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## The Editors' WebWatch

The Editors' WebWatch is intended to be a membership-driven resource of web sites for editors and writers in the sciences.

### Bandolier

[www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier](http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier)

Originally a paper journal, started in 1994, *Bandolier*'s mission is to be an independent source of information about evidence-based healthcare. The name comes from the original idea that information about evidence effectiveness (or lack thereof) would be presented as simple bullet points (bandoleer or bandolier: shoulder belt, esp. for carrying ammunition). The information on the site is presented in an easy-to-understand style so is accessible for everyone, from healthcare professional to the lay public. Content is derived from monthly searches of PubMed and the Cochrane Library for recently published systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Those of interest, and that also make sense, then appear in *Bandolier*, initially in the paper version and then after a couple of months on the web site.

The site is well laid out, attractive to look at and easy to navigate. The *Bandolier* team consists of a small group of Oxford scientists associated with the Pain Research Group at the Oxford Regional Pain Relief Unit. The group has pioneered work on systematic reviews in pain and anaesthesia, and has helped to develop research methods in many other areas (statins, erectile dysfunction, migraine, genital warts and prostatic hyperplasia). The group has produced over 100 systematic reviews, including contributions to the Cochrane Library.

*Bandolier* is independent, but gets its funding from charities, government agencies, and industrial concerns that are prepared to provide sponsorship while handing over control of the site and its content to the *Bandolier* team.

### Dropload

[www.dropload.com](http://www.dropload.com)

### YouSendIt

[www.yousendit.com](http://www.yousendit.com)

### SendThisFile

[www.sendthisfile.com](http://www.sendthisfile.com)

These three utilities are useful if you want to send files that are too big to be transferred by e-mail. Dropload and YouSendIt are free, and SendThisFile can be free but there are benefits in paying for the service at different levels of subscription. Of the three, SendThisFile is the most professional (and has the largest capacity, able to transfer up to 2 GB of

data) and even offers a script called FileBox that means you can put the facility on your web site, making it easily accessible by colleagues wanting to send or get documents (PDFs, docs, images, mp3, movies) or by family wanting to show you their holiday snaps. Dropload has a capacity of only 100 MB (still big enough for most users) and YouSendIt will transfer 1 GB of data at a time. These facilities work by holding a file on their server for one-time collection by the receiver (who is alerted by e-mail).

### HowStuffWorks

[www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)

Have you ever wondered why kangaroos lick their forearms? Or how a digital camera works? Or what an uploader is and why might you need one? Hundreds of pieces of information are on this site, some of it frivolous and some of it useful, most of it just plain interesting. On the Health Channel you can find out how various classes of drug work, how your immune system performs its function and what (and exactly in detail) are the benefits of exercise. Other categories include Computer Stuff (speaks for itself), HomeStuff (likewise) and Earth Science (tsunamis are topical).

HowStuffWorks.com is owned by the Convex Group in Atlanta and it appears to be funded by the vast amount of advertising present on the site. As a result it is very graphic-heavy and takes a while to load over a dial-up connection, but it's worth a look nonetheless.

### International Trademark Association

[www.inta.org/tmcklst1.htm](http://www.inta.org/tmcklst1.htm)

The International Trademark Association has compiled a useful Trademark Checklist that is free to access. Including almost 3000 U.S. registered trademarks and service marks with their generic terms, as well as correct capitalization and punctuation, its purpose is to assist authors, writers, journalists, editors, proofreaders, copywriters and fact-checkers with proper trademark usage. The trademarks are listed in alphabetical order and anything from shoes to foodstuffs can be found here. But that's it, it is just a list; with no further information given about the trademarks, such as the owner, date of registration and so on. However, there is an information centre on the

site, so if you need more specific information you can either e-mail an enquiry or look at more resources, including a glossary.

As this site is American, it lists US-registered trademarks only (not the logos — the site concentrates on how the trademarks should be used in text, not in graphics), so its use in a European context could be somewhat limited. As the site itself says, some of the generic terms may well be trademarked themselves in other countries. However, it is a useful starting point, and if you know of equivalent sites in Europe, please forward them to the WebWatch compiler (DunaScripts@aol.com).

### Downloadable Glossaries

[http://scic.cec.eu.int/DAI/terminology/download\\_gloss/downloadable\\_glossaries.htm](http://scic.cec.eu.int/DAI/terminology/download_gloss/downloadable_glossaries.htm)

This is a huge list of glossaries (most in Excel, but some in Word or as PDFs) on just about any topic you care to imagine — science and non-science alike. Some are even available in multiple languages, and they are listed in a table format with the author/source given and the number of entries in each one. A useful resource if your work means that you often wonder "what does that mean?"

### Culture Lab

[culturelab-uk.com](http://culturelab-uk.com)

Culture Lab claims to be "your guide to the latest style, culture and technology in the UK" and is a product of the British Council. Despite the rather drab and uninspiring home page (surely they could have got a better design) there is some good information buried in here, but it's not all that easy to find. Perhaps of interest to some of you is an article on "the unhackable code" — presented in pop-science style it explains how a new anti-hacker system has been developed in Cambridge, UK. Some interesting technological stuff, and some nature stuff too. Check it out (if you can bear to look at the home page).

