

The editor's bookshelf

Bookshelf is compiled by Anna Maria Rossi (annamaria.rossi@iss.it). Please contact Anna Maria if you wish to send items or become a member of the EASE journal blog (<http://ese-bookshelf.blogspot.co.uk>) and see your posts published in the journal.

ECONOMICS AND FUNDING

Larivière V, Sugimoto CR. **Do authors comply when funders enforce open access to research?**

Nature 2018;562:483-486

In September 2018, 14 European research funders collectively signed up for research publications to be made free, fully and immediately. Before that, at least 50 funders and 700 research institutions worldwide had already mandated some form of open access for the work they support. This first large-scale analysis of compliance with open-access rules - focusing on 12 selected funding agencies - reveals that up to one-third of articles are not free to read. Open access needs a sustainable financing model as the costs shift from research libraries to authors. (doi: 10.1038/d41586-018-07101-w)

EDITORIAL PROCESS

Heim A, Ravaut P, Baron G, *et al.* **Designs of trials assessing interventions to improve the peer review process: a vignette-based survey.** *BMC Medicine* 2018;16:191

The authors used a vignette-based survey of experts to determine the best study designs for assessing interventions to improve the peer review process according to experts' opinions. Six vignettes were case scenarios of trials exploring the best study designs for six different interventions (training peer reviewers, adding an expert to the peer review process, use of reporting guidelines checklists, blinding peer reviewers to the results (i.e., results-free peer review), giving incentives to peer reviewers, and post-publication peer review). (doi: 10.1186/s12916-018-1167-7)

Rust RT. **Editorial: Reflections on the review process.** *International Journal of Research in Marketing* 2018;35(4):533-535

The Editorial is aimed at the journal's immediate community of marketing researchers, but the six observations and four recommendations detailed are applicable to editors in every field. It discusses some of the problems in peer review: it often involves too many rounds of review; perfection is valued over timeliness; rigor is valued over importance; and the rigor of a methodology can be traded off against the potential relevance of papers. To counter these problems, the author recommends accepting papers more quickly, encouraging editors to be confident in deciding the importance of a paper, and to be willing to overrule the reviewer concerns of the single paper to allow the ideas to contribute to the bigger pictures developing in the field. (doi: 10.1016/j.ijresmar.2018.09.004)

Sucato GS, Holland-Hall C.

Reviewing manuscripts: a systematic approach. *Journal of Pediatric & Adolescent Gynecology* 2018;31(5):441-445

Most scholars receive little or no training on how to conduct this key component of academic citizenship. This article provides guidance on a systematic approach to performing peer-review, that begins with a summary of why individuals should want to peer review, gives insight into the journey from submission to publication before breaking down a peer review into several key components. The article gives guidance and examples on both providing comments for the author, and the type of comments that benefit the journal editor, and notes on decision recommendations. (doi: 10.1016/j.jpag.2018.06.005)

ETHICAL ISSUES

Babor TE, Ward JH. **Caveat emptor: predatory publishers, rogue journals, and the potential corruption of addiction science.**

Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs 2018;79(4):509-513

This article argues that predatory publishers are diluting scientific quality in journals related to addiction and substance abuse by taking advantage of the open access movement. Beyond the damage done to the reputations of naive authors and figurehead editorial board members, there is a cascade of effects resulting from the shabby publication process itself. The integrity of the addiction field should be protected from predatory publishers. As described in this article, concerted action will be required by authors, editors, and professional societies. (doi: 10.15288/jsad.2018.79.509)

Bendels, MHK, Müller R, Brueggmann D, *et al.* **Gender disparities in high-quality research revealed by Nature Index journals.**

PLoS One 2018;13(1):e0189136

This study aims to elucidate the state of gender equality in high-quality research by analyzing the representation of female authorships in the last decade (from 2008 to 2016) in 54 journals listed in the *Nature Index*. Results show that women publish fewer articles compared to men, and that articles with female key authors are less frequently cited than articles with male key authors. Strategies to improve female-specific (authorship) chances should be strengthened. (doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0189136)

Witze A. **Sexual harassment is rife in the sciences, finds landmark US study.** *Nature* 2018;558:352-353

Sexual harassment is pervasive throughout academic science in the United States, driving talented researchers out of the field and harming others' careers, finds a report from the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Washington DC. The most common type of sexual harassment is gender harassment. According to this academies' analysis, policies to fight the problem are ineffective because

they are set up to protect institutions, not victims. One possible solution mentioned is an online reporting tool called Callisto, now available at 13 US universities. It allows people to file complaints securely and confidentially. (doi: 10.1038/d41586-018-05404-6)

LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Hodges M, Grossman B.

