



Issues on Proficiency and Conflict of Interest of Editors in Academic Publishing

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Abstract

This article explores the various issues surrounding the proficiency and conflict of interest of editors in academic publishing. Examples include lazy editors who do not take action, editors who agree with unfair retractions, editors with conflicts of interest, and editors who neglect communication with authors. The importance of editorial control and post-publication management is also discussed.

Keywords: Editors, Proficiency, Conflict of Interest, Retraction, Communication.

1. Laissez-faire Editor: A Problematic Approach

Lazy editors who do not take action on submissions can lead to delays in the publishing process. This lack of attention to detail can result in errors or oversights that can harm the reputation of the journal. Editors must be diligent in reviewing submissions and providing feedback to authors in a timely manner.

2. Unfair Retraction Agreed Upon by Editors

Editors who agree with unfair retractions, especially those generated by low-standard journals, can cause harm to the academic community. It is essential for editors to uphold ethical standards and ensure that retractions are justified based on valid reasons, rather than bowing to pressure from questionable sources.

3. Conflicts of Interest among Editors

Editors with conflicts of interest can compromise the integrity of the peer-review process. It is crucial for editors to disclose any potential conflicts and recuse themselves from handling submissions that may present a conflict of interest. Failure to do so can lead to biased decision-making and undermine the credibility of the journal.

4. Neglect in Communication with Authors

Editors who neglect to communicate with authors, especially in situations involving controversial retractions, can create confusion and mistrust. Clear and open communication is

essential in maintaining a positive relationship between editors and authors. Authors should be informed of any decisions that may impact their work in a transparent and timely manner.

5. Poor Editorial Practices: Lack of Proficiency and Ethical Concerns

Editors who give vague reasons for retractions, such as citing lack of data or information, are not upholding the standards of good editorial practice. Editorial control and quality review processes are essential in ensuring that retractions are based on sound reasoning and valid criteria. Additionally, editors should adhere to ethical guidelines and avoid conflicts of interest with predatory publishers or journals.

6. Real life problems

There are many emerging situations that seem to be a challenge and many cases that turn to the interesting discussion whether the role of editor of the journal is appropriate or not [1-2] (further reading on important discussed cases can be considered for “Scientometrics” edited by Glänzel W[3] and “Journal of Evaluation of Clinical Practice” edited by Grimmer K [2]). For example, an editor might neglect to manage the important identified conflict of interest issue of an unethical unqualified author with hidden financial interest commented by a letter to editor but support an unfair retraction of the commentary [2]. Editor with lack proficiency might be distracted by a simple online social network and do wrong thing on the published article. Unethical editor might have conflict of interest or tie with a low standard predatory journal and do unethical thing or neglect to follow good editorial practice. Also, when the problem is overt, a simple unacceptable explanation as he/she did his/her best according to the COPE guideline.

Conclusion

In conclusion, editors play a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and quality of academic publishing. It is essential for editors to be proficient in their work, uphold ethical standards, and communicate effectively with authors. By addressing issues related to proficiency and conflict of interest, editors can help ensure the credibility and trustworthiness of scholarly publications.

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