### British Library Images Online

[www.imagesonline.bl.uk/britishlibrary/](http://www.imagesonline.bl.uk/britishlibrary/)

This site offers thousands of images from the British Library's collections for you to order, purchase and download. All of the images are copyrighted by the British Library, and depending on the size and

resolution that you require there are different purchase and delivery options. In addition some images are available in low-resolution forms and these may be freely downloaded for personal use. If nothing else this site is a wonderful collection of beautiful paintings, and can give you hours of

coffee-break pleasure.

#### Something to contribute?

Please send interesting or useful links to the WebWatch compiler, Moira Vekony, at [DunaScriptsEdit@aol.com](mailto:DunaScriptsEdit@aol.com). Sites in European languages other than English are also of interest (but

please provide a short description in English). Contributions relating to areas of science other than biology and medicine will be very welcome. *Contributions for this issue* came from Marie-Louise Desbarats-Schönbaum, Elise Langdon-Neuner, Maeve O'Connor, Jane Sykes, Liz Wager.

## News Notes

### Free access to journals

Many medical journals can be accessed free through HINARI ([www.healthinternetwork.org/src/j\\_list.php](http://www.healthinternetwork.org/src/j_list.php)) and a lot of journals are available free at [www.freemedicaljournals.com](http://www.freemedicaljournals.com) — sites of great use especially to people in developing countries. Leaving aside the open access debate, what's the situation with free access to journals in other scientific disciplines? Are there similar portals? We'd like to know!

### Online submission of articles

Online submission makes authors do all the work, says a correspondent to *Nature* (24 Feb 2005). Most of the leading scientific journals require electronic submission — but this is hardly progress, as authors are now expected to run mini-desktop publishing operations and to spend days fiddling with various computer programs. But the end-product is no better, nor is publication quicker — and page charges remain. Who benefits?

### Green and gold

Open access is developing a colourful vocabulary, and there's a certain logic to it. Self-archiving (green) is extremely good and is to be encouraged, we are told . . . but open access is "gold": gold journals make the full text of research articles available with open access, immediately upon publication. "Gold" and "green" aren't the same — gold is also green, but green is not also gold. There is a third form of free access in much of the developing world — the HINARI (Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative) and AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture) programmes. (HIF-Net contributions from Jan Velterop and Tony McSean)

### Global register of clinical trials

Recent big lawsuits have financial, editorial and ethical implications for publishing the results of drug trials. Pharma companies are going to be "strongly encouraged" to publish

details of clinical trials — and journals will no doubt be following suit by publishing the registration details of the trial. Under the proposals for the global registry, results of all industry-sponsored clinical trials on a medicine that has been approved for marketing, and which evaluate its safety and benefit, will be publicly disclosed via free, publicly accessible databases, regardless of outcome. Also, details of all clinical trials being performed to determine a medicine's therapeutic benefit will be publicly registered at initiation so that patients and clinicians will have information about how to enrol. Both requirements will be adopted by the worldwide pharmaceutical industry during 2005. ([www.abpi.org.uk](http://www.abpi.org.uk), press release 6 January 2005)

### Why don't doctors read research papers?

At <http://bmj.com/cgi/eletters/329/7479/1411-a> everyone gets to have their say on scientific writing. Defenders of the passive seem to be the most entrenched — but nobody mentioned the length of papers, even though editors love to tell us that readers like short papers (and even though cramming every last detail of a complex study into 2500 words is not always conducive to elegant prose). Although [bmj.com](http://bmj.com) now requires a subscription for access to some of the site, anyone can still look at these letters: access to the rapid responses remains free to everyone — as does access to the research papers, and to material published more than a year ago.

### Publishers irritated by Google's digital library

Google plans to digitize the many million books in the libraries of Harvard, Stanford, Michigan and Oxford universities, as well as in the New York Public Library — but hasn't consulted with the publishers over copyright issues. Fur and feathers are flying: publishers argue that an exception under US law that allows libraries to copy texts for preservation purposes wouldn't

apply; nor would making copies for "air use", given that Google is a commercial company. (*Nature* 3 February 2005)

### Reading ease

Guidelines on how to set out printed material clearly (from Diabetes UK, [www.diabetes.org.uk/design/cid/visual.htm](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/design/cid/visual.htm)) are to use Times or Frutiger fonts, at a minimum of 12 point for body copy, with reasonable space between lines, set ranged left and ragged right. Body copy should be black or a dark colour, ideally on a white background. The guidelines go into detail about using various colours to provide adequate contrast for legibility. Detailed guidance on web accessibility for visually impaired people is available from the RNIB ([www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/code/public\\_rnib008789.hcsp](http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/code/public_rnib008789.hcsp)) — editors who work with web sites should be aware of these.

