

This site I like

PEERE: a must-visit website for scholarly peer review

www.peere.org

PEERE is a COST Action on “New Frontiers of Peer Review” which was established in 12 May 2012 and will end on 10 November 2018 to stimulate community-building initiatives between scholars, editors and publishers interested in improving peer review.

It now includes 260 participants from 31 countries and has been supported by Elsevier, Springer Nature, Wiley, and the Royal Society.

Since the beginning, the ambition of this action was to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability of peer review through a trans-disciplinary, cross-sectorial collaboration. Analyzing peer review in different scientific areas by integrating quantitative and qualitative research, evaluating the implications of different peer review models and involving science stakeholders in data sharing and testing initiatives requires taking collaboration to a new level. This is what PEERE aimed to do.

In this respect, one of the main achievements of the Action has been the release of a data sharing protocol, jointly developed by a PEERE WG. The protocol regulates data sharing on peer review between publishers and scholars and was signed by all partners on 1 March 2017. It is interesting to see the original documents with each partner’s signature as this is the very first example

of a protocol for sharing in-depth data on peer review at scholarly journals. This document is a game changer and will surely inspire other initiatives.

Furthermore, the website includes information on collaboration projects (ie Short-term Scientific Missions), which give a precise idea of the most interesting scientific puzzles for research on peer review.

There are testimonials sharing their reflections on the benefit of collaboration. There are videos sharing presentations to meetings and an impressive list of presentations (about 100!) given by prestigious scholars, journal editors, professionals working for scholarly publishers, and science stakeholders at PEERE meetings.

These materials testify to the importance of peer review, the extent and depth of debates that this Action has promoted and the importance of looking at peer review rationally, scientifically and with evidence-based approaches.

Flaminio Squazzoni

Editor, Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation

Chair of TD1306 COST Action PEERE

University of Brescia, Italy

flaminio.squazzoni@unibs.it

On Twitter at @squazzoni