, and with hundreds of thousands of accessions being made worldwide every year, there is scope for vouchers to be incorporated into existing permanent collections.

Many collections regard it as a key part of their accessions policy to store material referred to in scientific publications, though if large numbers of the same organism are involved they may require a representative selection rather than every individual or strain. Not unreasonably, some collections charge for deposits, as long-term maintenance inevitably incurs costs, especially where living collections are involved, and they may also charge for supplying material that may have to be resuscitated and checked prior to dispatch. It may also be necessary to pay for expert confirmation of the identity of material prior to deposit, especially as government policies have increasingly eroded the free services traditionally provided by public bodies such as museums and research centres since the 19th century. However, such costs will be marginal in relation to the purchase of analar quality chemicals, primers for molecular sequencing, etc., but need to be built into research project proposals from the outset. Funding bodies also need to recognize this as a provision that needs to be made to ensure the long-term relevance of the work they have supported.

Establishing that a statement that vouchers have been deposited is true is a cognate problem, as there are instances where material has not actually been preserved in the place indicated in the published paper [18].

Recommendation

In order not to be responsible for either generating more and more unverifiable (or at best ephemeral) data, or for introducing confusion because good science has been linked to the wrong organism, editors need to act. All that is required is that a condition for the acceptance of a paper in the biological sciences is that voucher material has been examined by a specialist or obtained from a recognized source, and that this is available from or deposited in a specified public or institutional collection from which it can be obtained for use or verification by future researchers. Ideally, authors should provide accession numbers allocated by the

receiving collection, or copies of letters indicating that material had been received and incorporated. Some biological journals already have a requirement to deposit vouchers included in their instructions to authors, and this should become the norm. In taking such action, editors will experience whines or occasional outbursts from irritated authors, but they can always be redirected to the *Journal of Irreproducible Results*.

Conclusions

At present I estimate from journals that cross my desk that 60–70% of the papers now being published in the biological sciences do not detail where voucher material has been preserved or how its identity was verified, i.e. they are potentially printing so much waste paper. Even "prestigious" journals such as *Cell*, *Nature*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *Science* are not immune and have fallen into the trap of publishing papers whose contents are unrepeatable and so unverifiable for this reason. However, the regrettable ambient situation can be changed by editors making mandatory the recommendation proposed above. By implementing this recommendation, editors can make an impact of lasting scientific value and also enhance the standing in which their journal is held by other researchers in the field — and at no cost to the journal.

References

1. Meester J. 1990. The importance of retaining voucher specimens. In: Herholdt EM, ed. Natural History Collections: Their management and value, p. 123–127. Transvaal Museum Special Publication No. 1. Transvaal Museum, South Africa.
2. Hawksworth DL. 1984. Fungi in culture. Nature 310:18.
3. Vilgalys, R. 2003. Taxonomic misidentifications in public DNA databases. New Phytologist 160:4–5.
4. Ward N, Eisen J, Fraser C, Stackebrant E. 2001. Sequenced strains must be saved from extinction. Nature 414:148.
5. Agerer R, Ammirati J, Blanz P, Courtecuisse R, Desjardin DE, Gams W, Hallenberg N, Halling R, Hawksworth DL, Horak E, Korf RP, Mueller GM, Oberwinkler F, Rambold G, Summerbell RC, Triebel D, Watling R. 2000. Always deposit vouchers. Mycological Research 104:642–644.
6. Ammirati J. 1979. Chemical studies of mushrooms: the need for voucher collections. Mycologia 71:437–441.
7. Heywood VH (ed.). 1995. Global biodiversity assessment. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
8. Miller EH, Nagorsen DW. 1992. Voucher specimens: an essential component of biodiversity surveys. In: Ramsey LR, ed. Methodology for monitoring wildlife diversity in British Columbia forests, p. 11–15. Victoria, Canada: Wildlife Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Environment.
9. Hawksworth DL. 2001. Nomenclature, systems of. In: Levin S et al. (eds.) Encyclopedia of biodiversity 4:389–402. San Diego: Academic Press.
10. Maisonneuve H, Enckell PH, Polderman AKS, Thapa R, Vekony M. 2003. Science Editors' Handbook. West Clandon, UK: European Association of Science Editors.
11. Kullnig CM, Krupica T, Woo SL, Mach RL, Rey M, Benitez T, Lorito M, Kubicek CP. 2001. Confusion abounds over identities of *Trichoderma* biocontrol isolates. Mycological Research 105:770–772.
12. Fomina M, Ritz K, Gadd GM. 2003. Nutritional influence on the ability of fungal mycelia to penetrate toxic metal-containing domains. Mycological Research 107:861–871.
13. May KJ, Ristaino JB. 2004. Identity of the mtDNA haplotype(s) of *Phytophthora infestans* in historical specimens from the Irish potato famine. Mycological Research 108:471–479.
14. O'Donnell K, Ward TJ, Geiser DM, Kistler HC, Aoki T. 2004. Genealogical concordance between the mating type locus and seven other nuclear genes supports formal recognition of nine phylogenetically distinct species within the *Fusarium graminearum* clade. Fungal Genetics and Biology: 41:600–623.
15. Bridge PD, Roberts PJ, SpoonerBM, Panchal G. 2003. On the unreliability of published DNA sequences. New Phytologist 160:43–48.
16. Holst-Jensen A, Vrålstad T, Schumacher T. 2004. On reliability. New Phytologist 161:11–13.
17. Banno I, Barnett JA, Déak T, Gams KW, Golubev WL, Guého E, Hawksworth DL, Hennebert GL, Hoffmann P, Jong S-C, Kurtzman CP, Lachance MA, Martini M-A, Nakase T, Pitt JI, Roberts IN, Slaviková E, Spencer-Martins I, Suihko M-L, Uruburu F, Yarrow D.1993. Unavailable new species. FEMS Microbiology Letters 108:i.
18. Pandmanaban DA. 2002. Non-deposit of voucher cultures. Mycological Research 106:644.

Editing around the world

Editing in Italy: a preliminary survey of the medical sector

Paola De Castro
Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy; paola.decastro@iss.it

When Edward Towpik asked me to write a paper for this section I thought it would not be a difficult task. But the more I tried to clarify my ideas, the more puzzled I became. Here I report some reflections which lead to the conclusion that a survey is required before a more reliable picture of editing in Italy can be provided.

A general outlook

Italy, host to the oldest universities in Europe[1] and to "philosophical" academies which had a primary role in the development of science in the world, also has a very long history of publishing. Starting in the 18th century, the output of printed publications in Italy has developed through the years, although for many centuries distribution was limited to the restricted circles of learned societies, academies and some scholarly groups. Not until the end of the 19th century, with the increase in journal subscriptions in university libraries, could scientific knowledge be exploited by a wider group, but reading and continuous education was still limited to an elite of scientists.

Today many scientific communities produce books or journals, mostly within universities or other scientific research institutes or professional organizations. Periodical literature is still the most important information source for the scientific community, and now, thanks to internet facilities and new open systems of distribution, access is guaranteed to wider groups. Moreover, many reference books are printed in Italy, with large print runs and high profits, as well as a smaller number of scientific monographs produced in a limited number of copies for specialized groups [1].

Among the many sources reporting the scientific output of the different countries in the world, including Italy, it is very difficult to find up-to-date, detailed and reliable information about this output, which ought to be the starting point for any analysis of the editorial organization behind journal production. So far, no single directory contains a complete list of the scientific and technological journals published in Italy, nor do the existing international directories help to clarify the situation.

There are about 16 000 biomedical journals in the world and mainstream science is governed by just a few of them (core journals producing core science). Detailed information about these journals is generally available but it is always a challenge to find reliable data about the numerous small journals that account for a critical mass in publication. For example, it is extremely difficult to know how these minor journals are managed, what the relationships between editors and journal owners are, how many academic or other journals are owned by professional or non-profit associations, which journals are edited by commercial editors, what sort of internal organization journals have, etc.

Different sources were analysed to obtain a general idea of journal output in Italy. The considerations reported in this contribution confirm the difficulty of finding a reliable sample of journal editors for carrying out a survey of editorial practices in Italy.

Some national sources

There are many initiatives, mostly at library level, which try to aggregate data from existing sources; some library OPACs (Online Public Access Catalogues) are very useful for journal retrieval but do not allow searches for different purposes to be performed. For example, the Archivio Collettivo Nazionale dei Periodici (ACNP, the Italian union catalogue of serials) is the oldest online free catalogue (www.cib.unibo.it/acnp/). It started in the 1970s, following an initiative of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR, the Italian national research council), and on 12 March 2004 it contained 641 207 journal titles in all disciplines, but it does not provide relevant information for editors. Many other collaborative initiatives were then developed in specific fields. Two of the most recent of these are the RIBIT database and the Bibliosan project.

RIBIT is a database of Italian biomedical journals (www.bs.izs.it/page_servizi-biblioteca-bd-Ribit.htm) initiated in 2000 by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (a research institution in veterinary medicine that is part of the public health system); it contains details of almost 1000 Italian current biomedical periodicals and is very user friendly but provides only general information on journal characteristics.

Bibliosan is a project launched in 2002 by the Bibliotecari Documentalisti Sanità (BDS, the Italian association of health librarians and documentalists: http://biblio.area.cs.cnr.it/bibliotecario/bibliossn/). The Ministry of Health, the main research hospitals, the national health institute and other government agencies support the project, which has the objective of sharing resources to create a "purchasing" club for reaching favourable agreements with journal editors and increasing the number of journals available in the consortium.

There are many cooperative projects or commercial directories producing lists of journals, but they are just the starting point for a possible survey of Italian journal editors. As regards books, the Associazione Italiana Editori (AIE, the Italian publishers association, www.aie.it) produces an annual report analysing in detail the development of many

1. Bologna University, Alma Mater Studiorum dating back to 1088

information professionals and the book market. This association was asked about existing sources of STM editors and confirmed that an ad hoc study group is working with Italian medical publishers (including both books and journals) [2]. This group within AIE might collaborate in a more detailed analysis of Italian journal publishers and editors. Finally, it is worth mentioning the initiative of the Casalini Digital Division (www.casalini.it) in providing very useful lists of electronic titles.

Some international sources

International journal directories certainly help in retrieving data but they can offer only a very general view of a country's production. Furthermore, when databases are developed with good financial resources and professional staff, they may look very appealing, especially if they are free online. But if you wish to go deeper into a specific topic, you may be very disappointed [3].

For example, even the PubMed Journal database (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/), free online, does not permit any search for country of production. When I made a specific request to the National Library of Medicine, they kindly considered it as a suggestion for their working group and advised that the easiest way to see which Italian journals are indexed in Medline is to look at the "List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus". In the last section of the PDF version of this list (available via www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html) journals are listed by country. I manually counted the Italian journals there and found 88 titles, accounting for 1.9% of the entire database of about 4600 journals. Among these Italian journals, almost as many are in English as in Italian, although the latter may in some cases be multilingual.

Among international databases, *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) produced by ISI in Philadelphia is a fundamental step in obtaining an idea of the international visibility of journals. The 2002 edition of JCR included 67 Italian journals in different classification categories, representing 1.1% of the 5876 journals indexed in the database [4]. The highest impact factor of these Italian journals belongs to the *Journal of High Energy Physics* (IF=6.854), a scientific journal owned by the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA; Trieste, Italy) and published in the UK by IOP (Institute of Physics) Publishing.

However, apart from these journals with high international visibility, there are many other minor publications not included in ISI or Medline which nevertheless contribute to the diffusion of research results in smaller communities. For example, *Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità,* the quarterly journal of the institute where I work, is a refereed publication in both Italian and English that is included in Medline and other relevant databases and has a very long tradition (it was first published in 1938).

The ISSN database, containing all periodical publications that have an International Standard Serial Number, provides a very broad view of such publications. According to the ISSN 2003 edition on CD-Rom, currently published titles number 696 230, while the total items in the database, including titles no longer published and those whose status is unknown, number 1 108 769 [5].

A similar analysis performed with Ulrich's CD from R R Bowker [6] gave nearly 250 000 titles from over 200 countries, with indicators for over 21 000 refereed publications. This database also provides complete names and addresses for 80 000 serial publishers and distributors and includes some editorial information.

The ISSN and Ulrich's databases were searched to get a more specific view of journals in the medical sciences, but it was not easy to sort them according to subject area. In fact, in the ISSN database not all journals had the same classification code: some had a Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and some had a Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) or followed some other system, so it was not easy to collect a reliable data set even though the appropriate classes of both DDC[1] and UDC[2] were considered. In Ulrich's, the appropriate subject field was "medical science" and there were 750 Italian journals in this field. Table 1 gives more detailed data about this search.

Although there are some peculiarities about the assignment of classes, information from these databases can help, but does not give satisfactory answers for a journal survey from an editorial point of view.

Table 1. Italian current journals in ISSN and Ulrich's databases: production in medical sciences and its percentage of global and national production

Databases	*Current journals in all fields*			*Current journals in medical sciences**			
	Global	*Italy*	*% of global output*	*Global*	*Italy*	*% of global output*	*% of domestic output*
ISSN	626 230†	18 743	3.0	15 581	777	5.0	4.1
Ulrich's	203 980#	6 797	3.3	13 277	520	3.9	7.7

* In ISSN, the relevant classes of DDC and UDC, and in Ulrich's the category "Medical sciences" with cross-references.

† Including only currently published titles.

Including only active or research pending titles or research or address unverified.