### Change in Nature research journals policy on statistics

"Clear guidelines about descriptions of quantitative data and statistics" will be adopted by *Nature* and all the *Nature* research journals, according to a *Nature Medicine* editorial published in December. This follows an article in *BMC Medical Research Methodology* ([www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/4/13](http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/4/13)) that checked the accuracy of the 181 research papers that *Nature* published during 2001 and found that 38% of the articles contained at least one statistical error; the news attracted widespread media attention, including articles in *New Scientist* and *The Economist*. An article in the *Financial Times* presented an additional, original analysis of the statistical methodology of *Nature Medicine* papers published in 2000 and found that 31% of *Nature Medicine's* articles showed evidence that their authors misunderstood the meaning of *P* values. An independent "statistical audit" of *Nature Medicine* papers led the editors to take steps towards improving the quality of its statistical reporting. (BioMed Central Update, 11 Jan 2005)

**Ethics reforms at NIH**

The NIH announced (on 1 February) a series of "sweeping" new ethics reforms that bar NIH employees from accepting payments and/or consulting for pharmaceutical, biotech, medical device companies, etc. (see [www.biomedcentral.com/news/20050202/02](http://www.biomedcentral.com/news/20050202/02)).

**Information re-use**

"In the private sector, commercial pressures to maximize the return on investment in information assets is encouraging the re-use of information. To create successful re-use strategies it is necessary to think about information differently. It has to be viewed as a dynamic resource that can be aggregated or disaggregated, re-purposed and re-used for a range of diverse audiences, future consumer demands and new technologies." To this end, TSO (the UK government publisher) has available a briefing paper, "Opportunities and challenges for information re-use", which promises to provide information on single-source publishing (SSP) strategies, where information is held in a single repository along with the metadata that describe its look and feel for different print and electronic formats. "The benefits of single source content management systems are that by separating content from format and holding it in a single repository, the information can be automatically selected, edited and published into new formats to support a range of re-use requirements." ([www.tso.co.uk/](http://www.tso.co.uk/)

[latestinformation/site.asp?FO=1159844&DI=546967](http://www.tso.co.uk/latestinformation/site.asp?FO=1159844&DI=546967))

**Corrections that vanish online**

Using data from *Nature*, correspondents point out how easy it is to fail to make a useful link to the original paper — in 14 out of 34 cases *Nature* failed to attach an amendment page with the online PDF of the original paper, and in seven cases failed to provide an amendment notice with the abstract or HTML version. "With the widespread practice of accessing, printing and circulating PDF files through the internet, it seems advisable to take this matter seriously," they say. (*Nature* 3 March 2005, p18)

**Global leap forward in content trading**

Digital object identifiers will change the way people use the net, claims an article in the June issue of *Information Economics Journal*, helping users to locate and connect information and to trade in content. "DOIs represent an agile, informed, responsive and efficient way to facilitate the fast retrieval of information. If adopted globally, less time will be spent looking for content, and more time will be spent acting upon it." To find out how, see the link at [www.tso.co.uk/latestinformation/site.asp?FO=1142929&DI=521151](http://www.tso.co.uk/latestinformation/site.asp?FO=1142929&DI=521151).

**Querying MEDLINE/PubMed**

Looking for a medical source reference, and want to use plain language? Try askMEDLINE — it's a free-text, natural language tool for

querying MEDLINE/PubMed. Using a multi-round search strategy, it can translate a question into an efficient search. The text-only format could be convenient for users with wireless handheld devices and those with low-bandwidth connections in remote locations. ([www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1472-6947-5-5.pdf](http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1472-6947-5-5.pdf))

**Time for tea**

The editor of the *Annals of Improbable Research* is recording and collecting the rituals that various scientists use when making tea — it's called Project Cuppa (<http://education.guardian.co.uk/egweekly/story/0,,1432198,00.html>). The British Standards Institution maintains the official British Standards for preparing coffee and tea. The one for coffee is about six pages long and won an Ig Nobel award in 1999 (see [www.improb.com](http://www.improb.com)).

**The last word on outsourcing**

One of this year's Ig Nobel awards — the one for economics — went to the Vatican for outsourcing prayers to India.

**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](mailto:mcooter@bmj.com).

Thanks to: Marie-Louise Desbarats-Schönbaum, Birte Twisselmann, Polly Brown, Liz Wager, Tony Bowley, Jane Sykes, Madeleine Anne Decker, Sally Carter.

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## News from editing societies

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**African editors' society**

A new "Society of Africa Journal Editors" has been created. It was launched in Nairobi, Kenya, in December with sponsorship from the Rockefeller Foundation, ASARECA, INASP, Monsanto Company, USA, and IFPRI. Twenty people attended the two-day meeting, and drafted a constitution, adopted a logo, and developed a strategic plan. The motto of SAJE is to ensure support for reviewers, promote quality of published material and try to get African journals indexed.

**CASE**

CASE (Council of Australian Societies of Editors; [www.case-editors.org](http://www.case-editors.org)) is an informal body of delegates from the eight Australian Societies of Editors and was established to coordinate national activities. In a recent ballot (November–December

2004), members of the national societies voted overwhelmingly in favour of the scheme proposed by the CASE Accreditation Working Group for the introduction of accreditation for Australian editors. CASE has also devised, and is currently reviewing, a set of editing standards that identify and define the knowledge and skills expected of experienced editors in Australia. In addition, it has collaborated with the deans and directors of graduate studies in Australia to develop a policy on the editing of theses. Both the standards and the policy can be accessed via the Council's site. In December 2004, the Society of Editors (Victoria) hosted the launch of the second edition of *The Australian Editing Handbook* (ISBN 174031 0888; John Wiley & Sons) by Beryl Hill and Elizabeth Flann, both long-standing members of the Society.