Microediting – details matter.

Quality, authority, and reputation: the value of microediting. *Medical Writing* 2018;27(3):18-20

The purpose of microediting is to ensure consistency as well as accuracy within a document. Also known as technical editing or mechanical editing, it is an important stage in editing, needed to gain and retain a reader's interest and respect assuring for a high quality product. Microediting can involve a large number of wide-ranging tasks: language editing, formatting, and checking the accuracy of data or hyperlinks.

Prieto D. **Make research-paper databases multilingual.** *Nature* 2018;560:29

Articles in non-English journals are not routinely indexed in the international databases. A comprehensive multi-language translation tool with the help of services such as Google Translate should be developed to enable any researcher to access regional databases not compiled in English and to find out all the essential details - for instance, regarding experimental design and results, or whether the paper was peer-reviewed. (doi: 10.1038/d41586-018-05844-0)

Scholten W, Simon O, Maremmani I, et al. **Access to treatment with controlled medicines rationale and recommendations for neutral, precise, and respectful language.** *Public Health* 2017;153:147-153.

This review paper by six scientific organizations for addiction medicine calls on medical journals to ensure that terminology is always neutral, precise and respectful, and avoids negative wording. Because appropriate

terminology may vary between cultures and regions and over time, it is important that communities establish their own consensus of what is neutral, precise and respectful. The article identifies 23 problematic terms and their possible alternatives; for example, replacing the terms “substance abuse” or “drug addiction” with “substance use disorder.” (doi: 10.1016/j.puhe.2017.08.021)

PUBLISHING

Cousijn H, Kenall A, Ganley E, et al. **A data citation roadmap for scientific publishers.** *Scientific Data* 2018;5:180259.

This article presents a practical roadmap for scholarly publishers to implement data citation in accordance with the Joint Declaration of Data Citation Principles (JDDCP), a synopsis and harmonization of the recommendations of major science policy bodies. The structure of the roadmap presented here follows the “life of a paper” workflow and includes the categories Pre-submission, Submission, Production, and Publication. The roadmap is intended to be publisher-agnostic so that all publishers can use this as a starting point when implementing JDDCP-compliant data citation. Authors reading this roadmap will also better know what to expect from publishers and how to enable their own data citations to gain maximum impact, as well as complying with what will become increasingly common funder mandates on data transparency. (doi: 10.1038/sdata.2018.259)

Moher D. **Reporting guidelines: doing better for readers.** *BMC Medicine* 2018;16:233

Reporting guidelines are a relatively recent development to help improve the accuracy, clarity, and transparency of biomedical publications. They have caught on, with hundreds of reporting guidelines now available. The author suggests that if journals embraced auditing of the quality of articles they publish through the use of established reporting guidelines, it would give them and their readers essential feedback through which several

improvements could be made. (doi: 10.1186/s12916-018-1226-0)

Nicholas D, Watkinson A, Abrizah A, et al. **What publishers can take away from the latest early career researcher research.** *Learned Publishing* 2018;31(3):249-253

The article looks at the opinions of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) towards publishing. It is based on a series of interviews conducted by the CIBER research group, and provides analysis of changing attitudes. ECRs are the key researchers of the future, millennials born between 1982 and 2004 and grown up in a digital environment. ECRs often think differently from their seniors and appear to have a mission based on openness, sharing, and transparency. They know – and appear to care – little about publishers but trust them as publishing and reviewing facilitators. (doi: 10.1002/leap.1165)

Polka JK, Kiley R, Konforti B, et al. **Publish peer reviews.** *Nature* 2018;560:545-547

The authors call on journals to sign a pledge to make reviewers' anonymous comments part of the official scientific record. The article defines peer review and versions of what “open” review can mean, discusses barriers to wide-spread adoption of the practice and how to make progress possible, inviting more journals to take up the cause, and arguing for transparency to become the norm in all forms of research publishing and reporting.