1. 610 Medical sciences Medicine; 611 Human anatomy, cytology, histology; 612 Human physiology; 613 Promotion of health; 614 Incidence & prevention of disease; 615 Pharmacology & therapeutics; 616 Diseases; 617 Surgery & related medical specialities; 618 Gynaecology & other medical specialities; 619 Experimental medicine.

2. 611 Anatomy. Human and comparative anatomy; 612 Physiology. Human and comparative physiology; 613 Hygiene generally. Personal health and hygiene; 614 Public health and hygiene. Accident prevention; 615 Pharmacology. Therapeutics. Toxicology; 616 Pathology. Clinical medicine; 617 Surgery. Orthopaedics. Ophthalmology; 618 Gynaecology. Obstetrics.

Table 2. Characteristics of the Italian journals included in both JCR and Index Medicus

Commercial publishers	82.8%
Average start date	1969
Average number of issues/year	6
Average impact factor	1.165
Affiliation of editor-in-chief	Italian university or research hospital (98%)
Editorial board	International (100%)
Copyright owner	Publisher (70%)
Language	English (100%)
Online access	Abstract (80%), full text (with password) 60%
Instructions to authors	Online (90%)

A sample survey in the biomedical sector

To get an idea of the top Italian biomedical journals that have international visibility, the 88 Italian journals included in Medline (from the List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus) were compared with the list of 67 Italian journals included in JCR. We found that 29 Italian journals included in Medline were also included in JCR, representing 43.3% of all Italian JCR journals, with a mean impact factor of 1.17.

A sample survey of these journals was performed, mainly based on internet information. Analysis of the data collected showed that most of these journals are in English and most of them (82.8%) have a commercial publisher that is generally the owner of the copyright. Among these commercial publishers, most are based in Northern Italy, mainly in Milan (Kurtis publishes four of the selected periodicals and Witchtig publishes five) and in Turin (Edizioni Minerva Medica publishes five of the selected periodicals); two journals are published by Springer-Verlag, New York.

The average starting date for these journals is 1969, the oldest being *Archives Italiennes de Biologie*, started in 1882.

The mean impact factor of these journals is 1.165; the highest value being that of the *International Journal of Immunopathology* (IF=4.091).

The editorial boards of these journals are all international, with members from Europe and other countries in North and South America and Asia. The editor-in-chief usually works in a university or other academic institution. The average frequency of publication, according to JCR, is six issues per year, although most journals are quarterly.

Most of these journals have their own web site which includes general information, scope, useful addresses, instructions to authors, and subscription details; in general, the journals allow free access to abstracts, and access with a password to the full-text publication (either free or with payment or subscription).

Table 2 shows some data from the analysis of these selected periodicals, while the list of their titles is reported in the appendix.

These journals included in JCR and Index Medicus may be considered as excelling in terms of high impact and visibility. To have a general idea of how they compare with journals from other countries in Europe, the selected databases were also searched for journals in European Union countries with the highest ranks included in JCR [7]. The journal output of these countries in Index Medicus was also considered as a reference point for the production of medical journals. Table 3 reports data from JCR, Index Medicus, ISSN and Ulrich's that reflect the number of minor journals for which it is even more difficult to get detailed editorial information.

Any study that tries to evaluate a country's journal output, however, cannot be properly carried out without taking into account the country's R&D investment and the proportion of researchers in the work force. This may explain why Italy appears in the bottom position among European Union countries. According to the latest key figures from the European Commission [8], the Italian average annual real growth in R&D investment is lower than the average percentage investment in the 15 EU countries (Italy=2.6%, while the EU average growth estimate in R&D is 3.4%), and far below that in the USA (5.7%). Also, Italy has only 2.8 researchers per 1000 of the labour force, while the European average is 5.40, and the average annual growth of researchers per 1000 of the labour force is -0.6, against a European average of 3.03. Furthermore, many Italian scientists are abandoning their careers in favour of more lucrative opportunities in the USA or elsewhere and Italy is thus suffering from a brain drain that reduces scientific productivity.

Table 3. Current journals in some countries of the European Union in four databases and their share of the total output of journals in each database

Country	*JCR (n=5876)**	*%*	*Index Medicus (n=4600)**	*%*	*ISSN (n=696 230)**	*%*	*Ulrich's (n=197 844)**	*%*
United Kingdom	1254	21.3	771	16.8	53 931	7.7	21 664	11.0
Netherlands	565	9.6	227	4.9	16 957	2.4	4 973	2.5
Germany	431	7.3	239	5.2	30 776	4.4	13 713	6.9
France	150	2.6	89	1.9	89 979	12.9	7 301	3.7
Italy	**67**	**1.1**	**87**	**1.9**	**18 743**	**2.7**	**8 360**	**4.2**

* Totals refer to the current output of journals in each database.

Conclusion

This preliminary study leads us to conclude that a wider analysis should be performed on Italian journals, with a careful selection of a significant sample of editors, not limited to those who edit high impact journals. The sample should be based on the results of searches performed on the existing national and international databases and on directories of editors or special groups or professional associations.

Taking into consideration the results of similar surveys in different countries, an ad hoc online questionnaire will be drawn up in cooperation with different scientific institutions to obtain an up-to date picture of present conditions and editorial practices in Italy.

Acknowledgements

The reflections and considerations included in this note are the result of a preliminary analysis by a study group (Enrico Alleva, editor-in-chief, *Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*, Paola De Castro, Daniela Luzi, Federica Napolitani, Anna Maria Rossi, Sandra Salinetti, Giuseppe Vitiello) which will carry out a more specific survey on Italian editors in the biomedical field.

References

1. Vitiello G. 2003. La comunicazione scientifica e il suo mercato. Biblioteche Oggi 3:37–57.
2. Peresson G. 2003. Editoria medica: indisposizione o malattia? Giornale della libreria 2:43–44.
3. Ojasoo T, Maisonneuve H, Doré J-C. 2001. Publication trends in clinical research. Scientometrics 3:391–404.
4. Journal Citation Reports (JCR) on CD-ROM. 2002. Science Edition. Philadelphia: Institute of Scientific Information.
5. ISSN CD. 2003. Paris: ISSN International Centre.
6. Ulrich's on disc. 2003. R R Bowker, Cambridge Information Group Company. Summer Edition.
7. Ugolini D, Casilli C. 2003. The visibility of Italian journals. Scientometrics 3:354–355.
8. European Commission. 2002. Towards a European research area. Science, technology and innovation: key figures. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, p.16.

Appendix

Italian journals indexed in both Index Medicus and Journal Citation Reports

1. Aging Clinical And Experimental Research
2. Annali di Chimica
3. Archives Italiennes de Biologie
4.. Clinical and Experimental Medicine
5. Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology
6. Cortex
7. Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolism
8. European Journal of Histochemistry
9. European Journal of Ophthalmology
10. Functional Neurology
11. Haematologica
12. International Angiology
13. International Journal of Artificial Organs
14. International Journal of Biological Markers
15. International Journal of Immunopathology and Pharmacology
16. Journal of Biological Regulators and Homeostatic Agents
17. Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery
18. Journal of Chemotherapy
19. Journal of Endocrinological Investigation
20. Journal of Experimental and Clinical Cancer Research
21. Journal of Nephrology
22. Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness
23. Neurological Sciences
24. Nutrition, Metabolism, and Cardiovascular Diseases
25. Panminerva Medica
26. Quarterly Journal of Nuclear Medicine
27. Rivista di Biologia
28. Sarcoidosis, Vasculitis, and Diffuse Lung Diseases
29. Tumori

Publishing science in the Czech Republic

Eva Baranyiová

Acta Veterinaria Brno, University of Veterinary & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Palackeho 1-3, CZ-612 42 Brno, Czech Republic; actavet@vfu.cz

Abstract

The history and tradition of publishing science in the Czech Republic is reviewed briefly. An overview of present trends in publishing in science is given. In the Czech Republic 22 journals are at present covered in ISI's Journal Citation Reports. Papers published in Czech in scientific and professional journals covered in domestic databases have English abstracts. While domestic authors are often forced to publish in scientific journals abroad to obtain funding for research in their home country, the Czech journals are becoming more interesting for authors from other countries. With the increasing pressures of publishing, one important role of editors in this country, as in others, is to safeguard the ethical standards of publishing and help the quest for truth in science.

The history of publishing science in the present Czech Republic is intimately connected with the fruitful time for science, the period of the Enlightenment during which several learned societies were founded and served the development of the natural sciences: for example, the Czech Society of Sciences, founded before 1770; the Moravian Agricultural Society, founded 1770; and the Economic Society, 1806. The practical goal of these societies was to improve agriculture using scientific knowledge and the methods of mathematics, physics, chemistry, botany, zoology and mineralogy. The Economic Society began to publish *Patriotisches Tageblatt* (1800) in which the importance of science was highlighted. However, in

1805 this periodical was stopped by censorship. In 1809 another journal, *Hesperus*, was launched, followed in 1811 by *Oekonomische Neuigkeiten und Verhandlungen*, which soon became the most important scientific periodical in middle Europe.

The fruitful intellectual atmosphere of that period set the scene for many outstanding scientists in the natural sciences and medicine. Among them were two ground-breaking personalities: the physiologist Jan Evangelista Purkyně (1787–1869) and the founder of genetics, Gregor Mendel (1822–1884). Purkyně, whose studies encompassed virtually every aspect of physiology, was also very active in making the new and exciting knowledge available to the general public and in supporting his native language. In 1853 he founded the journal *Živa* (translated as "Life", or "The Life") devoted to natural sciences, and in 1862 the professional journal *Časopis Lékařů Českých* (The Journal of Czech Medical Doctors). Another science journal, *Vesmír* (The Universe), was launched in 1871. These journals are published to this day and they retain their high quality professional orientation. Later, numerous new journals were started (but also ceased) in medicine and the natural sciences.

The country has gone through wars and many political and cultural changes. Nevertheless, the intellectual tradition and support for science and the publication of science continued through all regimes. Universities published their journals and learned societies did the same. For example, the University of Veterinary Medicine in Brno, founded in 1918, began to publish its scientific journal "Biological Writings", the predecessor of today´s *Acta Veterinaria Brno*, in 1922, with summaries of articles in French, German or English. Charles University in Prague has seven medical schools and they each have their own journal. The Czech Medical Society of Jan Evangelista Purkyně has been supporting speciality journals published in Czech, most of them for more than 50 years, and at present there are 28 journals covering every subject from anaesthesiology to orthopaedics.

New hopes in the 1990s

Political changes at the beginning of the last decade of the 20th century split Czechoslovakia into two fragments and also split the science potential of the country. However, many Czech and Slovak scientists keep up their mutual contacts and collaborations, and also their journals. The research scene has changed along with the society. Some research areas were not productive and their support was stopped, and several laboratories were reorganized to better serve new challenges. However, the amount of resources devoted to research, science and education has been smaller than in many other countries.

At the beginning of the 1990s several grant agencies were established in the Czech Republic (under the auspices of the Czech Academy of Sciences, various ministries, etc.) and began to support projects at research institutes and universities. International collaboration became possible on a wider scale and many scientists have used the opportunity to work abroad. To integrate Czech science into the international scene, most research articles have been published in English, even in Czech journals, or have an English abstract. Many Czech journals are included in international information systems such as Biological Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts, Medline/Index Medicus, Excerpta Medica and others, and all of them have an ISSN. Journals in agriculture and the natural sciences are also indexed in these systems. At present, 22 primary scientific journals are included in Journal Citation Reports by the Institute for Scientific Information. Yet the Czech grant agencies require research publications in international journals with high impact factors and consider publishing in Czech "impacted" journals as second-rate publishing. With this attitude they prevent Czech journals from becoming more attractive for domestic authors because the most important publications are directed out of the country.

At present, the Complete Catalogue of Periodicals published in the Czech Republic contains more than 100 journals covering human and animal health and natural sciences. Among this number, there are 11 so-called Reference Selections (in medicine) from international medical journals. For several years, a Czech translation of *JAMA*, the journal of the American Medical Association, has also been published. There are a further 67 journals on agriculture and ecology that are published partly in English, or in Czech with abstracts in English.

Ethical considerations

Editors of the popular journals tend to be journalists. Editors of science journals are mostly professionals in their fields of science, and their editorial job is usually on a part-time basis, sometimes even unpaid. Most of them are highly motivated and devoted to their editorial work. However, it is difficult to recruit young people for this type of work, perhaps due to lack of visibility for their daily efforts and an income that is far from spectacular. Editorial practices are usually learned "on the road". There is no professional training available for science journal editors and the selection process is usually done by senior members of the editorial boards. Editorial board members are increasingly international and this collaboration is very helpful, especially when problems with translations into English occur.

Inevitably, the 1990s became a boom period for translators. Schools of English and translation agencies have sprouted all over the country. However, the results of their work are sometimes rather poor. Despite the fact that we always encourage authors to work closely with translators, to provide them with reprints of important papers in their field and to point out poor quality translations, we do paradoxically encounter more translation problems than we did about 20 years ago.

The scientific journals use peer review and the decisions of the editorial boards are based on the review process. The advent of the electronic era made it possible to work with reviewers worldwide. In a small country where "everybody knows everybody" this is especially important in ensuring fairness in the review process. Exposure to sometimes tough

reviews may become a real eye-opener for some authors. We always ask two or, if necessary, three or more reviewers for their opinions.