**CSE**

The Council of Science Editors ([www.councilscienceeditors.org](http://www.councilscienceeditors.org)) has appointed a Task Force on Science Journals, Poverty, and Human Development "to engage science journals of all disciplines in the effort to combat worldwide poverty and disease, and to establish sustainable paths for human development". The Task Force was organized by Richard Horton (editor-in-chief of *The Lancet*) and will present its initial activities during the CSE Annual Meeting in Atlanta (20–24 May 2005). Editorial Policy Statements approved by the CSE Board of Directors can be obtained from the Council's site. Topics covered include "Policy on responsibilities and rights of editors of peer-reviewed journals", "Policy on journal access to scientific data", "Policy on journal referral of possible misconduct", "Conflicts of interest

and the peer review process", "Relations between editors and their publishing or sponsoring societies", and "Responsibilities and rights of peer reviewers".

#### SfEP

A member of the Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP; [www.sfep.org.uk](http://www.sfep.org.uk)) was appointed to the British Standards Institute (BSI) Committee responsible for revising the BSI Standard on Graphic Technology (ISO 5776). The revised standard was produced in collaboration with other members of SfEP and representatives of publishing and printing trade organizations, and it is hoped that it will be published in May 2005. SfEP members will also be involved in the revision of the ISO Standard on Proofreading Marks.

#### EMWA

As mentioned in the EASE-Forum, the European Medical Writers Association (EMWA; [www.emwa.org](http://www.emwa.org)) guidelines on the role of medical writers in developing peer-reviewed publications have now been published in *Current Medical Research & Opinion*. They are available at: [www.catchword.com/libra/03007995/previews/contp1-1.htm](http://www.catchword.com/libra/03007995/previews/contp1-1.htm).

The guidelines are in CMRO 21(2):317–321. There is also a paper presenting the results of the underlying Delphi study (p. 311–316) and an editorial (p. 307–309).

#### INASP

The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications ([www.inasp.info](http://www.inasp.info)) aims to enable worldwide access to information and knowledge, with special emphasis on the needs of developing and transitional countries. It recently co-organized a successful "Strategic online publishing workshop for journal editors" in Accra, Ghana, and a symposium on "Investing in scientific knowledge: strategies and models for the developing world" in Oxford, UK. The latter explored new ways in which scientific research can be improved and harnessed to drive development. INASP is also working with Lund University to facilitate access to databases and other resources in countries in which there are only limited and costly internet connections (so-called low bandwidth environments found in much of Africa).

#### Mediterranean Editors' and Translators' Meetings

An editors' and translators' association, METM (Mediterranean

Editors' and Translators' Meetings; [www.metmeetings.org/pagines/about\\_page.htm](http://www.metmeetings.org/pagines/about_page.htm)) is being set up for people working in the Mediterranean area. The association aims to establish an interdisciplinary network of people in the Mediterranean and southern European area who facilitate international communication for those whose native language is not English and who work in, among other areas, science (taken broadly to mean human, social and "hard" sciences), finance, culture, politics, business, law, and non-governmental organizations. METM's first meeting will be held in Barcelona on 4–5 November 2005 (see below).

#### EI Communications

EI Communications ([www.eicomunications.com](http://www.eicomunications.com)), which produces the journal *Editorial Eye*, is now offering online training not only in proofreading and editing but also in web page development and the use of QuarkXpress 4.0.

Jane Sykes ([j.sykes@wxs.nl](mailto:j.sykes@wxs.nl)), compiler of this section, will be glad to receive news from societies and national bodies concerned with editing, writing or publishing in the sciences.

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## Forthcoming meetings, courses and BELS examinations

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#### Making your content pay: extend your range of selling models

ALPSP seminar  
5 May 2005 London, UK  
(Contact: Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, tel. +44 (0)1245 260571, [events@alpsp.org](mailto:events@alpsp.org), [www.alpsp.org/events](http://www.alpsp.org/events).)

