

News notes

*News notes are
compiled by John Hilton
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*Some of these items are taken from
the EASE journal blog (<http://ese-bookshelf.blogspot.co.uk>) where
full URLs may be found*

DOAJ Best Practice Guide

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ; doaj.org) has launched a Best Practice Guide, aimed at supporting researchers, publishers, and librarians to identify reputable open-access journals. The Guide includes a wide array of resources on questionable publishing practices and open access in general. The guide has its own website, doajbestpracticeguide.org, and you can find out more on the DOAJ Blog (blog.doaj.org).

Grant identifiers

Research funders need to be able to track the outputs of the work they have funded. To make this easier and more reliable, a working group of representatives of many funders are collaborating with Crossref and other organisations to pilot a system of identifiers for research grants. The group is looking at an open, global, interoperable identifier that will be registered by Crossref as a DOI and published on the Europe PMC Grants Finder Repository (europepmc.org/grantfinder), at least for the pilot. The ultimate goal is for every grant to have a unique identifier, which is unambiguously linked to all articles, data, code and other outputs. Find out more about this work on the Crossref Blog (www.crossref.org/blog).

Unpaywall on Europe PMC

Unpaywall (unpaywall.org) is a database and browser extension that enables anyone to locate a legally free version of any journal article. You can now use Unpaywall directly from Europe PMC (europepmc.org), with a new Full Text button linking to free versions located in a repository or

on a publisher website. There is more detail on the Europe PMC Blog (blog.europepmc.org; 9 April 2018).

Chinese research data policy

All scientific data generated in China must now be submitted to a national data centre before publication. The policy was announced by the Chinese government together with a call for those centres to promote open access and sharing of data (with some exceptions). As reported in Science (9 April 2018), there are concerns about publishing delays and the availability of data for external funders.

ESSOAr

ESSOAr (essoar.org) is a new “community server for the open dissemination of earth and space science early research outputs”, developed by the American Geophysical Union and publishing software company Atypon, and supported by Wiley. As reported in Research Information (researchinformation.info; 9 February 2018) ESSOAr will function as a preprint server, and will also host and archive conference posters, with plans to host additional conference materials.

Peer review examples

One benefit of publishing peer review reports is that those reports represent a learning resource for less experienced peer reviewers. Publisher F1000 has showcased some examples of peer review reports, each demonstrating a particular feature or strength. The list of examples can be found at F1000research.com/for-referees.

Annotating preprints

The Open Science Framework preprint service (osf.io/preprints) hosts many existing preprint services, such as PsyArXiv and EarthArXiv. The organisation behind the OSF, the Center for Open Science (cos.io) has worked with Hypothesis (hypothes.is) to introduce annotation functionality to these preprint services. Annotation

is a web standard that enables readers and authors to review, discuss or develop ideas based on published content, and preprints may be an important venue for such discussions and collaboration.

Delhi Declaration on Open Access

The Open Access India group (openaccessindia.org) has issued the Delhi Declaration on Open Access, which includes an aim to create a “necessary framework for making Open Access the default by 2025 in India”. The declaration follows the OpenCon 2018 New Delhi conference and takes a regional perspective on the 2002 Budapest Open Access and subsequent initiatives, noting that 82% of India-produced articles are not open access and that Indian institutional repositories are underused.

Journal Editorship Index

Assessment of the impact and performance of academics and their institutions continues to stir debate, and a recent study looks at the possibility of an additional metric: the ‘journal editorial index’. The index is based on academics’ membership of editorial boards, and the study (published in *Journal of Informetrics* 2018;12:448) analyzes its use in the field of economics. Journal rating, editor title, and board size were all taken into account, and overall the index provided useful information for assessing scholarly impact.

Beyond the APC

OpenAIRE (openaire.org), the body tasked with supporting the European Commission’s open access policy, has funded six projects to explore models of open access that do not involve an article processing charge (APC). At a workshop held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in April 2018, progress on these initiatives was discussed in the broader context of sustainability. You can read about the projects and the workshop findings on the OA2020-DE website (oa2020-de.org).

Open Science Training Handbook

In February 2018, a group of 14 open science experts gathered in Hannover, Germany, to take part in a 5-day 'book sprint'. The result was the first version of the Open Science Training Handbook, a detailed resource for anyone involved in training and education about open science. While the Handbook covers the whole range of scientific activity, there is much that is relevant for editors and authors. The latest version of the Handbook can be found at book.fosteropenscience.eu and is available free with a Creative Commons Public Domain Declaration.

PubMed Commons closes

PubMed Commons, the commenting service for PubMed, was closed down by the US National Institutes of Health at the end of February 2018. The reason for the closure was the slowing down in submissions and the relatively low percentage of articles being commented on. The comments themselves have been removed from PubMed but remain available via PubPeer (pubpeer.com) and as a download from the PubMed website. There is more about the closure on the NCBI Insights blog (ncbiinsights.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).

How long is a peer review?

The team at Publons (publons.com) has analysed the contents of more than 370,000 peer reviews, comparing the word count for different regions, journal impact factors and scientific disciplines. Overall the median length was 342 words. You can look at further analyses (and the raw data) on the Publons Blog (Publons.com/blog; 26 February 2018).

John Hilton

Anna Sawicka



Balancing innovation and tradition in science editing

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8–10 June 2018

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Mark Patterson, eLife



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- Data citation: what and how?
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