Globalization of science poses new and heavy pressures on scientists. In the post-modern era some scientists even seem to be looking for "success" rather than seeking the truth. There is a great danger in such an approach to science. Success usually needs to be quick but the quest for truth can be a very long and troublesome journey. People who try to publish for success sometimes tend to submit articles that are not yet ready for publication, or do not really make a contribution to knowledge. Some authors tend to slice their results into least publishable units. In recent years we have encountered and revealed a few cases of unethical conduct by authors (for example, duplicate submission of an article with different authors). Editors have an important role here in preventing such cases.

One of the newer problems is the use, or rather abuse, of the Web of Science (WOS). Because of the ever-rising, and for our institutions prohibitive, prices of scientific journals and their online products, the importance of collecting and reading reprints has not really changed. However, some people seem to rely on basic information and abstracts gathered from the WOS without acquiring the original article. This is not only unethical but may lead to a serious bias in interpretation. WOS is certainly excellent for quick orientation of authors and it is an ideal tool for editors who have to check the accuracy of citations in cases of doubt. It may also be a good resource for finding reviewers. Therefore a permanent role of editors is to safeguard honesty in science and advise young authors, in particular, about correct conduct in handling and citing the scientific literature.

The future

Another issue is the financial situation of science journals. Some editors have a hard time in finding resources to keep their journals going. For several years, the Ministry of Education had an excellent grant system that supported the presentation of Czech science. Our journal had such support in the years 1996–2002. However, due to budget cuts after the devastating floods in summer 2002 even these activities became limited or cancelled altogether.

The information era has made it possible to publish electronic versions of our journals and the number of journals available online is increasing. With this form of the journals accessible, there is growing interest from abroad in publishing in Czech journals. Such developments can be seen in agriculture and in human and veterinary medicine. For example, the editorial office of *Acta Veterinaria Brno* has received manuscripts from Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Mexico, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, the USA and others. Some novice authors need help with their articles before publication and the role of editors is of great importance here.

In times of globalization and the integration of science the role of editors is not diminishing. One of their missions is to help keep the quest for truth clean and honest, and editor-professionals in their fields of science can through their insight help this development by soliciting review articles that may open new avenues in our thinking.

Highlights from the EASE Membership Survey

Alison Clayson
10 Sq Alboni, 75016 Paris, France; alison@mail.francenet.fr

The results given here are composite, sometimes combining the main responses drawn from related questions. The original survey is still available online at www.ease.org.uk/survey0402.html.

International profile of respondents

Countries represented: 17, in three regional groupings:

1) Asia-Pacific (7 countries): Australia, China, India, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand
2) Non-anglophone Europe (12 countries): Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden
3) 3 anglophone countries: Canada, UK, USA.

There were no replies from Africa or Latin America.

International outlook was mentioned as a major draw and comparative advantage of EASE. This feature of EASE should be expanded and more ways found to involve members in distant countries (especially Asia) in the Association's activities and benefits. Members in outlying regions suggested exploiting the tremendous potential for recruiting new members and establishing EASE as the premier association of its kind in those countries.

Why did you join EASE?

Networking and contacts; international outlook; journal; professional and personal development; professional affiliation; conferences; training.

How did you learn about EASE?

Word-of-mouth was regarded as the best way to recruit new members, but all methods were thought useful: information at meetings, the internet, journal distribution and related associations.

Do you belong to another association?

Nearly all respondents belong to another professional association related to science communication, editing, translation or publishing, and often to a discipline-

based one as well. Some 46 organizations were mentioned.

Joint activities?
Yes, especially training workshops, web links, conferences and memberships.

EASE's strongest selling points?
Its publications and electronic forum, international membership, openness and friendliness, range of disciplines, good conferences, fellowship, and opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences.

EASE's weakest points?
Lack of visibility and marketing, not enough meetings, no accreditation facility, biomedical bias and unfocused mission, narrow membership (should seek also to appeal to web editors, science journalists and those involved in the diverse aspects of science communication), need to modernize its image through a more dynamic web site, more attention to graphics and electronic media, and improved visual presentation of *ESE*.

What additional services and benefits?
Workshops on hot topics, representation at related conferences, possibility for professional accreditation, mentoring, job referrals.

New membership target groups?
The response was overwhelming that EASE deserves to be better known among all those involved in science, social science and environmental communication, whether traditional print or electronic media, editorial or production. Therefore efforts should be made to reach and attract science journalists and technical writers, web writers and editors, translators, corporate communications (including pharmaceuticals), international organizations (UN and other), graphic designers, translators, statistics reviewers and illustrators of scientific and technical materials.

Changes to publications or the web?
Both the journal and *Handbook* won high marks from members, although only a few said they read everything in the journal from start to finish. Coverage could be expanded and diversified, especially with profiles, regional news and country practice, and hands-on pieces. The emphasis on some General Assembly items might be reduced, the tone could be lightened and personalized, and more contemporary design was suggested.

The web site was recognized as a powerful tool but is not considered to be a substitute for traditional publication. It should be more dynamic and e-communication should be further developed through listservs, password access member space, and links to other organizations and resources. Print copies of the journal and *Handbook* should be retained.

Thanks again to all who responded — and apologies to anyone who has been left out.

From the literature

Can training improve reviewer performance?

Identifying competent and willing reviewers is one of a journal editor's most important functions, and is often the rate-limiting step in the peer-review process. Although some journals provide checklists and guidelines, all make at least some assumption that reviewers know how to review and what is expected of them. Yet we know surprisingly little about how reviewers' performance might be improved.

Editors at the *BMJ* have studied the effects of training in a randomized trial [1]. They contacted 1256 of the journal's reviewers, using an approach similar to the *BMJ's* normal review process, but informing potential participants that this was a study. Almost half the reviewers (48%) agreed to take part. Review performance was measured by sending reviewers three previously published studies into which errors had been introduced (with the authors' agreement). The papers dealt with methods of producing hospital discharge letters, methods of recruiting patients to attend a health check and the effect of letting cancer patients hold their own medical records. Reviewers were randomized to attend a one-day training session, or receive a training CD, or be in a control group which received no intervention. The first paper was sent out at baseline (before the intervention), followed by the second, about three months after the training, and the third, six months later. Review quality was measured using a validated eight-item instrument and by the number of deliberate errors that the reviewers spotted.

Reviewers appeared to appreciate the training. About 80% of them in both groups anticipated that the quality of their reviews would improve and, of the 120 who received the self-training package, 86% completed the exercises. However, their optimism was not borne out. The trained reviewers identified significantly more errors than the control group in the second paper (an average of about three compared with about two out of a total of nine) and there was a statistically significant difference in review quality (mean scores of 2.85 versus 2.56 out of a total of 5) but this was not considered of editorial significance. Neither improvement was sustained after six months (when the third paper was reviewed). Training had no effect on the time taken to review papers but did make reviewers more likely to recommend that papers should be rejected (which the editors considered, in the light of the fatal flaws inserted into the papers, was the appropriate response). About 75% of the control group recommended that the second and third papers should be rejected, compared with 90% of the self-taught group and 84% of the workshop group.

The *BMJ* editors conclude that short training packages have only a slight impact on reviewer performance, and most effects are short-lived. This confirms findings of a non-randomized study by Michael Callaham and colleagues at the *Annals of Emergency Medicine,* who found no measurable effect on subsequent performance for a group of 39 reviewers who chose to attend a four-hour workshop on peer review [2]. Callaham et al. have also shown that sending reviewers more extensive feedback, including a quality rating of their review, rated copies of other reviews of the same paper, and an example of an excellent review of another paper, had no effect on the quality of subsequent reviews by reviewers with average or below average quality scores [3].

What lessons can journal editors learn from these studies? One should be cautious about concluding that any kind of training for reviewers is useless. Perhaps the quality instruments used in these studies, despite being validated, did not measure relevant changes. Or perhaps the training offered was not the right kind or not of an appropriate standard. Another problem may be that reviewers and editors have different ideas about what constitutes a "good" review. Two reviewers who took part in the study noted that they do not attempt to point out every weakness of a manuscript, but instead aim to highlight fatal flaws and a representative sample of problems sufficient to justify their recommendation for rejection. In an accompanying editorial [4], Frank Davidoff suggests that we should not be surprised that "short, cognitively focused, and largely didactic (passive)" training had little effect on a complex skill such as reviewing. He also suggests that the studies should help discourage "further use of precious time, energy, and funds for the kind of educational intervention that's unlikely to be effective" and he calls on the "broader scientific and scholarly communities" to take responsibility for producing, and rewarding, good reviewers. Editors may be reassured that this responsibility is removed from them (and their budgets) but, in the meantime, we still don't know how to improve reviewer performance.

Liz Wager
Sideview
liz@sideview.demon.co.uk

References

1. Schroter S, Black N, Evans S et al. 2004. Effects of training on quality of peer review: randomised controlled trial. BMJ 328:673–675.
2. Callaham ML, Wears RL, Waeckerle JF. 1998. Effect of attendance at a training session on peer reviewer quality and performance. Annals of Emergency Medicine 32:318–322.
3. Callaham ML, Knopp RK, Gallagher EJ. 2002. Effect of written feedback by editors on quality of reviews. Two randomized trials. JAMA 287:2781–2783.
4. Davidoff F. 2004. Improving peer review: who's responsible? BMJ 328:657–658.

Who judges the judges?

Liz Wager poses an important question — can reviewers' performance be improved? I will pose another question — who is able to judge a reviewer's performance? Is it the journal editors? ("which the editors considered . . . was the appropriate response", as Liz writes).

The studies Liz refers to are all biomedical. This means they are "laboratory" studies along lines previously drawn up following (in most cases, I presume) accepted routines ("organizing and managing clinical work"). In this way they are similar to other areas where laboratory routines are established (e.g. plant physiology). To my mind the studies that were examined (and where errors were introduced) were therefore largely technical. Or am I missing something? To me it seems obvious that "standard" work procedures can be criticized and lead to better and improved procedures. Was there any innovation (other than technical) here? Were there any criticisms (other than technical ones) in the reviews? Were any (new, theoretical) ideas involved? It is not clear from the text but it seems there might not have been.

In other subject areas reviewers may have different questions to consider. In addition to technical/methodological problems there might be theoretical or philosophical issues. Or even geographical issues. My own field, ecology, with both laboratory and field studies, in different geographical regions, is such a subject. This is an area where development is rather rapid and where different opinions are often voiced. Methodological/statistical problems are often pointed out by reviewers, but just as often authors and reviewers simply have different views on how to interpret results. Who is right? Often we cannot know, since alternative explanations might exist. Perhaps we will know in five or ten years or so, but today? And in such a situation editors cannot appraise an "appropriate response", as Liz says the *BMJ* editors did.

Therefore, in our field, reviewer training would not be appropriate. In the worst case, it could lead to narrow-mindedness and perhaps exclude new ideas. We have the feeling that PhD students are very good reviewers — they are becoming experts in their (often limited) fields, but they are willing to discuss and express their own views. This often brings the field forward, even if the views are sometimes wrong.

And, in the end, the editor or the editorial board decides. And if he or she is wrong, there should be a section in the journal where discussion about published papers could be held and errors could be corrected.

Pehr H. Enckell
oikos@ekol.lu.se

Reports of meetings

EASE seminar: scientific publications in a digital age

7 May 2004; Barcelona, Spain

I was somewhat worried about the response to the first EASE Seminar: would people be interested in the subject, would the invited speakers agree to take part, could it be arranged on time? Those were some of the questions that kept me awake as I planned the seminar. The answers were clear enough after the event: at least I had the feeling everybody had appreciated the content and the format of the seminar.

During the EASE Council annual meeting, which was held also in Barcelona, it was decided to consolidate the annual EASE seminars in Barcelona at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans. The venue was originally part of a hospital and used as a resting house; its history seems an appropriate prelude to its current hospitality.

Next year there will be a full-day seminar and some alternative social events will be included. Seminar 2005 will deal with "habits": habits of writers, habits of readers, and the understanding of science. Any comments on this will be welcome.

Reme Melero
rmelero@iata.csic.es

Sessions 1–3

It seemed appropriate that a seminar on digital information and publishing should take place within the walls of Barcelona's Institute for Catalan Studies, now a major centre of learning and scholarship that is intimately linked with the preservation of Catalan culture and language.

The seminar, organized by EASE Council member Reme Melero, brought together a particularly well-balanced and complementary panel of speakers who drew on their backgrounds in research, editing, publishing, library science, business, conservation and archiving to paint a colourful and sometimes abstract picture of a future that is already upon us. In so doing, they raised as many questions as they answered.

Stefan Gradman, head of information services and the Virtuelle Campusbibliothek of Hamburg University in Germany, set the scene. He showed how most electronic publishing is actually only "electrified publishing" because it merely applies traditional modes of operating to the new medium without transforming it to exploit the true potential of networked e-publication. The new modes of communication, he said, will affect publishing in the sciences and humanities differently. In the humanities, the "container" and its content cannot be dissociated because publication means text about text. But in science, the core content —research — is totally independent of publication.

Tom Wilson, based at the University of Sheffield, spoke as both a publisher and researcher in the field of human behaviour and information seeking. His research reveals how slow people are to change their ways of seeking information in response to the new technologies, and how this behaviour is rooted in our narrow experience of the world. The evidence suggests that people's search strategies have not evolved much (they still prefer to ask a knowledgeable person for information) and those involved in developing information systems continue to design systems that are not necessarily more usable than those of the past. For example, a study of 1000 internet searches using Excite revealed that only 12.5% of these made use of Boolean strategies to structure the search. [See article in this issue, p.77.]