#### The essential medical editor

SfEP one-day conference  
16 May 2005 London, UK  
An opportunity to update medical/biological editing skills and discuss mutual interests with others working in this field. Sessions are entitled Getting the overview, Editing skills in genetics, Terminology, and A view from in-house. (Contact/more details: [www.sfep.org.uk/pages/onedayconf160505.asp](http://www.sfep.org.uk/pages/onedayconf160505.asp))

#### CSE 48th annual meeting

20–24 May 2005 Atlanta, GA  
(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](mailto:CSE@CouncilScienceEditors.org), web [www.CouncilScienceEditors.org](http://www.CouncilScienceEditors.org))

#### 5th international congress on peer review and biomedical publication

15–17 September 2005 Chicago, IL  
*JAMA* and the *BMJ* have invited abstracts for this congress on any aspect of editorial peer review, scientific publication, and the dissemination of scientific information. New research and new findings are given priority. (Contact: Annette Flanagan, [jama-peer@jama-assn.org](mailto:jama-peer@jama-assn.org), or Jane Smith, [jsmith@bmj.com](mailto:jsmith@bmj.com); or see web site, [www.jama-peer.org](http://www.jama-peer.org))

#### One step beyond

16th annual conference of SfEP  
26–27 September 2005 Carlisle, UK  
Workshops, seminars and surgeries will concentrate on three aspects of expanding "what we do and how we do it": running your life, getting the most from your computer, and becoming a specialist. (Contact: Jane Ward, tel. +44 (0)131 337 4380, e-mail [conference@sfep.org.uk](mailto:conference@sfep.org.uk), or see [www.sfep.org.uk](http://www.sfep.org.uk))

#### Editing in context

National Editors Conference  
13–15 October 2005 Melbourne, Vic.  
The Society of Editors (Vic.) Inc. will

host the second national CASE (Council of Australian Editors) conference which will focus on editing as a profession and explore issues such as the public perception of editors, how editors promote themselves, keeping up to date, financial and legal issues, and health and wellbeing. The Melbourne International Arts Festival and Spring Racing Carnival will be on at around these dates. The call for papers has now been issued: abstracts are due by 16 May. (Contact: Convenor, Lan Wang, [editingincontext@optushome.com.au](mailto:editingincontext@optushome.com.au) or see [www.socedvic.org/editingincontext](http://www.socedvic.org/editingincontext) for regular updates.)

#### Interdisciplinary collaboration – international communication

Mediterranean Editors' and Translators' Meeting  
4–5 November 2005 Barcelona, Spain  
(Contact for information and call for papers: ME Kerans, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Health Sciences Faculty, Carrer Josep Trueta s/n, 08195 Sant Cugat del Valles (Barcelona), Spain; [metameeting@telefonica.net](mailto:metameeting@telefonica.net) and [mekerans@csc](mailto:mekerans@csc).)

unica.edu; web: [www.metmeetings.org/index.htm](http://www.metmeetings.org/index.htm).

## 2006

### The culture of science editing

9th EASE Conference and General Assembly  
15–18 June 2006 Kraków  
The first circular for this meeting in Poland was distributed to members and subscribers with the February issue of *ESE*.  
(Contact: Georgianna Oja, Secretary of EASE, [ease@pp.inet.fi](mailto:ease@pp.inet.fi), or see web site: [www.ease.org.uk](http://www.ease.org.uk))

## 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: Amanda Whiting, Training Coordinator, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, tel. +44 (0)1865 247776, [training@alpsp.org](mailto:training@alpsp.org), web [www.alpsp.org/training](http://www.alpsp.org/training))

### Style for reports and papers in medical and life-science journals

John Kirkman Communication Consultancy courses  
London, UK  
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](mailto: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](mailto:publishing.training@bookhouse.co.uk), web site [www.train4publishing.co.uk](http://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. (Training enquiries: tel. +44 (0)20 7736 0901, e-mail [trainingenquiries@sfeh.org.uk](mailto:trainingenquiries@sfeh.org.uk). For other enquiries see web site, [www.sfeh.org.uk](http://www.sfeh.org.uk), or contact SfEP, Riverbank House, 1 Putney Bridge Approach, London SW6 3JD, UK; tel. +44 (0)20 7736 3278, or e-mail [administration@sfeh.org.uk](mailto:administration@sfeh.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 the web site at [www.indexers.org.uk](http://www.indexers.org.uk); e-mail [admin@indexers.org.uk](mailto:admin@indexers.org.uk))

### Tim Albert Training

Courses on writing, science writing and setting up publications (for dates etc. see [www.timalbert.co.uk/courses.htm](http://www.timalbert.co.uk/courses.htm)). (Contact Tim Albert Training, 5 Cobham Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 9AU, UK; tel. +44 (0)1372-377848, fax +44 (0)1372-801667, e-mail [tim@timalbert.co.uk](mailto:tim@timalbert.co.uk))

### University of Chicago courses

Editing and writing in medicine are among the many courses available. (Contact: Graham School of General Studies, 5835 S. Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637-1608, USA; fax +1 773-702 6814, web: [www.grahamschool.uchicago.edu](http://www.grahamschool.uchicago.edu))

### 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](mailto:gaye.walker@continuing-education.ox.ac.uk), web site [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cpd/personaldev](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cpd/personaldev))

### Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) examination schedule

21 May 2005, Atlanta, Georgia (CSE)  
28 September 2005, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (AMWA)  
22 October, 2005, Washington, DC  
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## The Editor's Bookshelf

The bookshelf is compiled by Jane Moody, 12A Salisbury Road, Bromley, BR2 9PU, UK; e-mail [jmoody@rcog.org.uk](mailto:jmoody@rcog.org.uk), **putting 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

Eaton L. 2005. **Drug company chiefs accept the need for more openness.** *BMJ* 22 January;330:163.

