News notes

eLife trials new peer review system

The journal *eLife* is trialling a new peer review system in which authors decide how they will respond to reviewers' comments and the final decision about publication. In this process, an editorial decision to send an article for external peer review is a decision to accept for publication. *eLife* suggests the system will help to move away from brand being used as a proxy for article quality, strengthen the relationship between reviewers and authors, and improve journal efficiency. You can read more in an editorial in the journal (2018;7:e3654).

MECA approved

Repeating peer review is estimated to occupy 15 million hours of researcher time each year. The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) has approved the Manuscript Exchange Common Approach (MECA; manuscriptexchange.org), a project designed to improve—through standardisation—the transfer of manuscripts between and among journal systems. MECA believes standardised submission-tracking systems, for example, will reduce time waste and improve journal productivity globally.

Ibero-American Journal Rankings

To improve visibility of research from Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries in Latin America, and countries of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain, Portugal, and Andorra), Red Iberoamericana de Innovación y Conocimiento Científico (REDIB) and Clarivate Analytics have launched the Ibero-American Journal Rankings (redib.org/recursos/ranking/revistas). The rankings are designed to reflect the impact of scientific research from journals within the region, and of REDIB journals indexed within Web of Science.

Innovation awards

Code Ocean (codeocean.com) won the 2018 Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers Award for Innovation in Publishing (www.alpsp.org/awards). The cloud-based computational reproducibility platform allows researchers to share, find, and run published code. Development of the platform was inspired by the challenge of accessing, understanding, and reproducing code, analysis, and algorithms needed to build on existing research. Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (qdr.syr.edu/ati) was also a finalist for the award. The tool acts a digital overlay, allowing readers to annotate the content on publisher websites and link to other data sources. The team behind the tool says the ability to access additional data alongside the main text brings transparency to qualitative research.

Crossref hits 100 million

Crossref (crossref.org) has taken a deep look into what makes up their 100 million content records. 74% are articles, 15% books, 5% conference papers, and 4% is data, reports, standards and dissertations, and preprints and peer reviews. 69 million records have full-text links, more than 31 million have license information, and more than 3 million have funding information. You can read more on the Crossref blog (crossref.org/blog). Crossref is also encouraging users to understand and learn from the registered metadata via the participation reports tool (www.crossref.org/members/prep).

Open peer review workflow

Transparent publication of an article's entire peer review process: that's the promise of the new scalable peer review workflow resulting from a Wiley and Clarivate Analytics partnership. The workflow makes use of Clarivate's ScholarOne and Publons platforms and will be first used on the Wiley journal Clinical Genetics. The initial review and response, revision, and final publication decision will be made transparent, given a digital object identifier, and published alongside the final article. The workflow is expected to be rolled out to other journals, publishers, and submission systems in future. There is more on the Clarivate Blog (clarivate.com/blog; 13 September 2018).

Preproducibility

When it comes to issues surrounding research reproducibility and peer review, a statistics professor says the absence of standard terminology is holding us back. Writing in Nature (24 May 2018), Philip Stark proposes a new term: 'preproducibility'. Preproducibility is a prerequisite to reproducibility, and describes situations in which an experiment or analysis is "described in adequate detail for others to undertake it"—much like having a complete recipe, rather than a partial list of ingredients.

China disincentivises misconduct

The State Council and the Communist Party of China have announced regulations to raise the standards of science. Researchers will be discouraged from publishing in journals deemed to be of poor quality, poorly managed, or designed solely for profit. As reported in *Nature* (12 June 2018), Chinese researchers who publish in these journals will be warned and will not be credited for the publication during assessment of grant and job applications. Additionally, the government's science ministry will now be responsible for deterring and investigating scientific misconduct.

John Hilton & Ashley Cooper
(compilers)