The third speaker was Ingegerd Rabow, head of the E-resources department of Lund University libraries. While expressing her belief that scholarship should be done for the public good, she quoted TS Eliot's phrase that "between the ideas and the reality falls the shadow." She described some of the initiatives being taken by groups in the Nordic countries to lighten the shadow by giving greater visibility to Open Access journals and Open Archives, while also suggesting how Open Access materials might be integrated with traditionally licensed resources for the benefit of all. She also discussed the problems of managing property rights under these changing conditions and proposed other ways to evaluate the impact of scientists' work.

Alison McKelvey Clayson
alison@francenet.fr

Sessions 4–6

J Veiga de Cabo described the Virtual Health Library (VHL) project, which is the result of technical cooperation between the Pan American Health Organization of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) through its Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information — previously called the Regional Library of Medicine (BIREME) — and other national and regional institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. Each participant country, through its Coordinator Centre, develops its own VHL and all of them belong to the VHL network coordinated by BIREME/PAHO/WHO.

The National Library of Health Sciences (Biblioteca Nacional de Ciencias de la Salud: BNCS) at the Carlos III Health Institute (Instituto de Salud Carlos III: ISCIII) is the Coordinator Centre responsible for developing the VHL in Spain. All the VHLs have the same interface and search forms, to make navigability easier.

The VHL could be defined as a tool for disseminating scientific and technical knowledge on health and allowing access to this knowledge via the

internet. Its main aim is to promote the development and dissemination of scientific information sources to be used by governments, national health systems, research and educational institutions, health workers and any person who needs this type of information. Among its specific aims are to gather, in one site, different types of information resources on health, to guarantee the reliability, updating and quality of the information, and to provide universal access to this information via the internet.

VHL-Spain offers access to national databases (IBECS and BDIE), international databases (Medline, LILACS, PAHO), collective catalogues (SeCS and C17), electronic journals (SciELO-Spain and Net-SciELO), health terminology: (MeSH-DeCS, Health Sciences Descriptors), a health information locator (LIS-Spain, health sites), and links to other VHLs whether by country or by thematic area.

Some of VHL-Spain's main sources are:

IBECS (the Spanish Bibliographic Index on Health Sciences), an index that collects and disseminates quality literature on health sciences published in Spain since 2000;

DeCS (Health Sciences Descriptors), a trilingual thesaurus (English, Portuguese and Spanish) which gathers terms on health sciences fields;

SciELO-Spain (Scientific Electronic Library Online), a model of electronic publishing covering a selected collection of Spanish scientific journals on the internet (SciELO-Spain belongs to the SciELO network, which includes SciELO Chile, SciELO Spain, SciELO Cuba and SciELO Public Health, which all share a common methodology for the preparation, storage, dissemination and evaluation of scientific literature in electronic format);

Portal of Scientific Journals, a scientific periodicals directory in the health sciences field which has as its main purpose providing information about the availability of full texts in electronic format and how to access them;

LIS-Spain, health sites (health information locator), a search engine specializing in web sites on health, selected by quality criteria. It offers a description of the content of the sites and their internet links;

C17, a collective catalogue of periodical publications in Spanish health sciences libraries that contains information about 530 health sciences libraries from the 17 autonomous communities, including collections from hospitals, universities, health councils, research centres and public health and pharmaceutical libraries;

SeCS (Serials on Health Sciences), a database that lists journal holdings available at BIREME and in libraries of the Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Information System and also lists full-text books and bulletins. This tool provides full and free access to scientific literature (books, bulletins, reports and grey literature) on health sciences in PDF format.

Sources quoted include http://bvs.isciii.es, http://scielo.isciii.es, www.isciii.es and www.bireme.es.

Shortened version of presentation by
J Veiga de Cabo,
prepared by
JW Glen

"All use is fair use" was the message from Jan Velterop of BioMed Central in London, UK. For more than three years BioMed Central (BMC) has given readers immediate and free access to research articles via journal web sites and repositories. More than 100 journals, mostly medical, are included, of which almost half are independent Open Access journals. The BMC publishing concept is based on an inverse funding model. Instead of charging readers and subscribers, authors have to pay a fee ($520 per paper for most journals) to have their paper published. So far 9000 papers have been submitted to BMC, of which 4600 have been published as Open Access research. Currently 25–30 manuscripts are received per day.

Librarians and others concerned about long-term access to scientific literature used to be worried about humidity in libraries and acidification of paper. These problems seem childish compared to the problems of long-term access in the digital era, according to Yola de Lusenet of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science and the European Commission on Preservation and Access in Amsterdam. The internet is an unstable carrier with dynamic content and all kinds of digital data are software-dependent. To keep digital material accessible over time requires extensive management and considerable investment. The main questions to be answered are: who will archive what, for what purpose — and who will pay for it?

Magne Nylenna
magne.nylenna@shdir.no

Scientific writing in English

EASE course in China
Beijing, People's Republic of China; 20–22 April 2004

Through an EASE initiative suggested by EASE President Elisabeth Kessler (editor of *Ambio*, published by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences), we were offered the opportunity to give a course on scientific writing in English for PhD students at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing in mid-April 2004. The invitation was formally put forward by Professor Zhang Keyu, Director of the Editorial Office of *Ambio*'s Chinese version, and the course was held at the Key Lab of Systems Ecology, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (Deputy Director Professor Liding Chen).

We have given such courses for many years in the Nordic countries, and also in Poland and Greece. They are intended for students whose first language is not English (just as our first language is not), so in addition to technical questions we try to deal with possible language questions and problems. It should be said here that the courses are actually not courses, but we have tried to present the material as a kind of seminar, inviting discussion with and among the students as much as possible. In Beijing we had one group each of about 20 students.

Content of the course

The course programme can be said to deal with the following main points:

General principles of information transfer and how these should influence our presentations (in writing, as lectures, as posters) for different kinds of audiences; When and why to publish; How to choose the right journal for our message (are our results interesting to the generally interested scientist or perhaps only for the specialist, and are they of international or more limited — perhaps regional — interest?); General outline of a manuscript, depending on what kind of article you want to write (essay, research report, review, etc.); The different parts of a manuscript — title, abstract, introduction, material and methods, results, discussion, references, figures, tables. The last topic is usually the longest session and it often causes much discussion among the students (many technical and language problems often come to the surface).

When discussing figures and tables we invite students to present, either by overhead projector or Powerpoint, what they think are good and bad examples from the literature (and why they think this is so), or to present their own material (or own published data) with which they have found problems of presentation and about which the audience is now asked for advice (this is also the case with the participants' poster presentations). This usually invites a vigorous discussion.

We also have a session dealing with a number of the ethical problems that (may) occur in the publishing business — and they are many (fraud, double publication, salami publishing, conflicts of interest, the problem of authorship, misuse of published work, copyright, etc.). Often the students want to discuss certain problems they have themselves encountered.

Another part of the course is that — after we have discussed titles and abstracts — the students are given a short published paper from which we have removed the title and abstract; the students are then required to write their own versions of these. The variations are often great and we discuss the reasons for this.

Lastly, we have a discussion about the relationships between authors, editors and referees and how prospective authors should behave in their relationships with journals and journal editors. The interaction between journal editors and referees/reviewers usually initiates a good discussion.

Before and after

In many courses the students are asked beforehand to send us their manuscript drafts or half-completed manuscripts; we read them before the course and have private sittings with the students and discuss the manuscripts. In Beijing we had about a dozen manuscripts to discuss.

After the course in Beijing we and Professor Kessler had a short evaluation session with the groups. The students had a number of suggestions for changes or improvement, which we have taken to heart. Some had to do with adapting the course programme better to the students' background, for example (this might pose a problem because the students come from different disciplines). This evaluation also concerned the wishes of the students and their supervisors to increase the number of such courses in China, and also to hold them in university cities other than Beijing. This is obviously a challenge for EASE!

Finally, we would like to say that the interest, diligence and inquisitiveness shown by the students during this short time were impressive. Their technical skills (Powerpoint!) were also impressive, as was the technical standard of this modern institute. The welcome we met was exceptionally warm and friendly. And we have never drunk so much tea in such a short time.

Pehr H Enckell
oikos@ekol.lu.se
and
Linus Svensson
ecography@ekol.lu.se

EASE-Forum digest: April 2004 to June 2004

International campaign to promote and revitalise academic medicine

On 1st April I redirected to the EASE-Forum a call for support which had been posted on the WAME forum (World Association of Medical Editors). I felt the issue involved was of utmost importance for all medical editors in EASE. The call was to support an international campaign to promote and revitalise academic medicine (bmj.com/academicmedicine). This campaign was launched by the BMJ Publishing Group, *The Lancet*; CMJ, and others in November 2003. I encourage all editors who feel that academia can still be saved from becoming a mere sidekick of the industry to register support with Jocalyn Clark at jclark@bmj.com.

Significance of position among authors

"Like sex before the 1970s, the matter of how authorship is settled is little spoken about but widely understood in the community" (William Bevan, former editor of *American Psychologist*, quoted in "Don't give yourself a bad name" by Eugen Tarnow in *Physics World*, September 2002, page 17). But is it? Helle Goldman wanted to know from the Forum if

authors jockey for first and last position in fields other than biomedical research, where the second most important author of a paper is apparently listed last. As far as John Glen knew this did not apply to physics or earth science journals. DR Sahu from the *Indian Journal of Medical Science* thought that an article he wrote in the *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine* might be a useful resource (www.jpgmonline.com/article.asp?issn=0022-3859;year=2000;volume=46;issue=3;spage=205;epage=10;aulast=Sahu#The%20order%20of% 20authorship).

Margaret Cooter wondered whether, now that we are paying closer attention to authorship, "the professor" head of the department who obtained funding but did nothing on the actual paper still got to be in the coveted last position on the list. She added a bit of poetic justice with the comment that this position becomes just another "et al." in citations of papers with many authors.

Liz Wager cited two studies that confirmed the convention that the last author of a biomedical paper is viewed differently from other positions on the author list. Goodman (1994, *BMJ* 309:1482) asked authors about their contribution to papers and found that the median score (indicating how much they had contributed) was 10 for first authors, 2-3 for middle positions, but 4 for last authors. Shulkin et al. (*Academic Medicine* 1993;68:688–692) analysed authorship patterns from 1979–1990 among heads of department and found no change in the average number of articles per year for which the chairmen were last authors. Liz suggested that someone should repeat this study to answer Margaret's question. Liz's personal experience was that, although "gift" authorship for heads of department is now slightly less common, biomedical authors still consider the last place to be the most prestigious, after the first place.

A standard style for reference lists?

Moira Vekony touched on a copy editor's nightmare. An author who was using EndNote to generate reference lists wanted to know which journals use the reference style of listing the first six (as opposed to three) authors followed by "et al." At least this author was prepared to do the work of changing the style himself. Tricia Reichert suggested directing him to the Vancouver style site at www.icmje.org/index.html#reference. Agreement on a standard format for reference lists in biomedical publications is long overdue. Does anybody know if any moves are being made in this direction?

Sapropel

Joy Burrough wanted to know the English term for the sludgy layer of decomposing plant matter into which water lilies root on stream and lake beds. Caroline Taylor thought "sapropel" was what Joy wanted. It is the mud rich in organic matter that is formed at the bottom of a body of water. The adjective is sapropelic.

Lottery winners

How many contributors to the Forum have won the lottery recently? Judy Baggott wanted to know if she was the only lucky one to receive an e-mail advising her that she had won a lottery for which she had never bought a ticket. Jenny Gretton reported (rather nonchalantly, I thought) that she had supposedly won several million euros. But she had smelled a rat and got in touch with the real Lotto people, Camelot in the UK, who had taken copies of all her prize-winning announcements and sent them to the UK Office of Fair Trading, who found none of the addresses on the notification existed. Camelot's legal department was grateful for information about this scam.

EASE web site postings

Reme Melero informed us that the EASE seminar web page, at www.iata.csic.es/~bibrem/EASE-Seminar/seminar-barcelona.html) had been updated to include the speakers' presentations from the EASE seminar held in Barcelona on 7 May 2004.

Maeve O'Connor reported that *ESE* was being put online as PDF files six months after publication. For technical reasons, only issues from 2003 (vol. 29) onwards would be available at present.

Joining the Forum

You can join the Forum by sending the one-line message "subscribe ease-forum" (without the quotation marks) to majordomo@helsinki.fi. Do not include a subject line or signature or any text. To stop receiving messages from the forum, send the message "unsubscribe ease-forum" to majordomo@helsinki.fi. Once you have joined, you should send messages for the forum to ease.forum@helsinki.fi. Please keep messages short. If you reply to someone else's message, make sure to delete those parts of the original message that are not essential for understanding your response. To keep other forum participants informed, check that your reply (or a copy of it) is sent to ease.forum@helsinki.fi. If your e-mail software has a "reply to all" possibility, this will probably do the job. Do not use the "reply to" or "reply to sender" facility unless your message is intended for the original sender only.

Anyone who loses contact with the forum, or is unable to establish a new subscription, will be able to find information on the EASE Web site (www.ease.org.uk).