Drug companies are now accepting that there has been a marked change in public attitudes to health issues, fuelled by general media coverage and specific coverage when a new

drug is launched or when something goes wrong.

Hall G. 2004. **A poisoned chalice? A research ethics view of the Clinical Trials Directive.** *The Write Stuff* 13(3):82–84.

The Directive has had an overall negative impact on research that no-one concerned in its drafting had foreseen. Research in basic sciences, physiology and pathogenesis is now at risk as a result.

Lenzer J. 2005. **Eli Lilly defends itself against assertions in *BMJ*.** *BMJ* 22 January;330:161.  
Internal company documents were

sent to the *BMJ* by an anonymous source, and the *BMJ* published an article based on the contents. Eli Lilley claims that the article is misleading.

## PUBLISHING

Dudman J. 2005. **A global adaptation.** Information World Review February;(210):16–17. Macmillan Publishing's CEO, Richard Charkin, discusses the challenges of the publishing business.

Kmietowicz Z. 2005. **US health agency scales down plans for free, online research results.** Science 22 January;330:165. The US National Institutes of Health has modified its plans to make the results of nationally funded research available free of charge after pressure from scientific publishers, who claim that the policy will damage their profits.

## POLITICS OF PUBLISHING

Anguelov S, Barusch P, Praderie F. 2005. **Spreading the word: who profits from science publishing? A symposium held at the EuroScience Open Forum.** Learned Publishing January;18(1):67–74.

Describes the first EuroScience Open Forum and specifically a symposium on the publication of scientific research. The scene-setting presentations and the summary of the discussions are set out.

Hunter K. 2005. **Critical issues in the development of STM journal publishing.** Learned Publishing January;18(1):51–55.

Access to generations of scientific literature has never been more widespread. The advent of electronic publishing has improved the spread and speed of access while at the same time reducing unit costs. The current "open access" debate raises interesting questions about the future of publishing and archiving. The declining growth of author-pays titles suggests that innovations that are sustainable in the long term and do not threaten the quality and integrity of scholarship are likely to be within the framework of the established model.

Modlin IM, Adler G, Alexander K, et al. 2005. **Information assimilation and distribution challenges and goals for real and virtual journals.** Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology March;39(3):181–188.

It is much debated as to who has the right to "own" or control intellectual property, whether information should be made freely available to the online global community, how to gauge the

legitimacy and authenticity of published research, and the need to re-examine the feasibility and profitability of paper journals in consideration of the digital, online formats that continue to gain popularity.

## PRACTICE OF PUBLISHING

Claxton LD. 2005. **Scientific authorship. Part 1. A window into scientific fraud?** Mutation Research January;589(1):17–30.

Significant scientific fraud is detected when scientists repeatedly report results that cannot be independently verified, when colleagues report suspicious behaviour or when scientific audits are performed. This review documents and compares many of the better-known cases of scientific fraud.

Claxton LD. 2005. **Scientific authorship. Part 2. History, recurring issues, practices, and guidelines.** Mutation Research January;589(1):31–45.

Provides a historical overview of commonly encountered scientific authorship issues, a comparison of opinions on these issues, and the influence of various organizations and guidelines in regard to these issues.

Cousins J, Neylon E. 2005. **Information objects are hot, documents are not: the use of identifiers in online publishing.** Learned Publishing January;18(1):5–12.

Discusses the role of the digital object identifier in allowing users to access required information with the minimum of effort and then to link with other relevant information.

Goodman D. 2005. **Open access: what comes next?** Learned Publishing January;18(1):13–23. Examines the effects that present decisions about open access will have over the next 10 years. The consequences are affected by the deliberate choices of librarians and publishers as well as by the adoption of various alternatives by scientific authors. The eventual result could be excellent or quite otherwise.

Harnad S. 2004. **Debate over open access in the UK.** Science 24 December;306:2187. More on the debate over the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee report.

Schroter S, Tite L, Smith R. 2005. **Perceptions of open access publishing: interviews with journal authors.** *BMJ* published online 26 Jan 2005. doi 10.1136/bmj.38359.695220.82.

In deciding where to submit papers, authors consider a journal's quality to be more important than its open-access policy. 28 randomly selected international authors who submitted papers to the *BMJ* in 2003 were asked via semi-structured telephone interviews about their attitudes to open-access publishing and author charges, and whether they would be willing to submit to open-access journals. Although authors were well aware of the concepts of open-access publishing and supported the concept, few had actually submitted to such a journal, other than the *BMJ*.

Hemmings B, Rushbrook P, Smith E. 2005. **To publish or not to publish: that is the question?** Learned Publishing January;18(1):63–65. Discusses factors that either encourage or discourage academics from publishing in peer-reviewed publications. These include confidence, gender, a strong work ethic, completion of a doctoral degree and seniority.

Huemer GM, Bauer T, Gurunluoglu R, Sakho C, Oehlbauer M, Dunst KM. 2004. **Analysis of publications in three plastic surgery journals for the year 2002.** Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery October;114(5):1147–1154. Analysis of original articles published in three plastic surgery journals during 2002. Content of articles, author information, type of institution, presence of grant support and previous presentation were analysed.

