This site I like

ScienceMatters

www.sciencematters.io

Science academia needs change. And the dissemination of scientific work is at the centre of the need for change. This is because the current system has led to much research remaining unpublished. The reproducibility crisis in science is partly a consequence of this research remaining unpublished.

There are three challenges that we face in scientific publishing. First, the story-telling incentive imposed by most journals creates a threshold as to what can be published. This leads to long delays publishing research. During this long processing period, the data are hidden. This ultimately slows the progress of science. It is a barrier to knowledge creation. Second, Charles Darwin's paper published in 1858 is still behind a paywall. The average price one pays for an individual research article is $38. Institutions are paying millions each year to access publicly funded research. In 2018 science should be open access. It is a barrier to knowledge access. Third, academia is traditional and, accordingly, slow to adopt new technologies. This is also the case when it comes to publishing. There is a reluctance to upgrade the publishing system to incorporate new digital technologies.

ScienceMatters is a scientific online publishing platform which focuses mainly on scientific observations. The aim of ScienceMatters is to publish single observations and to crowdsource the work of science publishing.

At ScienceMatters, individual scientific observations are allowed, and are published on the website. Any other scientists can then make additional observations. This creates a network of scientific observations which evolve over time into a narrative. This may be likened to a block-by-block structure which can be extended by anyone. Manuscripts are subjected to a triple-blind peer review process before publication.

Reviewers evaluate each paper on these criteria: technical quality, conceptual advance, and impact. Editors are involved in this pre-publication evaluation. In fact, editors are asked to suggest reviewers, to assess the reports of these reviewers, and, finally, check if the authors addressed the reviewers and editors' comments in a satisfactory manner. The "Instruction" section of the website provides information for those who would like to cooperate within this platform: authors, reviewers, and handling editors.

The entire process is managed on the ScienceMatters website. Articles are available as open access. Articles are assigned a DOI and a PDF file is created. The article is then archived in Portico and indexed on Google Scholar.

Additionally, the platform incentivises the publication of replication studies and research to validate existing work. A new journal, *Reproducibility Matters*, will be launched to focus on publishing confirmatory or contradictory data.

Amani Said
Editorial Director, ScienceMatters