Elise Langdon-Neuner (compiler)
langdoe@baxter.com

Discussion initiators
Helle Goldman: Helle.Goldman@npolar.no
Moira Vekony: MoiraVekony@aol.com
Joy Burrough: burrough@bos.nl
Judy Baggott: baggott@marionegri.it
Terry.Foster@ymparisto.fi
Reme Melero: melero@iata.csic.es
Maeve O'Connor: maeve.oc@blueyonder.co.uk

Book reviews

The Chicago manual of style, 15th ed. 2003. London: University of Chicago Press. 956 + xvii p. Hardback. GBP38.50, USD55.00. ISBN 0-226-10403-6

The 15th edition of *The Chicago manual of style* (CMS) has a bold aim: to be the most authoritative reference guide for "authors, editors, proofreaders, indexers, copywriters, designers, and publishers in every field". Of these, I suspect all but "occasional" authors are likely to find it a valuable guide. Why not "occasional" authors? Because it seems to me that readers need to have a professional interest in writing and publishing to be able to cope efficiently with the advice in many sections. Students, compilers of theses, and others who are not professionally engaged in writing, editing, or publishing, who compose texts only from time to time, will struggle to understand some of the accurate but arcane advice in the manual.

What's new, not just revised, in this edition? The scope of the manual has been expanded to include journals and electronic publications. Consequently, the opening chapter describing the parts of a book is now accompanied by an account of the parts of a journal, and there is a new section on electronically published books, which will be helpful to readers involved in producing an electronic book for the first time.

There is a new chapter on American grammar and usage, "outlining the grammatical structure of English, showing how to put words and phrases together to achieve clarity, and identifying common errors". The discussion of grammar uses traditional grammatical terms, identifying and discussing eight parts of speech — nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections — which will please older readers but disappoint younger generations of editors and teachers who have been brought up on a diet of new terms and attitudes. A disadvantage of organization by parts of speech is that mention of clauses occurs mainly in the discussion of punctuation, not in a discussion of how to handle sentence structure, which is a weakness. Although this new chapter is thorough, I suspect it will be daunting for a second-language user trying to understand how to write "correct" English. It will be more use as a reference text to reassure anxious writers and to settle arguments than as a guide showing how to put words and phrases together to achieve clarity.

Most chapters have been substantially rewritten, and some useful new sections have been added, for example, an extended discussion of editing on-line. The advice on setting mathematics contains much new material, but as I have never been involved in the preparation of a mathematical book, I suggested to the reviews editor that evaluation of the detailed advice would be beyond me. "See what you can make of it", she said. So I did, and have to report that I was right. The general advice about display, numeration, punctuation, and the setting of fractions seemed in accord with my experience as a reader, but scalars, vectors, tensors, probability, and matters statistical were way beyond me, and we shall have to ask *ESE* readers who have any criticisms to write in and let us know.

Most of the debate about foreign languages is about typographic matters and punctuation. My knowledge of languages other than English is restricted to French and Latin. The general advice, and the guidance on those languages, is sound, but I cannot comment on the accuracy of the advice given about the wide range of other languages discussed.

Advice on quotations and dialogue is unlikely to be often needed by EASE members in their scientific work, but guidance on preparing, placing, numbering, and captioning of illustrations probably will. This edition discusses and illustrates different typographic and editorial treatments for both books and journals. Beginners in the setting of scientific and other texts will find it convenient to see those differences presented in a single source, but the most important advice in the chapter is "Since the way illustrations are prepared by authors and handled by publishers is changing rapidly, authors who wish to include illustrations in their works should consult their publishers early in the game."

Similarly, the chapter on tables helpfully illustrates "workable patterns" which may be adapted according to the data and the potential users of the tables. The discussion is detailed and comprehensive, and though instructions from specific publishing houses may differ from the CMS advice, study of the CMS chapter will establish well-tried foundations for beginners, and will provide at least preliminary adjudications between arguing old hands.

The discussion of abbreviations gives more space to SI units than appeared in the 14th edition. The number of pages occupied by discussion of documentation (that is, the citation of sources) has dropped from 200 in the 14th edition to 150 in this edition, but the coverage of the two systems preferred by Chicago — the notes and bibliography system and the author–date system — is still massively comprehensive and helpfully supported by examples. It now contains advice on dealing with electronic sources, including databases.

The chapter on indexing is again massive and wise, and the volume's own index passed the test of my sample searches without difficulty. The appendices on design and the publishing process are likely to be of major interest only to readers working in publishing, but the attention of general readers seeking an answer to a specific question about writing may well be caught and held by the succinct account of how publications are designed and produced.

The bibliography is relatively short, and to my surprise, its list of helpful works on grammar and usage omits *A comprehensive grammar of the English language*, by Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech , and Svartvik (Longman, 1985), which I consider to be the most

significant modern account of English grammar.

The text looks clean and modern, and the introduction of light grey shading in the figures makes them stand out distinctly, in contrast to the simple black boxes of the 14th edition — an interesting reminder of how rapidly standards of presentation have developed in the 10 years since the 14th edition was published. I found it uncomfortable to have to read examples not only in a smaller type size than the running text but also in a sans serif font, but that is not a significant criticism, because most readers will simply be dipping into the text for an answer to a query, not sitting down to read the whole from beginning to end.

The tone of CMS is a curious mixture. In general, the discourse is clear and concise, formally authoritative but not authoritarian; but I was distracted by frequent lapses into banality. Do we need to be told that "A printed journal is usually bound in soft covers, like a paperback", or "A printed journal's design — its physical, visual, and editorial features — is determined when the journal is founded", or "A long-running journal may occasionally be redesigned typographically", or that recto and verso pages are almost never a part of the design of an electronic book?

But (and CMS tells me I can start a sentence with a conjunction) the strengths of this reference book far outweigh its weaknesses. As always, if you want a firm, rational answer to a question about writing, editing, or publishing, you will find one in CMS. And if you cannot find what you want in the paper manual, you can present your query to the new, expanded web site (see www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/cmosfaq/), designed to "interpret the *Manual*'s recommendations and uncoil its intricacies". There, you will meet CMS staff in less formal mode. For example, in response to a query from a reader who was "into an argument online with a person who said that *The Chicago Manual of Style* states that it is okay to use the word, 'alot', the CMS riposte is: "Tell your friend that CMS says he is full of baloney, and if he doesn't believe you, give him the URL for this page."

Hooray!

John Kirkman
kirkman.ramsbury@btconnect.com

Orin Hargraves. 2003. **Mighty fine words and smashing expressions: making sense of transatlantic English.** New York: OUP. 219 p. USD27.50/GBP16.99.

At first glance the differences between US and UK English may seem to manifest themselves mainly in terms of different spellings or words ("equivalences") or maybe syntax. Of course there is far more to it than just that. Lexicographer Orin Hargraves has compiled a truly impressive tome that charts the differences between US and UK English in astounding detail and in a wonderfully systematic fashion. As someone who has lived and worked on either side of the Atlantic he is well placed for such an undertaking. His two guiding principles — to organize the book by subject and to include as much as possible that is useful for the general reader, writer, editor, speaker, and listener — prevent the book from containing just arcane knowledge that is of interest to only a very specialist readership.

He sets out by explaining the terminology he uses unequivocally and follows his own set of rules consistently throughout the book; US and UK English are thus "dialects." Hargraves is also careful to point out potential problems caused by regionalism. His overview of the history of the two dialects leads him to make some cautious predictions as to future developments: a world standard of English is unlikely to emerge, and is probably not desirable anyway, but a case could be made for standardizing spelling. The fact that, in true lexicographical fashion, he bases his conclusions on collocations and word frequencies, which he has the opportunity to check in OUP's vast British National Corpus (www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/), makes his explanations and findings even more authoritative. Using practitioners in the fields of law, education, medicine to check out usage and terminology was another means of ensuring current English and to make the differences between the two countries' systems entirely clear.

The main part of the book focuses on lexical differences, and the contents include spellings; choice of words; money, business, and work; government and law; education; sickness and health; food, clothing and shelter; transport(ation); sport(s) and leisure; "what you don't say"; and "the stuff of life" (discussions of topics from everyday life where differences do not warrant chapter-length treatment). All these subjects are supplemented by extremely useful lists and tables providing the US and UK alternatives (to give an idea: the lists on playing cards and toys, games, and leisure pursuits [p 213] are wonderfully enlightening—from barhop/pub crawl to solitaire/patience). More practical are the sections on the road environment, unique features of houses, or the table on US post office abbreviations. I particularly liked his paragraph on "Bed and breakfast" (B and B, B & B), where he explains the entirely different connotation for the term in British English: "The naive American might think that someone described as 'living in a B & B in Tottenham' was enjoying an idyllic existence, rather than living in indifferent squalor, which is more likely to be the case."

This learned book is far too complex to be read in one go, but for dipping into and out of it provides a very enjoyable read; ditto for the reader who knows which subject area he or she is interested in. Altogether, this is a must-have for all linguists, anglophiles, editors, and whoever else wants to find out more about what Hargraves calls "the shape of the whole iceberg", "the glorious diversity", between US and UK English.

Birte Twisselmann
btwisselmann@bmj.com

Jane Fraser and Richard Cave. 2004. **Presenting in biomedicine: 500 tips for success**. Oxford: Radcliffe Medical Press. Paperback. 146 p. GBP21.95. ISBN 1-85775-897-8.

A little larger than A5 in size and a paperback, this book is well presented and appears to be well made. It consists of 500 tips for success in presenting in biomedicine and doubtless other subjects, and a six-page index. Each tip is thoroughly sensible; thus the book embodies a great deal of solid practical advice. There is very little repetition. From the chapter headings it is easy to find parts that might be relevant for a particular presentation. The advice is comprehensive, which means that a large proportion of tips are of particular interest to the inexperienced presenter and there is also likely to be something that might be helpful to the most experienced.

There is no narrative and there are no anecdotes, so one cannot describe this compendium of information as a "good read", but I can imagine being very interested in its contents if I was planning to give a talk. I found no inconsistencies, but a mention of a liquid crystal display (LCD) tablet refers the reader to "Chapter 22 Using the overhead projector", where no such tablet is discussed. This chapter also omitted discussion of the difficulties that can upset the speaker who was relying on reading reminders from the overhead transparencies and finds himself or herself using a "portable" overhead projector.

The tips range from encouragement to ask questions at the outset about the circumstances of the presentation, through the number of slides required for a given length of talk, advice on the best use of all sorts of visual aids, how to cope with failed equipment, and how to deal with "difficult" people in a seminar. The advice given is kindly and is mostly positive. It is really all there. The authors have honed their tips by teaching courses in scientific communication for some years and their experience is evident.

I would love to have had a book like this at the start of my professional career and I probably needed its advice more than I realized at the time. It would be most useful as part of a personal library but seems over-priced for personal use.

Margaret Corbett
mcorbett@ntlworld.com

News from the Council and its committees

EASE Council Update

The current Council of EASE held its third meeting in Barcelona on 6 and 7 May 2004, in conjunction with the third Annual General Meeting (AGM) of EASE and with the EASE Seminar, "Scientific Publications in a Digital Age". The excellent quality of the seminar, which Remedios Melero had so expertly put together, led Council to decide to continue to hold seminars in conjunction with AGMs in the future, even though the number of participants this year was small. The kind invitation of Ricardo Guerrero to continue to use the extraordinary facilities of the Institute of Catalan Studies as the venue was accepted, and the Second Annual EASE Seminar is now scheduled to be held in Barcelona immediately before the fourth AGM on 29 April 2005. Its general theme will be information-seeking habits in the world of science.

One of the most important matters to be brought before Council was the consideration of the name change that was proposed by Council at the Eighth General Assembly in June of 2003. After letting members have almost a year to express their opinion, Council decided to drop the proposal because of a general lack of support.

According to the financial report, 2003 showed a slight deficit. Handling of the finances will continue to be revamped, with the work being done by the EASE treasurer and secretary instead of an outside subscription agent.

Plans for redesigning the EASE web site were presented and approved. The next step will be to set up a prototype for the Council and Publication Committee to try out. The work will require the help of an outside expert, and funds were allocated for this.. Once the new web site is functional, there should be many new features for EASE members, for example, an on-line forum and news items.

The summary of the membership and promotion survey presented by Alison Clayson (see p. 89) indicated that members want more emphasis on international aspects, more regional activities and assistance, and more conferences. Work to promote EASE in the near future will concentrate on using the new web site to advantage and on other possibilities for making EASE more accessible through the internet. Suggestions for activities are welcome.

A course on science writing was held in Beijing, China, in April (see p. 93) and another is expected to be held in Warsaw, Poland, in the autumn.

After more discussion about projects that would be appropriate for EU funding, Council decided to take another step in that direction by setting up a planning committee to spearhead both the project and the EU application process.

The initial plans for the Ninth General Assembly and Conference revealed that the conference centre in Kraków which is now being built is scheduled to be the venue. A preliminary programme is in place, and all recommendations for speakers are welcome.

Georgianna Oja
secretary@ease.org

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee of EASE met at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Barcelona, on Saturday, 8 May 2004. The membership and promotion survey presented by Alison Clayson was very informative. Although it was too early to draw definite conclusions from the survey, the Committee understood that the journal is a strong asset of EASE but should be "modernized". The contents seem to satisfy members: the journal needs to be improved but on the whole it's fine.

The Committee prepared the forthcoming issues of *ESE*, focusing on certain sections. The seminar on 7 May provided us with material for the journal, including one or more articles that will be peer reviewed. No standard length for articles was set: "Long articles have to justify their length". The "Editing around the world" series looks promising as we receive more contributions (two in the current issue). "The reports of meetings are about as hard to get as blood from a stone" was an observation from Moira Vekony. We reviewed the forthcoming meetings and searched for reporters. The news notes section is well appreciated by readers, and we listed the "hot topics": Ethics, Impact factors, New journals, Software, Digital presentation and archiving, Authorship, Awards and opportunities, Online journals, Open access, Research misconduct. The Committee hopes to add some news from countries (volunteers are sought!) and from learned societies. The membership survey has shown that EASE members are also active in many other learned societies. The editor's bookshelf is still rather biased towards the biomedical field. We would like to hear from readers who can tell us about non-medical articles suitable for the bookshelf.