Swan A, Needham P, Proberts S, et al. 2005. **Developing a model for e-prints and open access journal content in UK further and higher education.** Learned Publishing January;18(1):25–40.

An examination of models for the provision of access to materials in institutional and subject-based archives and in open-access journals. Technical concerns and delivery of e-prints were considered. A "harvesting" model is recommended, where the metadata of articles deposited in distributed archives are harvested, stored and enhanced by a national service.

Tempest D. 2005. **The effect of journal title changes on impact factors.** Learned Publishing January;18(1):57–62.

Analyses journals that changed their title in 1994 and 1995 and ascertains the period of time taken to recover the impact factor. Effects of subject classification and the size of the journal are also investigated to see if recovery time depends on them. Recovery times are longer than

predicted, especially in the physical and chemical sciences: up to four years.

Yu P. 2005. **On synthetic technologies: the book, the university, the internet.** Learned Publishing January;18(1):41–50. Examines the “synthetic” — i.e. constructed and recombinant — histories of the book, the university and the internet to argue that the vitality of the institution that links them all, the university press, will depend on yet further syntheses. These will include, in particular, an increasing commitment to the collaborative development of innovative digital technologies.

### ETHICAL ISSUES

Anonymous. 2004. **Ask the ethicist.** APS News 13(10):3.

If a student has written a paper as part of a course does a faculty member need the student's permission to use it for some other purpose, and could the student publish the results without the permission of the faculty member or vice versa? The reply says it depends on the intellectual property statement of the university, and if this is not clear it may end up with the lawyers.

Bhattacharjee Y. 2004. **Editing no longer infringes US trade sanctions.** Science 24 December;306:2170. The US Treasury has removed all restrictions on editing manuscripts from authors in three countries under a US trade embargo (Iran, Cuba and Sudan).

Bowers B. 2005. **Ugly equations.** Physics World 18(2):21. Letter complaining that recent developments, by which many authors use software to compose equations according to their own preferences, give results that seem inferior to those obtained by the old method. In many cases, they are not only ugly but also mathematically ambiguous.

Spear HJ. 2004. **On ethical peer review and publication: the importance of professional conduct and communication.** Nurse Author & Editor 14(4):1–3.

Editors and reviewers provide an invaluable service to the nursing profession and are key to the promotion of nursing scholarship, open inquiry uncensored by opinion or bias, and further development of nursing's body of knowledge. By being accessible and promoting an effective, constructive review process, editors serve not only the nurses who write for them, but also their

respective journals and readership. Authors deserve and expect professional and ethical behaviour from peer reviewers and those in leadership who make final judgments about the publication status of their manuscripts.

### Misconduct and fraud

Bates CD. 2005. **Dealing with editorial misconduct. What about spin?** BMJ 12 February;330:364. Rigorous standards should be applied to press releases and media commentary.

Bateson P. 2005. **Desirable scientific conduct.** Science 4 February;307:645. This editorial looks at the subtle ways in which bias can be introduced into research.

Brewer DF; Silverman S; Berry RS. 2005. **Misattribution and the Matthew effect.** Physics Today 58(1):15–16. Three letters commenting on one by ND Mermin (*Physics Today* 2004;57(5):10–11). Brewer points out that the quote from Matthew's Gospel also occurs in Mark, Luke and John. Silverman discusses the unreliability of memory and both he and Berry question Mermin's source for the term “Matthew effect” (the tendency always to assign exclusive scientific credit to the most eminent of all the plausible candidates). A response by Mermin is included.

Brice J, Bligh J. 2005. **Author misconduct: not just the editors' responsibility.** Medical Education January;39(1):83–9. Looks at the work of the Committee on Publication Ethics and describes the type of routine, low-level misconduct which is increasingly reported by its member journals, including *Medical Education*. A list of authors' responsibilities is given as a way of drawing attention to the wide range of individuals affected by author misconduct. The paper outlines seven representative cases of actual or potential misconduct which have been dealt with in the *Medical Education* editorial office during the 18-month period to May 2004, putting them in context and using them to illustrate some of the ways in which apparently minor deviations from standard practice can have far-reaching implications.

Laube RE. 2005. **Dealing with editorial misconduct. What about relationship with reviewers and authors?** BMJ 12 February;330:364. Editors exchange e-mails and phone calls with friends and associates about accepting submissions, which

is within their remit. Difficulties arise when this networking unintentionally serves to promote a particular group or way of thinking.

### EDITORIAL PROCESS

Buswell M. 2005. **To back up or not to back up?** Editing Matters November/December:4–5. Advice on backing up computer data.

Cardona M, Marx W. 2004. **Confused, forgotten, rediscovered: references, the defiant memory of science.** Physik Journal November;3(11):27–29.

Analyses errors in references to highly cited papers. The cause is often incorrect copying from early citing papers.

Cooter M. 2005. **Editing at the BMJ: then and now.** The Write Stuff 14(1):14–18.

Changes in the approaches to editing (and other aspects of publishing) at the *BMJ* over the past 20 years.

