Reports of meetings

Navigating the future of science publishing: 60th anniversary meeting of the Council of Science Editors

20–23 May 2017, San Diego, USA

The Council of Science Editors (CSE) celebrated their 60th anniversary meeting from May 20 – 23, 2017, in the sunny Californian city of San Diego. Established in 1957 as the Council of Biology Editors, CSE has as its mission to serve editorial professionals by providing a network for career development, education, and resources for best practices. Aptly titled for an ocean location, this year's theme was Setting Sail: Navigating the Future. As the theme suggests, the meeting aimed to highlight the great changes ahead in scientific publishing and the challenges posed for editors and others in the field. Over 380 people attended, with members from all fields of the sciences. Membership is predominantly from a US base, but the international nature of this meeting was underscored with substantial contingents from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and South America.

As is usual for CSE's annual event, the first two days were set aside for short courses aimed at journal editors and copy editors, covering publication management, metrics, and manuscript editing. Days 3 and 4 had a packed agenda of keynote plenaries and parallel sessions. The main body of the meeting kicked off on day 3 with an address by the outgoing CSE president, Patricia Baskin (American Academy of Neurology), who handed over the presidency to Sarah Tegen (American Chemical Society). Talks opened on an auspicious note with the first keynote by world renowned geneticist Mary-Claire King (University of Washington), discoverer of the role of the BRCA1 gene in breast cancer. King shared her personal reflections on her long career as it related to science publishing, and how she sees the field changing in the future. She confessed that she might have become an editor but part-time work as a freelance copy editor while in graduate school proved too intimidating, so she became a scientist which is 'the next best thing'.

EASE had been invited to contribute to a session entitled Mind the Gap. Joan Marsh was in San Diego the same week for psychiatry conferences, so agreed to present the EASE SAGER guidelines on sex and gender reporting. However, the session organiser then decided that as sex and gender had been covered in 2016, the focus would be on other areas of discrimination in the workplace. Short presentations addressed age (Patricia Baskin, American Academy of Neurology), race and ethnicity (Miranda Walker, Wolters Kluwer), socioeconomic status (Jessica LaPointe, American Meteorological Society) and mental health (Joan Marsh, The Lancet Psychiatry), followed by a lively discussion.

Effective categorisation, effective cross-referencing, and effective samples are the keys to developing a style guide according to Peter Olson (Sheridan Journal Services), who spoke at a session on house style. Olson said centralisation, frequent updates, and online hosting were essential to maintaining the guide once developed. Carey Wright (Public Library of Science) gave a practical example of how PLOS overhauled their in-house style guide.

Statistical review is not a luxury many journals have at their disposal. Tim Houle (Harvard Medical School) and Chad DeVoss (founder, StatReviewer) described a proprietary software, StatReviewer, that automates elements of the statistical and methodology review. The application checks articles according to standard reporting guidelines (CONSORT, STROBE, STARD, and PRISMA), general statistical reporting, and ICMJE requirements for medical journals. It doesn't replace proper statistical review and its main users should be authors but editors might find it useful. In the same session, Anita Bandrowski (SciCrunch) discussed the reproducibility crisis in science, in particular that reagents are the most common failure point in experiments, with poor or inaccurate reporting of biological resources such as antibodies, cell lines, and transgenic organisms. The National Institutes of Health has introduced new guidelines for rigour and transparency in biomedical publications. The related Resource Identification Initiative aims to promote research resource identification, discovery, and reuse. Bandrowski described how an author can authenticate antibodies and cell lines by citing the Research Resource Identifiers (RRIDs). She hopes authors will cite RRIDs and that journals will mandate their use to improve transparency and reduce waste.

At session breaks, time was available to browse the exhibitor stands, with all exhibitors eager to showcase their services to the specialist audience. Poster presentations were also held in the exhibitor hall on a range of topics, including a descriptive analysis of retracted papers, how to use Twitter to promote journal articles and their authors, and whether reviewer interest in a manuscript predicts journal article citation rates (the authors thought it might!).

Day 4 began with a plenary from Marcia McNutt (National Academy of Sciences) who compared the evolution of scientific publishing to that of a natural ecosystem, with the keys to its resilience being diversity, redundancy, high productivity, and a stable structure. McNutt highlighted the importance of research integrity going forward and endorsed initiatives such as ORCID and the CRediT taxonomy (see below).