For the *Science Editors' Handbook*, only a few readers have sent feedback and proposals for new chapters but some new chapters are in preparation.

The Council of EASE has agreed to allocate resources for the redesign of our web site. A prototype should be ready before the end of 2004, with the realistic objective of relaunching the site before the end of the year. Open access was proposed for the journal but the Committee does not want to follow this policy for the moment; the journal is an important asset and EASE needs to have more to offer members before providing it on the web, free to anyone. However, back issues of the journal will be made available online when they are six months old. Changes in the design/production of the journal will need an allocation of resources, and plans must be prepared that can be submitted to the Council early in 2005 (resources in 2004 are needed for the web site).

Hervé Maisonneuve
Chief editor, EASE
hervemaison@wanadoo.fr

News from the Programme Committee: 2nd report

Why "the culture of science editing"? As mentioned in the previous issue of *European Science Editing*, the Programme Committee has decided on "**The Culture of Science Editing"** as the theme for the 9th EASE Conference, which will be held in Kraków, Poland on 15–18 June 2006. Why this theme? The main reason is that one of the major objectives of the conference will be to increase insights, from both East and West, into our mutual approaches towards science editing. My experience in both regions has shown me most clearly how strongly authors from Eastern and Western Europe are still divided in how they go about achieving their common wish to get published — and read — worldwide.

Several reasons exist for the differences in approach to science editing. One is that Eastern European scientists were, in communist times, paid for their publications. This payment was per page, so scientists wrote articles that had an extremely low information density but were, as a rule, easily readable. In the West, ever more condensed writing was required, so condensed that reading commonly was (and is) difficult, tiring and time-consuming. Editors in both East and West became adapted to their own styles, and still approach manuscripts in these different ways. This makes it difficult, if not almost impossible, for scientists from the East to publish in the West (and vice versa). A second difference is that there is a strong tendency in Western Europe to reduce desk editing, in order to save money. This tendency is much weaker in Eastern Europe, where the editorial "status" is, as a rule, higher than in the West. It seems important that we should learn from one another how to optimize the editorial procedures at minimum cost and in as short a time as possible.

It is only logical that even larger differences exist between, let's say, the United States and China, or between Brazil and India, to name only a few of the countries with a booming science output. There is much to learn for editors; understanding each other's culture may be one of the most effective and efficient ways to raise the standards of science editing. That is why **"The Culture of Science Editing"** is so important. Prepare to undergo these different editorial cultures in Kraków, within a historical and social culture that few of us are familiar with.

AJ (Tom) van Loon
On behalf of the 2006 Programme Committee
tom.van.loon@wanadoo.es

The Editors' WebWatch

The Editors' WebWatch is intended to be a membership-driven resource of web sites for editors and writers in the sciences. Contributions should be sent to Moira Vekony at DunaScripts@editora.ca.

National Library of Medicine
Recommended Formats for Bibliographic Citation.
Supplement: Internet Formats
www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/formats/internet.pdf
The National Library of Medicine has developed a comprehensive set of guidelines on referencing electronic documents. The guidelines are based on standards of the National Information Standards Organization as well as established bibliographic practice and are available to download as a 106-page PDF. Written in 2001 by Karen Patrias, the guidelines cover the citation of all manner of electronic documents, from monographs, serials and databases to home pages and e-mail discussion groups. The information contained here is much more up-to-date and thorough than any bound volume at present in print on this topic, and was summarized by Patrias in an article in *Science Editor* (2002; 25(3):90–92; available online to CSE members only).

The Caltec Library System
http://library.caltech.edu/reference/default.htm#writing
The Caltec Library site is vast, but one section that may be of particular use to writers and editors is the writing resources page. This is a huge collection of links to other resources, for example journal directories, out-of-print books, directories and encyclopaedias and science news. One word of caution, though: Caltec is in Pasadena, California; many of the sections are overwhelmingly American and may not offer so much for the European user (sections such as "current affairs and colleges" and "universities", for example). That said, I'm bookmarking this one for the next time I need a reference book that isn't on my real-life bookshelf.

SPARC
www.arl.org/sparc/soa/index.html
SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) Open Access Newsletter, further abbreviated to SOAN, is a monthly newsletter prepared by Peter Suber (Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana) that offers news and analysis of the open-access movement — the worldwide movement to disseminate scientific and scholarly research literature online, free of charge and free of unnecessary licensing restrictions. Each month there is a detailed and information-packed newsletter that you can subscribe to and have delivered to your e-mail address, or you can go online to read it. The content covers all aspects of open access and includes lot of useful links to sites containing details of conferences on open access issues, and other related newsblogs. It will take you some time to go through this site and see what there is in it for you, but I think you will find it a reasonable investment of your time.

Eurovoc
http://europa.eu.int/celex/eurovoc/cgi/sga_doc?eurovoc_dif!SERVEUR/menu!prod!MENU&langue=IT
Anyone who edits in a European Community member country will surely find a use for the Eurovoc, a multilingual thesaurus that covers areas in which the European Communities are active. It provides a means of indexing the documents in the documentation systems of the European institutions and their users. This product is currently used by the European Parliament, the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, national and regional parliaments in Europe, national government departments and certain European organizations. You can search the Eurovoc in any of the 11 official languages of the European Union (Spanish, Danish, German, Greek, English, French, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Finnish and Swedish), and in addition it has been translated by the parliaments of a number of other countries (Albania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia and Slovenia). The subject-oriented or alphabetical version of the Eurovoc thesaurus can now be downloaded as a PDF file.

The Society of Editors (Victoria) newsletter
www.socedvic.org/publications.htm
Unlike CSE, The Society of Editors (Victoria) makes back issues of its newsletter available to all as PDF files. I was alerted to two recent issues (March and April, vol. 33, nos. 9 and 10) containing a section called "Handy hints for the editorial computer" in which Lan Wang outlines how to use the find and replace function efficiently to do some of the tedious aspects of editing. I imagine that in future issues there may be similar articles, so this is probably a good one to bookmark and check on regularly.

ICMJE *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*
www.icmje.org/index.html
I was alerted by the WAME listserv that the ICMJE Uniform Requirements have now been translated into Spanish and can be obtained as a PDF at www.doyma.es/requisitosuniformes2003. Although ICMJE is happy for organizations to translate the requirements into languages other than English for non-profit purposes, it does not have the resources to perform any quality control and so insists on the insertion of a disclaimer and a link to the official version. However, for non-native English speakers the translation of the requirements into their own language is surely a bonus, so if you know of the whereabouts of translations into other European languages, please forward the link.

Annoyances.org
www.Annoyances.org
Annoyances.org is the place to go when you are having problems with Windows (any version thereof) and you suspect that hundreds, or even thousands, have had this problem too. On the Annoyances.com site (which is well laid out, professional and easy to navigate) you will find answers to questions that are commonly asked by other annoyed Windows users, discussion forums, and definitions of technical terms and Windows error messages.

For those of you who use Mac computers, there are two similar sites to try:

www.macfixit.com
www.macOSXhints.com/

This issue's Fun Sites
Here is a small selection from the many recent contributions of sites that come into the category of "Just for Fun".

Create your own font with Fontifier
www.fontifier.com/
Fontifier is the creation of David Johnson-Davies (Cambridge, UK), a self-confessed font addict. This little system lets you use your own handwriting for the text you write on your computer by turning a scanned sample of your handwriting into a

handwriting font that you can then load into your word processor or graphics program, just like any regular font. It looks very straightforward: on the web site there is a 7-item list of how to get from your own hand to a usable font set. Not only can you make regular English characters, but there are also "foreign language" font sets that allow the inclusion of accented characters. When you are satisfied with your creation you can download it for a fee of US$9 — a snip.

Museum.com and Museumland
www.museum.com/jb/start.html
www.museumland.com/
The better and more professional of these two sites (in my opinion, anyway) is Museum.com. You can search on country, town, and then (assuming that you know it) chose the option with the correct postal code. Otherwise you can select a listing of all museums in a particular town. Opening times, full addresses and links to the museum web sites are given. A very handy catalogue for the traveller and some light entertainment and cultural experience for the armchair traveller. If you don't want to venture into the real world, you can look at the online exhibitions, with thumbnail images.

Museumland claims to be the worldwide portal to museums and cultural heritage. Here, the principle is the same as for Museum.com, in that you can search any of 143 nations for museums. However, the content seems to vary greatly by country; for example, when I visited the site I was unable to retrieve any information about England; hopefully this is a simple glitch in the system, rather than an omission.

Profiles in Science. The National Library of Medicine
The Visual Culture and Health Posters
http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/VC/
This online exhibit is designed as an introduction to the history of visual culture and health posters in the twentieth century: "Public health has a long and distinguished visual record. From seventeenth-century engravings to the latest digital images, visual representations have played a critical role in educating the public about modern health crises. But what purposes do these images serve beyond their immediate role in disease prevention and health education? What do they tell us about the history of health care, or attitudes toward our bodies, or the world that we live in? As part of its Profiles in Science project, the National Library of Medicine has digitized and made available over the World Wide Web a historical exhibit of Visual Culture and Health Posters for use by educators and researchers. This Web site provides access to the posters selected for inclusion in an exhibit designed for the NLM sponsored *Visual Culture and Public Health* symposium, held on October 16–17, 2003."

Fun with words
http://home.earthlink.net/~skilton/dictionary.html
It's a dictionary of bureaucratese . . . ! Actually it needs no more introduction than that, so enjoy, but don't waste your whole coffee break on it.

And the answer is….
www.bananaslug.com/
You may remember (if you read it) that in the May issue of the Editors' WebWatch I said, "Why this site is called BananaSlug is beyond me (if one of you works it out please would you let me know?)". Ed Morrison provided the answer: "The answer seems to be that the creator of the site is a graduate of UC Santa Cruz, home to many banana slugs, and the school mascot is said banana slug. He registered the domain name some time ago, and when he came up with a good idea for a website, put it to use. There's even a story of how the slug became the official mascot of the university! http://www.ucsc.edu/about/campus_mascot.asp." Enjoy.

News Notes

Elsevier allows full self-archiving
The world's largest publisher of scientific and scholarly journals now permits postprint archiving. Elsevier allows its authors to provide open access to the final editions of their full-text articles by posting them to their personal web sites or their institutional repositories. They may not deposit them to repositories elsewhere. The archived or open access edition must be made by the author (but may reflect changes made during the refereeing and editing process), and must include a link either to the journal's home page or the article's DOI (www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/newsletter/06-02-04.htm). "Like many revolutions," comments UK *Serials e-News* (4 June 2004), "it could transpire that a change in an apparent detail makes a huge difference in the working of a process."

CrossRef + Google = full-text searching
The CrossRef Search pilot program enables users to search the full text, peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, and other resources covering scholarly research from nine leading publishers. It uses Google search technologies and is available free of charge on the web sites of participating publishers, which include the American Physical Society, Blackwell Publishing, Institute of Physics Publishing, Nature Publishing Group, Oxford University Press, and John Wiley. CrossRef Search is being piloted in 2004. Participating publishers are also investigating how DOIs can be used to improve indexing of content and enable persistent links from search results to the full text of content at publishers' sites. (www.biblio-tech.com/uksg/SI_PD.cfm?AC=7722&PID=10&ZID=1219)

APS journal prices reduced
The American Physical Society (APS) has announced its 2005 prices, showing a reduction of between 3% and 0.5%. The largest decrease will be for the smaller institutions — accounting for 35% of subscriptions. Quoted reasons for the decrease are new technology, cost controls and commitment to "returning the advantages of technology to the community." (*Serials-eNews*, 7 May 2004)

Open access and cost of publishing
The Wellcome Trust's new report, *Costs and business models in scientific research publishing* (www.wellcome.ac.uk/en/1/awtpubrepcos.html), shows that open access could reduce the cost of scientific publishing by up to 30%. The report will be passed to the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee's inquiry. (www. biblio-tech.com/uksg/SI_PD.cfm?PID=1&issueno=66)

Planned change in UK postal charging
The Post Office is planning to charge by both size and (if over 250 g) also by weight. It looks as though the category worst affected will be thin A4 size envelopes (leaflets, CVs, unfolded letters, conference booking forms, etc.). They now cost 28 pence first class, but will be classed as "large letters" and cost 46 pence, a 50% increase. Implementation will be September 2005 at the earliest, and is

subject to agreement by Postcomm, the regulator. The downloadable document "Royal Mail's Proposal to Introduce Size Based Pricing" on www.postcomm.gov.uk gives a comprehensive analysis of the proposal.

