

Online, open access resources for editors

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Many sources of support for journal editors and editorial office staff are available on the internet. These resources provide guidance about peer review, editorial ethics and editorial quality, and are useful to help make journal operations more professional. This workshop identified some well-respected online resources and explained the areas where these sites are most useful. Participants became familiar with the contents of these resources, and during the workshop they identified specific parts of the websites with the greatest potential to help them strengthen their own journals.

The handout for the workshop listed thirteen websites (see below), and during the workshop the five sites felt to have the greatest potential to provide practical solutions to editors were visited and discussed. Participants were encouraged to visit the websites on their own to familiarize themselves with how to navigate them efficiently, since a few of them were felt to be less straightforward to navigate than they could be.

The participants raised excellent questions about training programs for editors and the availability of “plagiarism-detection” software, so future training activities for editors would benefit from including these topics.

Virtually all training opportunities for editors are provided by professional organizations, and there appear to be no formal academic programs anywhere in research article editing. One of the limitations of online resources is that although they offer many guidelines and rules, and sometimes provide good examples of specific problems and solutions, they provide no opportunities for actual, hand-on practice. Because training programs for journal editors are rare, the best training available in most settings is on-the-job training. The AuthorAID programs (AuthorAID at INASP and AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean) provide training for editors, but are able to meet only a small part of the huge and growing demand.

Three groups of websites with useful resources for biomedical and health science journal editors in the Eastern Mediterranean, in order of decreasing priority and then in alphabetical order within each group:

Group 1

COPE Committee on Publication Ethics

<http://publicationethics.org.uk>

EMAME, Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors

<http://www.emro.who.int/emame/index.htm>

EQUATOR, Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research

<http://www.equator-network.org/>

ICMJE, International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

<http://www.icmje.org/>

WAME, World Association of Medical Editors

<http://www.wame.org/>

Group 2

CSE, Council of Science Editors

<http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>

EASE, European Association of Science Editors

<http://www.ease.org.uk/>

ISAJE International Society of Addiction Journal Editors

<http://www.parint.org/isajewebsite/>

Group 3

BMJ, Editorial policies

<http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/editorial-policies>

BMJ, Resources for authors

http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors?resource_name=Author&x=24&y=7

BMJ, Resources for reviewers

<http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/reviewers>

MET Mediterranean Editors and Translators

<http://www.metmeetings.org>

Retraction Watch

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/>