Hartley J. 2004. **Applying psychology to text design: a personal view.** Information Design Journal + Document Design 12(2):91–102. Discusses the roles and skills that applied psychologists can bring to the area of text design.

Jacobson AF, Schmidt K, Coeling H. 2005. **Preserving blind peer review of electronic manuscript files.** Nurse Author & Editor 15(1):1–4, 7. Peer review of manuscripts for potential publication has become an intrinsic component of the scientific process and is aimed at improving the manuscript's quality through unbiased, independent and critical assessment by experts who are not on the journal's staff (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, 2003).

Lukic IK, Lukic A, Gluncic V, Katavic V, Vucenic V, Marusic A. 2004. **Citation and quotation accuracy in three anatomy journals.** Clinical Anatomy 17:534–539. Includes 199 randomly selected references from articles published in the first issues of 2001 of three major anatomy journals. Citation errors were found in 27% of the references and 19% of the quotations. Serious editorial action is needed.

Marusic A, Marusic M. 2005. **Not only English: editing a small medical journal.** The Write Stuff 14(1):11–13.

The *Croatian Medical Journal* was founded in 1991 during the war in that country. Starting a medical journal during such a conflict led to insights into article writing that



otherwise might not have come about and to a better direction of teaching authors in Croatia than otherwise might have come about.

Teague E. 2005. **Finer point: breaking with tradition.** *Editing Matters* November/December:7-8.

Hints on dividing words across columns.

#### LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Le Fur D et al. (eds). 2005. **Le Petit Décodeur.** Paris: Le Robert. 259 p. Pbk. EUR 5.95. ISBN : 2-84902-097-4. Il traduit les courriers incompréhensibles de l'administration. Il explique en langage clair les 3000 mots et expressions les plus employés par les administrations. Réalisé à partir de courriers authentiques, il constitue une étape dans la fin des malentendus entre l'administration et l'utilisateur. [A dictionary of administrative jargon. Gives a clear language equivalent of the 3000 words and expressions most used by the public services.]

Burrough-Boenisch J. 2004. **Erratum: subparagraphing in "A bit of culture"** [also comment by Alistair Reeves and author's reply]. *The Write Stuff* 13(3):79-81.

A typographical error in Joy's previous article inadvertently illustrated her point neatly. More comment on Dutch authors' use of subparagraphs and how it affects their writing in English.

Cavanagh A. 2005. **Broader point: the landmines of health writing and editing.** *Editing Matters* November/December:8.

A good health feature should inform, educate, be accurate, be genuinely useful to its readers and should not

leave its author or its publication liable to a potential lawsuit.

de Looze S. 2004. **All gendered up.** *The Write Stuff* 13(3):73-75. Discussion on how the use of the word "gender" is replacing the word "sex", often inappropriately.

Dodgson SJ. 2004. **From over the pond: how to become a medical writer.** *The Write Stuff* 13(3):70-72. Sound advice on entering the profession from the director of the MS Program in Biomedical Writing at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

Hartley J. 2005. **Down with "op. cit."** *Learned Publishing* January;18(1):75-77.

Use of "op. cit.", "ibid." and "idem" in references can cause difficulties for authors, editors and readers.

Neuwirth G. 2005. **Games with sound shifts and etymologies.** *The Write Stuff* 14(1):7-10.

This article on sound shifts formulates the systematic divergent directions of English and German into an etymological quiz.

Ward L. 2005. **Finer points agreed.** *Editing Matters* March/April:8. Short but neat article on subject-verb agreement.

Woolley P. 2004. **All aboard the Jargonaut – but keep half a foot on the bridge.** *The Write Stuff* 13(3):76-78.

Jargon is simply language that is employed by a particular group of people, especially when the words and phrases are not understood or used by other people. It can be used appropriately or inappropriately and this article gives guidance on the use of such terminology.

#### INFORMATION

Hartley J. 2004. **On requesting conference papers electronically.** *Journal of Information Sciences* 30(5):475-479.

This study was conducted to determine the success rate for obtaining conference papers by using e-mail. Just over 50% were received within six weeks. Few could be described as conference papers; the majority were copies of papers prepared for publication elsewhere. Many lacked the information necessary for them to be adequately cited in other publications.

Laredo J. 2005. **Royalties for editors.** *Editing Matters* November/December:4.

Information about how editors can earn royalties through the Public Lending Right scheme.

#### ABOUT EDITORS

Bailey H. 2005. **Buyer beware!** *Editing Matters* March/April:1,5. Advice on getting yourself noticed as a new freelance editor, from the Vice President and Publishing Director, Content Management, at John Wiley.

O'Connor M. 2004. **Copy-editing in science: a life?** *The Write Stuff* 13(3):67-69.

Maeve O'Connor has been a stalwart of the editing world for nearly 50 years. Here, she describes the changes in production and editing that she has seen over the years.

Stark R. 2005. **Food writing at City University.** *Editing Matters* March/April:3-5.

Not exactly editing but an interesting account of setting up a new course (the first on the subject to be set up in the UK).

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**DEATH**

We regret to announce the  
death of Dr Jurgen  
Remane

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