UK risks "losing science data"
The British Library says its digital storage plan is critical to underpin science, and is seeking the support of the UK House of Commons Select Committee for Science and Technology for a £12 million, two-year investment at the library, to create a long-term national depository for digital scientific information and publications. Without this money, increasing amounts of scientific data will be lost, and lack of money is also inhibiting the development of digital publications.
The Scientist, 21 April (www.biomedcentral.com/news/20040422/04)

ICMJE's plan for drug trial registry
The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors is discussing registration of clinical trials in a public registry as a requirement for future publication, to ensure that trials with negative results come to light. If adopted, the plan will put pressure on pharmaceutical makers to disclose more about the trials they run. (www.nytimes.com/2004/06/15/business/15drug.html)

More scope for Scopus
Scopus, which is to be launched later in 2004, will be the largest full-text abstracting and indexing service in existence, says Elsevier, its developer. It features de-duplication and direct access to the full text. Selected libraries are doing the final testing and user trials. Full commercial release is expected to follow in the fourth quarter of 2004. Titles from about 4000 STM publishers will be covered. The database simultaneously searches the scientific web, using Scirus, a science-only internet search engine. Results are listed quickly, then users can link to the full text in one click, thus reducing "dead-links". Scopus's sixth sense for knowing how its users think was developed by modelling testers' cognitive patterns. The user interface has easy-to-use searching straight from the home page and intuitive browsing tools.
(www.news.scopus.com/)

Ovid Medline enhanced
Ovid has enhanced its Ovid Medline service by extending the back files on OldMedline between 1951 and 1965. Additionally, search limiting by PubMed subject subsets has been introduced — together with an online tutorial. Citations in Ovid OldMedline are for articles from international biomedical journals that were originally printed in hard-copy indexes published from 1951 through 1965. The National Library of Medicine expects to continue converting citations from its older printed medical indexes to machine-readable form as time and resources permit; these will be added to the OldMedline database. To help end-users learn the basics of searching and navigating, a new interactive Medline tutorial has been made available at Ovid's web site (www.ovid.com/site/index.jsp).

Revisions for ISSN
Several structural changes to the ISSN are currently being considered by an ISO working group. A key issue is the assignment of ISSNs to variant — electronic, print etc. — forms of the same serial. Opinions are being sought from users on the options, and there is a chance to contribute to the survey.
(www.collectionscanada.ca/iso/tc46sc9/wg5.htm)

Software "makes authoring easy"
MedManuscript is a dedicated software application for authors of original research articles for publication in peer-reviewed biomedical journals. Based on the IMRAD structure for original research articles, MedManuscript provides direct on-screen access to detailed content guidelines for each section to construct the critical argument and ensure the logical flow of information. It provides for automatic insertion of standard terminology, phrases and text to enhance clear, concise and precise reporting and for a checklist for each section, with automatic compilation of a detailed report to facilitate the internal reviewing and editing process before submission. It provides training for new authors and allows those whose first language is not English to overcome linguistic difficulties.
(www.medmanuscript.com)

Purchasing power
A study of the impact of articles found 21 scientific articles that had reprint orders of over 10 000 and compared them with 21 articles with smaller reprint orders (*International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care* 2003;4:711–714). Within two years the mean number of citations for high reprint articles was 121, compared with a mean of 47 for the others, but a third of the high reprint papers were cited 25 or fewer times. Studies that received funding from the pharmaceutical industry — which is likely to purchase large numbers of reprints — were cited more frequently than those that received funding from other sources.

Finland signs up for BioMed Central
All universities, polytechnics and research institutes in Finland have become BioMed Central members. This involves 25 000 publicly funded researchers and teachers, who will now have free publication in and access to all BioMed Central journals. BioMed agreed the membership with FinELib, the National Electronic Library of Finland. (*Serials-eNews*, No. 67, 21 May 2004)

Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography
Version 53 of the Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography is now available. This selective bibliography presents over 2100 articles, books, and other printed and electronic sources that are useful in understanding scholarly electronic publishing efforts on the internet. (*Serials-eNews*, No. 67, 21 May 2004)

PLoS launches its second journal
PLoS Medicine is about to be published by the Public Library of Science (www.plos.org), joining *PLoS Biology*. The new journal is keen to have an international group of authors and to discuss medical research in the context of global health. One feature is to highlight an important primary research paper from a journal that is not widely seen around the world, to publicize important work that deserves a global audience.

New online geosciences journal
The European Geosciences Union is launching an open access journal, *Biogeosciences*. It covers biodiversity and ecosystem function, biogeochemistry, biogeophysics, earth system sciences, paleobiogeosciences, astrobiology, and exobiology. *Biogeosciences* has an innovative two-stage publication process which involves a scientific discussion forum (Biogeosciences Discussions) and exploits the full potential of the internet to foster scientific discussion, enhance the effectiveness and transparency of scientific quality assurance, enable rapid publication, make scientific publications freely accessible, and offer an efficient new way of publishing special issues. Detailed

information is available on www.biogeosciences.net.

ALPSP Journal Collection
The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers has announced significant growth for their Learned Journal Collection, with income from publishers up by 60%. Sixty publishers have expressed interest for 2005–2007. (*Serials-eNews*, No. 67, 21 May 2004)

ALPSP launches scholarship friendly guidelines
ALPSP has launched a document, *Principles of scholarship-friendly journal publishing practice*, explaining the needs of authors, readers and institutions. Coming from various surveys conducted by the organization, it provides guidance to consumers and producers on current hot topics. While similar in spirit to the recently announced Washington DC principles (www.dcprinciples.org/), the ALPSP principles cover a wider range of aspects of publication. Sections are: posting of pre-prints, re-use for teaching, retention of copyright, licences, archival access, open access journals, electronic access, course packs, usage statistics, pricing. (www.biblio-tech.com/uksg/SI_PD.cfm?&PID=10&ZID=1195)

INASP directory and services
During the first four months of 2004 the INASP Health Directory (www.inasp.info/pubs/healthdir) added 11 international organizations and programmes working to improve access to reliable information for health professionals in developing and emerging countries. The Directory now provides free online access to information on more than 250 leading international organizations which support book, library and information development as related to health. These include providers of free and low-cost information, professional associations, book and journal distribution programmes, and funding agencies. The Directory does not attempt to cover the full range of complementary information services on the internet, such as e-mail discussion lists and specialist web sites. Such information can be found via the INASP Health Links gateway (www.inasp.info/health/links/contents.html).

Going, going, gone?'
Nearly 20% of web sites that were mentioned in abstracts on Medline during the past decade have disappeared, according to a study in *Bioinformatics* (2004;20:668–672). A campaigner for better electronic archives, Robert Dellavalle of the University of Colorado in Denver, says: "It's amazing what doesn't exist — one of my own articles on digital preservation isn't there any more." He thinks journals should require authors to submit online references to the Internet Archive (www.archive.org), a non-profit digital library project linked to the US Library of Congress. Apparently the situation can be just as unstable in the physical sciences.
(*Nature*, 8 April 2004)

Contributions to News Notes
Please send items for this section to Margaret Cooter, BMJ, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JR, UK; mcooter@bmj.com.

Thanks to: Arjan Polderman, Michael Dines, Hervé Maisonneuve, Liza Furnival, Abi Berger, Maeve O'Connor.

Forthcoming meetings, courses and BELS examinations

Meeting of minds
15th Annual SfEP conference
12–14 September 2004 Egham, UK
Meeting to be held at Royal Holloway College, close to the Savill Garden, Virginia Water, Windsor and Runnymede. There will be a programme of talks, workshops, special interest groups/forums, and a keynote speaker. Training courses will be held either side of the conference. (Contact: Society for Editors and Proofreaders, General Secretary, e–mail admin@sfep.org.uk, web site www.sfep.org.uk)

JPGM Gold Con
23-26 Sept 2004 Mumbai, India
The *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine*, the official publication of the Staff Society of Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai, India, is organizing this conference to commemorate its 50 years of existence. This unique event will ensure a meeting of minds between medical writers, editors and publishers. The event will be first of its kind in a developing country to discuss many aspects of writing, editing, electronic publishing and open access. The scientific program includes a free paper/poster session to showcase the work and experiences of the journal. (Details available from www.jpgmonline.com/goldcon.asp.)

Advance online publication: making it work
ALPSP seminar
Autumn 2004 London, UK
(Contact ALPSP, tel. +44 (0)1865 247776, e-mail events@alpsp.org, web www.alpsp.org/events.htm)

Future trends in science editing and publishing: bringing science to society
IFSE-12
10–12 October 2004 Mexico
The next meeting of the International Federation of Science Editors will take place in Mexico. (Full information on web site, http://bvs.insp.mx/ifse/index.htm)

Indexing of periodicals
Society of Indexers workshop
21 October 2004 London, UK
This half-day workshop will be practical and interactive and may be of interest to journal editors. Numbers are strictly limited, so book early. Further details are available on the web site, www.indexers.org.uk or from admin@indexers.org.uk.

2005

21st International Learned Journals Seminar
ALPSP Seminar
8 April 2005 London, UK
(Contact ALPSP, tel. +44 (0)1865 247776, events@alpsp.org, web www.alpsp.org/events.htm)

CSE 48th annual meeting
20–24 May 2005 Atlanta, GA, USA
(Contact: Council of Science Editors, Inc., 12100 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 130, Reston VA 20190, USA; tel. +1 703 437 4377, fax +1 703 435 4390, e-mail cse@councilscienceeditors.org, web www.CouncilScienceEditors.org)

5th international congress on peer review and biomedical publication
15–17 Sept 2005 Chicago, Illinois
(Contact: Annette Flanagin, jama-peer@jama-archives.org, or Jane Smith, jsmith@bmj.com; or see web site, www.jama-peer.org.)

COURSES

ALPSP training courses, briefings and technology updates
ALPSP offers half-day and one-day courses and updates on the role of the managing editor, electronic publishing and marketing, journal marketing, production, fulfilment and finance, copyright, and related

topics. (Contact: events@alpsp.org, web www.alpsp.org/events.htm. Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers Ltd, 47 Vicarage Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9BS, UK; tel. +44 (0)1245 260 571, fax +44 (0)1245 260 935.)

Style for reports and papers in medical and life-science journals
John Kirkman Communication Consultancy courses London
One-day seminars devoted to discussion of style — tactics for producing accurate and readable texts, not structure or format. Cost: £148 + 17.5% VAT. (Contact: Gill Ward, JKCC, PO Box 106, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 2RU, UK; tel. +44 (0)1672 520429, fax +44 (0)1672 521008, e-mail kirkman.ramsbury@btinternet.com.)

Publishing Training Centre at Book House
(Contact: The Publishing Training Centre at Book House, 45 East Hill, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2QZ, UK; tel.+44 (0)20 8874 2718, fax +44 (0)20 8870 8985, e-mail publishing.training@bookhouse.co.uk, web site www.train4publishing.co.uk.)

Society for Editors and Proofreaders workshops
SfEP runs one-day workshops in London and occasionally elsewhere in the UK on copy-editing, proofreading, grammar and much else. (See web site, www.sfep.org.uk, or contact SfEP, Riverbank House, 1 Putney Bridge Approach, London SW6 3JD, UK; tel. +44 (0)20 7736 3278, or e-mail admin@sfep.org.uk.)

Society of Indexers workshops
The Society of Indexers runs workshops for beginners and more experienced indexers in various cities in the UK. Details and downloadable booking forms can be found on their web site at www.indexers.org.uk; e-mail admin@indexers.org.uk.

Tim Albert Training
Courses on writing, science writing and setting up publications. (Contact: Tim Albert Training, Paper Mews Court, 284 High Street, Dorking, RH4 1QT, UK; tel. +44 (0)1306 877993, fax +44 (0)1306 877929, e-mail tatraining@compuserve.com, web site www.timalbert.co.uk.)

University of Chicago Publishing Program
(Contact: Publishing Program, Graham School of General Studies, 5835 S. Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637–1608, USA; fax +1 773 702 6814, web: www.grahamschool.uchicago.edu/contact.shtml)

University of Oxford, Dept for Continuing Education
Courses on effective writing for biomedical professionals and on presenting in biomedicine, science and technology. (Contact: Gaye Walker, CPD Centre, Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford, Suite 5 Littlegate House, 16/17 St Ebbes Street, Oxford OX1 1PT, UK; tel. +44 (0)1865 286953, fax +44 (0)1865 286934, e-mail gaye.walker@continuing-education.ox.ac.uk, web site www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cpd/personaldev.)

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) examination schedule
20 October 2004, St Louis, Missouri (AMWA meeting)
March 2005, University of California San Francisco (Asilomar)
March 2005, Boston, Massachusetts
19 May 2005, Atlanta, Georgia (CSE)
28 September 2005, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (AMWA).
Register for the above at least three weeks before the examination date. For more information on taking a BELS examination to certify your editing skills and add ELS (editor in the life sciences) to your qualifications, visit www.bels.org to obtain the application form and a complete schedule of upcoming examinations, or contact Leslie Neistadt (Hughston Sports Medicine Foundation, Inc, 6262 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31909, USA; e–mail: neistadt@hughston.com, fax: +1 706 576 3348).

The Editor's Bookshelf

The bookshelf is compiled by Jane Moody, 12A Salisbury Road, Bromley, BR2 9PU, UK; e-mail jane.moody1@ntlworld.com or jmoody@rcog.org.uk, with EASE in the subject line (e-mails that are not easily identifiable are likely to be deleted unread). Please send Jane details of articles or books of interest to editors.

Contributions in European languages other than English are welcome. Entries are arranged by topic under each heading. Suggestions for additional coverage would be welcome.

We regret that photocopies of the material referred to in these entries cannot be supplied.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue. We particularly appreciate any non-medical references.

SCIENCE

Gallagher R. 2004. **Science and the mass media: a clash of cultures**. The Scientist 10 May;18(9): www.the-scientist.com/yr2004/may/edit_040510.html.
The mass media is a "socially created product, not a reflection of and objective reality". Science is as close to an objective reality as we can muster. The tensions between the two as they interact are described.