RESEARCH EVALUATION

Bianchi F, Grimaldo F, Squazzoni F. **The F3-index. Valuing reviewers for scholarly journals.** *Journal of Informetrics* 2019;13(1):78-86

The authors present an index that measures reviewer contribution to editorial processes of scholarly journals. The index (based on a sports metaphor) considers reviewers on different context-specific dimensions, i.e., report delivery time, the length of the report and the alignment of recommendations to editorial decisions. The authors do note that this tool is not designed to measure

any form of quality, which remains an elusive element to capture, but does work effectively in indexing various performance measures. The index is a flexible tool, capable of incorporating extensions and could be adopted by journal management software to assist editors in identifying and rewarding high performing reviewers.
(doi: 10.1016/j.joi.2018.11.007)

SCIENCE

Glasziou P, Chalmers I. **Research waste is still a scandal – an essay by Pail Glasziou and Iain Chalmers.** *BMJ* 2018; 363:k4645

Progress has been made towards reducing the 85% of wasted effort in medical research – and the huge amounts of money misspent and harm caused to patients – but there's

still a long way to go. The authors list main milestones in the recognition and reduction of avoidable research waste. According to them, the most notable and potentially influential development is today the Ensuring Value In Research (EVIR) Funders' Forum, that includes over 30 research funders internationally, working together to reduce research waste and improve value.
(doi: 10.1136/bmj.k4645)

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

O'Reilly-Shah VN, Lynde GC, Jabaley CS. **Is it time to start using the emoji in biomedical literature?** *BMJ* 2018;363:k5033

As the emoji continues to gain in popularity, the authors explore its potential role in scientific

communication. Integrating emoji into the scientific literature would be advantageous in several obvious areas, such as modulating the emotional tone of communications. In editorials and letters to editors they may serve great purpose by introducing inflection and subtext in a manner not previously possible. Several important downsides should also be considered. Apart from challenges in display and interpretation, researchers and clinicians are currently left to wonder how adding emoji to their scholarly communications may affect perceptions of their professionalism.
(doi: 10.1136/bmj.k5033)

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Obituary - Arie Manten 1933 – 2018

Prominent EASE member Dr Arie Manten died on 20 December 2018 at the age of 85.

Arie Antonie Manten was born on 12 July 1933. He studied biology and geology and graduated in 1971 at Utrecht University on a PhD thesis describing Swedish coral reefs: *Silurian Reefs of Gotland: Typology, Palaeoecology and Stratigraphical Implications*.

In 1960 he joined Elsevier Science Publishers where he initiated a branch of geological journals. He was keen on standardization and nomenclature. His interests extended to presentation, history and information policy, as exemplified by a monograph *Symposia and Symposium Publications: Guide for Organisers, Lecturers and Editors of Scientific Meetings* (1976), a book chapter on *The Growth of European Scientific Journal Publishing before 1850* (1980) and a symposium lecture *Information Policies: Government and the Information Industry* (1981; in 1983 this lecture appeared in the Proceedings publication of which Manten was a co-editor). He was involved in many more scientific publications on geology and editology.

Arie Manten was one of the founders (1968) and the first secretary of Editerra. This organisation of European earth science editors amalgamated with the European Life Science Editors' Association in 1982 to form EASE. Manten served as vice-president of EASE from 1988 to 1992. When leaving the EASE Council he was awarded an honorary membership.



In 1977 he attended the First International Conference of Scientific Editors in Jerusalem and in 1980 he organised the second conference of this series in Amsterdam. On that occasion, the Dutch minister of science policy called for a Dutch society of scientific editors. About one and a half years later (27 May 1982) Manten had gathered a broad group of colleagues who formed the *Wetenschappelijke-Redacteurskring* (WERK), the Dutch equivalent of EASE. Manten was the first president. One of his great achievements was the realisation of the WERK guidelines on almost every aspect of scientific editing, based on (or

complementing) international and national standards.

Manten suffered from several serious illnesses, which did not stop him from activities in different fields. After his retirement he devoted his energy to the history of Breukelen. In 1986 he founded the Breukelen Historical Society and he was its president until 2004. Naturally, he wrote, edited and published numerous articles, journals and books on Breukelen's history. In 2008 this earned him the title of honorary citizen of the town where he was born, where he lived and where he died.

We will sadly miss this remarkable, talented, passionate and amiable editor and scientist.

Arjan Polderman

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With thanks to Wendy van Noppen