In a session devoted to new initiatives for training editors, reviewers, and authors, James Galispeau (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute) highlighted the poor training opportunities for editors, and the lack of consensus on the knowledge and skills science editors should possess to be competent in their job. He described an approach to developing a minimum set of core competencies for editors. The approach involved bringing together a stakeholder

group and doing a scoping review and editor surveys (in which EASE members participated in 2016). Then, having formulated a list of 214 competency-related statements, a modified Delphi exercise rated the importance of these statements, and a consensus meeting of key players (journals, publishers, and professional associations), held in Strasbourg just before the EASE conference, produced a set of 14 core competencies. James and the Ottawa team hope to get a formal endorsement of the core list and develop a core competency-based curriculum for training and certification of editors. David Riley (The Permanente Journal) discussed the development of guidelines for writing medical case reports and Lindsay Morton (Public Library of Science) discussed their initiative to train reviewers.

Donna Marie Lucas (American Chemical Society) described their experience with implementation of ORCID. Prior to implementation, they considered how they should show the ID, how it would affect production systems, whether it would be a burden to editorial staff, and – most importantly – how authors would react. Author reaction has been very favourable and the American Chemical Society now mandates ORCID for all corresponding authors. The CRediT taxonomy of contributions was the subject of a talk by Kalika Genelin (Cell Press). The taxonomy is a checklist of contributor roles that aims to improve transparency and reporting of contributions (for more information see http://docs.casrai.org/CRediT). Genelin described their three month period from decision to implementation and mentioned the importance of engaging senior management, editorial, and production in the process. Although optional, they have seen CRediT uptake at 25% since the journal made a contributor section mandatory in 2016. With increasingly larger author groups, understanding the contributions of authors and others to scholarly work is becoming more and more complex – we hope the CRediT taxonomy will become the standard of reporting in the future.

Surprisingly, considering the glorious weather, the last two sessions of the day (and the conference) were packed to the rafters. Eric Pesanelli (American Physiological Society) and Mike Vanderberg (Sheridan Journal Services) gave informative and entertaining talks on improving graphics— determining figure quality, resolution, file types, and how to fix figures. The main takeaways were high resolution does not equal high quality, vector graphics are best, and don't use TIFF files.

"Unread", "unfriendly", "confusing", "inconsistent", "ignored", and "arduous" were just some of the words used by the audience to describe instructions to authors (ITAs). In an interactive session, the thorny issue of ITAs and how to make authors read them was discussed. Katherine Bennett (American Society for Radiation Oncology) described their transition from a 22-page ITA to a checklist. Elsevier's 'Your paper your way' initiative was also discussed, which focuses on science in the first stages and production requirements in the revision stage. Mary Anne Baynes (Overleaf) described a proprietary cloud-based authoring tool using Latex, which guides authors on the journal requirements as they write their paper. The tool can be integrated into many existing editorial and publishing systems. The audience shared their experiences, including the use of videos, checklists, and how essential it is to regularly update the ITA.

Overall, the conference presentations and discussions strongly reflected the meeting theme, focusing on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It is to the organisers' credit that they managed to bring together such a wide range of expert speakers, which made for an informative and stimulating meeting. We look forward to the next annual meeting in New Orleans, May 5–8, 2018.

Richard Henderson, Joan Marsh

PUBMET2017 – the 4th conference on scholarly publishing in the context of open science

21–22 September 2017, Zagreb, Croatia

PUBMET 2017 (http://pubmet.unizd.hr/), the 4th conference on scholarly publishing in the context of open science, was held at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, under the auspices of the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education and Open AIRE project, with the financial support of Altmetric, Elsevier, Clarivate Analytics, EBSCO, MDPI, Copernicus and IOP Publishing.

The pre-conference day, September 20, was reserved for workshops. Ljiljana Jertec and Stjepan Marušić presented best practices, tools and solutions for using XML in terms of scientific publishing, including the Journal Article Tag Suite (JATS) standard implemented in the central portal of Croatian scientific journals HRČAK (https://hrcak.srce. hr/?lang=en). Milan Ojsteršek talked about ways of ensuring academic integrity and detecting plagiarism in Slovenia, and Koos Kruithof about the perception of plagiarism in scientific research and resources provided by *Turnitin*. Dina Vrkić from Elsevier presented new Scopus metrics and Ben McLeish, from Altmetric, explained the various possibilities of their analytic tools. Miguel Garcia, the representative of Clarivate Analytics, held a workshop about the future of open access.

The conference was opened by the conference chair Jadranka Stojanovski. Introductory words were also given by Gordan Gledec, vice-dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Ivanka Stričević, deputy rector of the University of Zadar, Meta Dobnikar from the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Tomislav Sokol from the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education.

Conference chair Jadranka Stojanovski