Lenzer J. 2004. **Whistleblower removed from job for talking to the press**. BMJ 15 May; 328:1153.
An investigator who uncovered evidence that major drug companies sought to influence government officials has been removed from his job and placed on administrative leave.

Malakoff D. 2004. **White House rebuts charges it has politicized science**. Science 9 April; 304:184–5.
The US government has rebutted charges that the Bush administration has systematically manipulated science to advance its political agenda.

Peto J, Fletcher O, Gilham C. 2004. **Data protection, informed consent, and research**. BMJ 1 May; 328:1029–30.
Medical research suffers because of pointless obstacles.

Tugwell P. 2004. **The campaign to revitalise academic medicine takes off**. The Lancet 13 March; 363:836.
A project initiated by a group of journals hopes to bring together people to debate whether the existing structure of academic medicine is still fundamentally sound and, if not, to propose alternatives to it.

PUBLISHING

Brahic C. 2004. **New journal crosses disciplines**. The Scientist 14 May;

www.biomedcentral.com/news/20040514/03.
The Royal Society has launched a new journal that will publish papers relating to both physics and the life sciences.

POLITICS OF PUBLISHING

Bhattacharjee Y. 2004. **US eases the squeeze on 'sanctioned' authors**. Science 9 April; 304:187.
The US Treasury has reversed a controversial ruling that would have required US scholarly journalsd to obtain the government's permission to edit papers from countries under a US trade embargo.

Kennedy D. 2004. **A welcome retreat at Treasury**. Science 9 April; 304:171.
Editorial on the US Treasury's reversal of its decision to ban editorial services for authors from embargoed nations.

Miller JD. 2004. **US reverses journal embargo**. The Scientist 7 April. www.biomedcentral.com/news/20040407/03.
The US Treasury Department has decided that a prominent scientific society (IEEE) can edit journal articles submitted by authors in four embargoed countries, reversing a ruling it made in 2003 that even the most minor corrections of grammar and spelling in those manuscripts were forbidden.

Nicholson R. 2004. **Another threat to research in the United Kingdom**. BMJ 22 May; 328:1212–13.
Many research ethics committees may be unable to function fully after 1 May 2004 and may not comply with international regulations. Main concerns are the removal of the independence of the committees and the arrangements for obtaining "consent" for an incapacitated adult to be entered into a clinical trial.

PRACTICE OF PUBLISHING

Gad-elHaq M. 2004. **Publish or perish — an ailing enterprise**? Physics Today 57(3):61–2.
Discusses the malaise affecting journal and book publication in science, with too many papers, too many authors per paper, too many poor journals and too many books, and suggests policies to try to get out of this situation.

Jérome D, Raimond J-M. 2004. **US threats to European journals**. [Letter] Physics World 17(5):20.
More and more European authors are publishing in American physics journals. Discusses the reasons for this and steps which could be taken to reverse this trend.

Keiser J, Utzinger J, Tanner M, Burton HS. 2004. **Representation of authors and editors from countries with different human development indexes in the leading literature on tropical medicine: survey of current evidence**. BMJ 22 May; 328:1229–1232.
Survey looking at international representation on editorial boards in leading peer-reviewed literature on tropical medicine.

Models of publishing

Malakoff D. 2004. **Scientific societies lay out 'free access' principles**. Science 26 March; 303:1959.
A statement has been signed by 380 publishers of society journals defending the status quo in publishing.

Schroter S, Barratt H, Smith J. 2004. **Authors' perceptions of electronic publishing: two cross sectional surveys**. BMJ 5 June; 328:1350–1353.
Surveys performed to assess the acceptability of publishing short versions of research articles in the printed version of a journal with longer versions on the web site. It is generally acceptable. Authors dislike the idea of publishing only abstracts in the printed journal but are in favour of posting accepted articles on the web site ahead of the printed version.

Wang Y-L, Burridge K, Dembo M, Gabbiani G, Hanks SK, Hosoya H, et al. 2004. **Biomedical research publication system**. Science 26 March; 303:1974–1976.
Letter expressing concern about the publication system for basic biomedical research and proposing an improved system that takes better advantage of Web technology.

Peer review

Chaudhuri S. 2004. **Need guidelines for objective evaluation**. APS News 13(3):5.
What is needed is not a longer set of rules on eliminating conflict of interest but a toolkit of guidelines on how to evaluate objectively. Also supports guideline that submissions must be reviewed by all listed co-authors.

ETHICAL ISSUES

Anonymous. 2004. **Ask the ethicist**. APS News 13(4):4–5.
Fourth in a series; a co-author asks whether he was right not to have done anything when he discovered that another co-author had amalgamated data from different specimens. The reply says that he was certainly wrong to do nothing, even though publication was "in a widely unread conference proceedings".

Gallagher R. 2004. **Pharma should publish its trial results**. The Scientist 26 April; 18(6).
All clinical trial results should be made available as a matter of course, not kept closely guarded by drug companies.

James A, Horton R, Collingridge D, McConnell J, Butcher J. 2004. **The Lancet's policy on conflicts of interest – 2004**. The Lancet 3 January; 363:2–3.
Commentary outlining the journal's revised policy on acceptance of papers.

Lenzer J. 2004. **New Cochrane policy tightens limits on industry funding**. BMJ 24 April; 328:976.
The Cochrane Collaboration has developed a new policy that will limit funding from the pharmaceutical industry.

Schroter S, Morris J, Chaudhry S, Smith R, Barratt H. 2004. **Does the type of competing interest statement affect readers' perceptions of the credibility of research**? **Randomised trial.** BMJ 27 March; 328:742–743.
Financial relationships among industry and academic institutions are diverse and common. These interests can influence authors' conclusions and readers' perceptions of published studies. This study attempted to discover the effects on reader perception of different statements of competing interest for two manuscripts. However, the response rate was low and no conclusions could be drawn.

Misconduct and fraud

Ancker J, editor. 2004. **Proceedings of the retreat on the journal's role in scientific misconduct**. Science Editor May–June; 27(3):75–85.
A retreat by the Council of Science Editors with funding from the Office of Research Integrity, held on 7–9 November 2003. Report summarizing presentations and group discussions.

EDITORIAL PROCESS

Fuming XU. 2004. **Learner, worker and educator: perspectives of an editor in China**. Science Editor May–June; 27(3):88–89.
Experiences of editing in Chinese and English in China.

Pineda D. 2004. **Editing ins and outs: the question of editing inhouse or outsourcing**. Science Editor May–June; 27(3):86–87.
Responses to a request for information about how much editing

work associations assign to freelancers.

LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Abraitis V. 2004. **Pros and cons of being a non-native English speaker or medical writing in Lithuania**. The Write Stuff 13(1):20–21.

INFORMATION

Haynes RB, Wilczynski NL, for the Hedges Team. 2004. **Optimal search strategies for retrieving scientifically strong studies of diagnosis from Medline: analytical survey**. BMJ 1 May; 328:1040–1042.
Special Medline search strategies were developed and tested. These strategies retrieved up to 99% of scientifically strong studies of diagnostic tests.

ABOUT EDITORS

Einsohn A. 2004. **Are editors born or made**? Science Editor May–June; 27(3):99–100.
What can be taught, to whom, and how? Some suggestions about training editors.

Gordon K. 2004. **A two-sided test of normality (life as a statistician in the world of medical writers)**. The Write Stuff 13(1):17–19.
Statisticians are nice guys and fun to be with! Extols the virtues of cooperation.

McIntosh A. 2004. **Turning down work as a freelance medical writer — not for the faint-hearted**. The Write Stuff 13(1):9.
Do you lose future work if you turn down a current project?

Reeves A, Drees B. 2004. **EMWA freelance and small business survey 2003**. The Write Stuff 13(1):11–13.
Survey of members of the European Medical Writers Association on the nature of work done by freelance and small-business owner members in the medical writing and related fields and on the fees they charge.

Young B. 2004. **Don't just say "No"**. The Write Stuff 13(1):9.
The inadvisability of making yourself scarce as a freelancer.

Membership list additions and changes

NEW AND REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Corporate members

Blackwell Publishing
Dr Allen Stevens
Blackwell Publishing
9600 Garsington Road
Oxford
OX4 2DQ
UK

Individual members

Ms Mary Stewart Burgher
Publications
WHO Regional Office for Europe
Scherfigsvej 8
DK-2100 Copenhagen O
Denmark
Tel. +45 39 171 448
Fax +45 39 171 852
msb@euro.who.int

Ms Pamela M Charlton
Publications
WHO Regional Office for Europe
Scherfigsvej 8
DK-2100 Copenhagen 0
Denmark
Tel. +45 39 171 301
Fax +45 39 171 852
pmc@euro.who.int

Ms Tara D Foss
10 Collard Place
London
NW1 8DU
UK
Tel: +44(0)207 484 1243
Fax: +44(0)207 930 8369
wuthering@wildmail.com

Professor Juhani Hassi
Centre for Arctic Medicine
PO Box 5000
FIN-90014 University of Oulu
juhani.hassi@oulu.fi

CHANGES

Individual members

Ann Bless
ch. de Cret-Mouton 21
1091 Grandvaux
CH-Switzerland

Dr Uta CS Gomes
11 Cross Lane
Grappenhall
Warrington
Cheshire,
WA4 2LW
UK

Mr Neil Hough
Editorial Services
Health Protection Agency
61 Colindale Avenue
London
NW9 5DF
UK
Tel. 020 8200 1295 ext 4071
Fax 020 8358 3130/3131
neil.hough@hpa. org.uk

Dr Dr Silvia Käppeli
University Hospital Zurich
ZEFP Secretariat
Rämstrasse 100 (SON 6)
CH-8091 Zürich
Switzerland

Mrs Lorna O'Brien
Deerpark Publishing Services Ltd.
9 Deerpark
Bunratty
Sixmilebridge
Co. Clare
Ireland
Tel. +353 61 369400
Fax +353 61 713763

Mr Ron Price
re10@netvision.net.il

Stacey Schliebitz
Morschweiler Strasse 23
D-56823 Büchel
Germany

Membership of EASE

EASE, the European Association of Science Editors, is open to editors of publications in the sciences, to others with responsibility for editing or managing such publications, or working in any branch of scientific communication, and to individuals representing scientific publications or publishing bodies. Applications for membership from residents of any country are welcome.

Journal
Members receive ***European Science Editing*** without charge (four issues/ year). The subscription for non-members is £50 including postage. Single copies £15 each.

Subscription rates (2004/2005)
Membership is for a calendar year. If you join late in the year membership may start from the following January (please indicate your choice on the form).

The cost for individual members in 2004/2005 will be £62. Organizations paying subscriptions for three or more named members are accepted as corporate members: each person has full membership privileges but copies of the journal etc. are sent to one member for distribution within the corporate group. Rates: three people £180; four £236; five £290; six £342; seven £392; eight and over, £55 per member.

EASE actively encourages sponsorship of editors living in countries with currency exchange problems. If you wish to sponsor an editor you can do so by adding £31 to your membership fee. You will be told who you are sponsoring or may nominate someone.

If you are retired and aged over 60, contact the Secretary for details of reduced subscriptions.

Members who fail to pay the subscription after three requests will be regarded as lapsed and will be removed from the membership list. Members who rejoin after lapsing may be charged an extra fee as well as the current year's payment.

Methods of payment
(1) By credit card (Mastercard or VISA, only; no others accepted).
(2) By cheque or bank draft payable to "EASE", drawn in sterling on a bank in the UK. Please pay all bank charges, and ask your bank to make sure that your name (or the corporate representative's name) appears on the cheque or on an accompanying advice note. Send cheques/ drafts to the EASE Secretariat by regular mail, NOT registered.

Data Protection Act
To comply with the UK Data Protection Act, holders of information entered on a computer must ask those who supply the information whether they agree to details being stored in this way. Your signature on the application form will therefore be taken to mean that you agree to the information on the form, the date on which you join EASE, and/or your subscription status, being held on computer so that the association can send you membership material or the journal, or both.

APPLICATION FORM: MEMBERSHIP OF EASE, or journal subscription.
(Please type, or print clearly)

☐ I/We wish to apply for individual/corporate membership of the European Association of Science Editors, **OR**

☐ I/We wish to subscribe to the journal as a non-member/non-members

Name and title (Professor, Dr, etc.) . . . . . .
Address . . . . . .
. . . . . .
Town . . . . . Country . . . . . .
Postcode . . . . . Tel. . . . . Fax . . . . . .
E-mail . . . . . .
Full title of the main periodical you edit (where relevant) . . . . . .
. . . . . .
Job title (editorial), or freelance . . . . . .
For corporate membership, list names and addresses etc. separately.

Start membership/subscription ☐ Now, for the current year; **OR** ☐ On 1 January next

Payment (see Methods of payment, above)
☐ Charge Mastercard/VISA, **OR** ☐ Cheque/draft enclosed

Card number . . . . . Expiry date . . . . . .
Print name/address used for card account, if different from address above:
. . . . . .
£..... membership fee (see Subscription rates above); ☐ as a retired member;
☐ £31.00 to sponsor an editor; ☐ £50.00 for journal only.
Total enclosed or authorized: £..... Date . . . . . .

Signature (see section above on Data Protection Act) . . . . . .
Please return this form to:
Georgianna Oja, EASE Secretariat, Nyyrikintie 14 A 1, FIN-33540 Tampere, Finland;
fax +358 3 260 8606; e-mail: secretary@ease.org.uk. EASE web site: www.ease.org.uk/