

Bridging the gap between your journal and your authors

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Editor-in-Chief, Editage Insights

Editage

Inside the mind of an editor

All these requests for rapid publication...and yet another peer reviewer turning down my invitation!

Why can't authors just follow the simple formatting guidelines?

Seems like plagiarism. So much to educate authors about!

I'm just swamped with submissions, most of them not even matching the journal's scope

Wish I could understand my authors and tell them exactly what we're looking for in submissions.



In this session, we will talk about...

- Global research output trends and their impact on authors and editors
- Mismatch in the perspectives of authors and editors

BREAK

- Getting closer to your authors
 1. Improving communication with authors
 2. Reducing article-processing times
 3. Publication support and author education

In this section, we will talk about...

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Do you know...

How many researchers are there in the world?

How many journals?

How many articles published per year?

EVERY YEAR



ABOUT **8 MILLION** RESEARCHERS
8,000,000

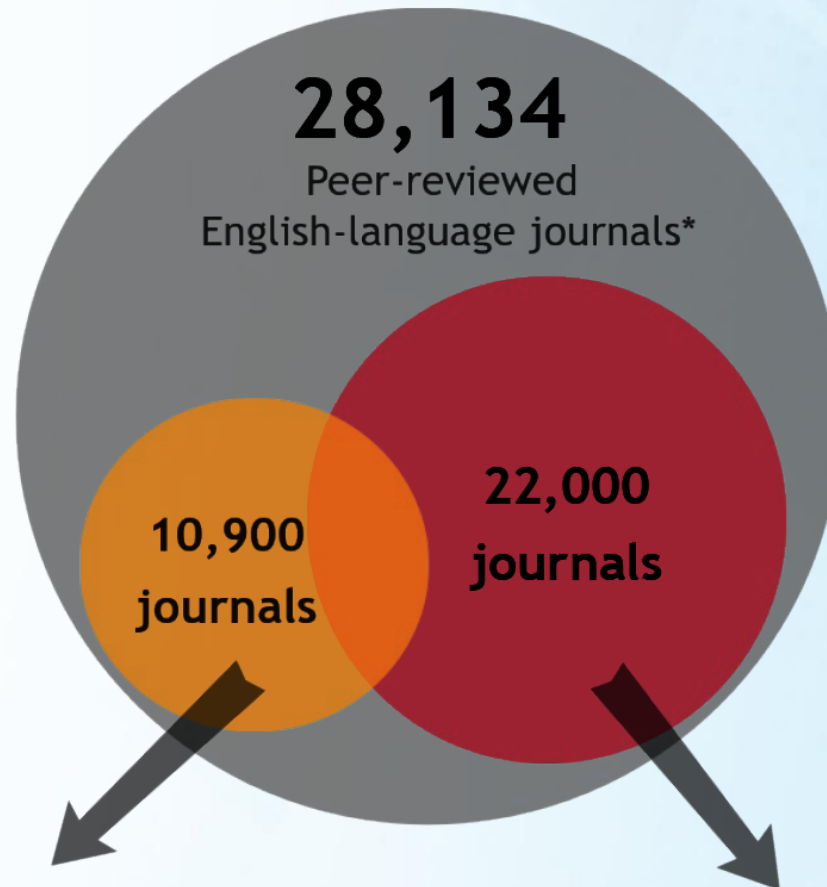


PUBLISH 

2,500,000

2.5 MILLION ARTICLES

2.5 MILLION ARTICLES IN



Included in Thomson Reuters'
Journal Citation Reports

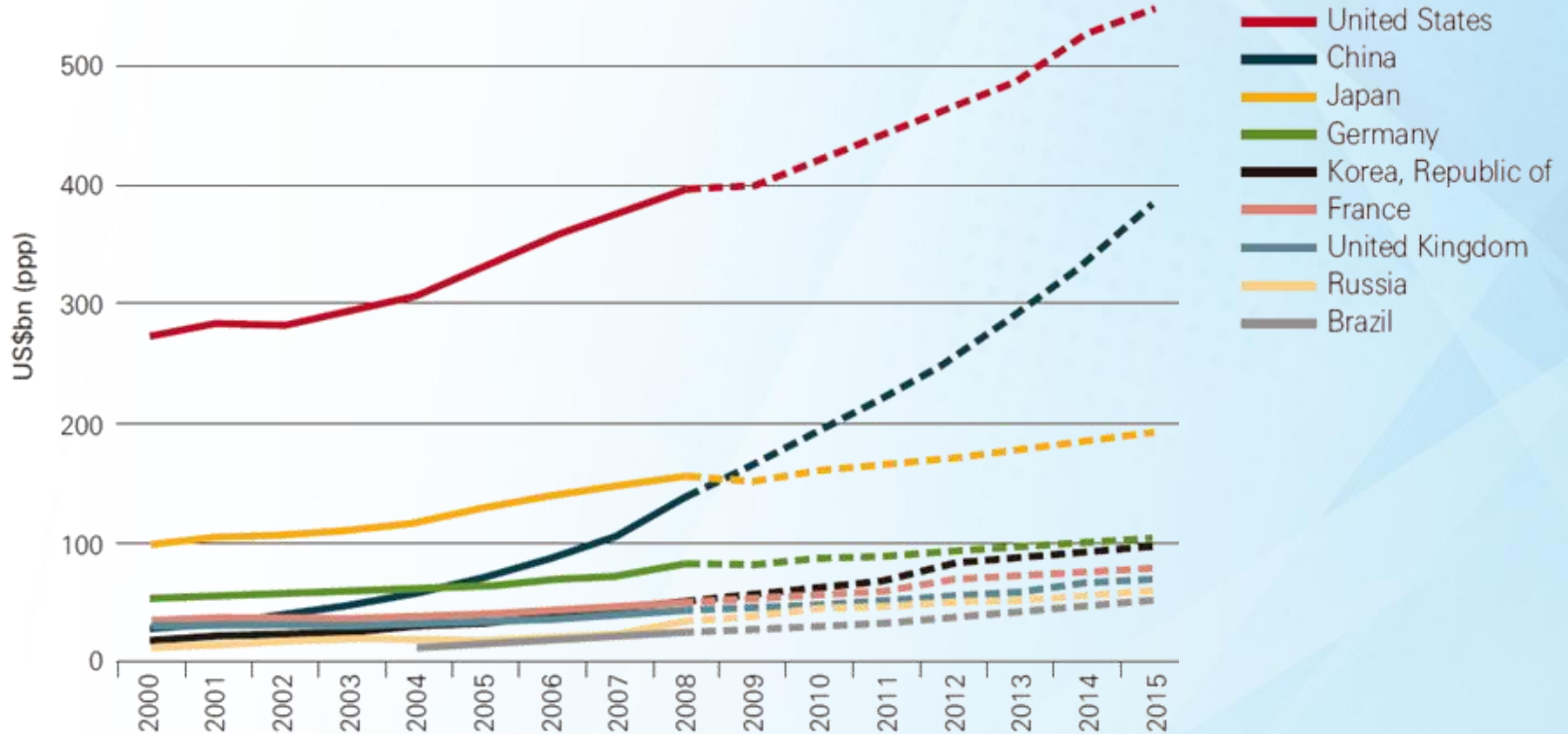
Included in Scopus

* As of 2014 - Ulrich's database

Note: Venn diagram not to scale

Predicted increase in global R&D expenditure, 2011

R&D spending, selected countries (2000-2015)



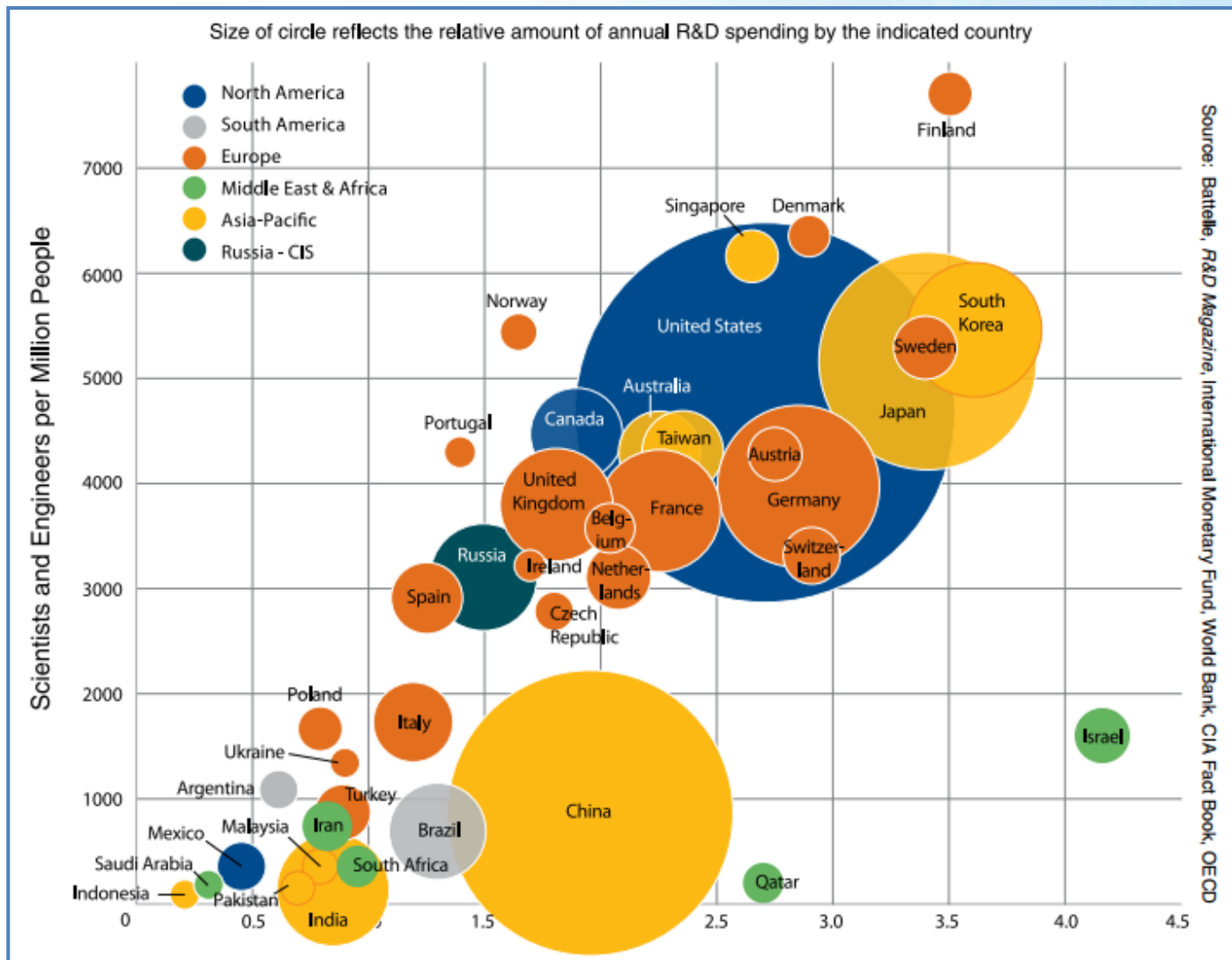
From *Knowledge, Networks, and Nations*, Royal Society of London, 2011

Region-wise share of global R&D expenditure, 2014

Share of Total Global R&D Spending			
	2012	2013	2014
Americas (21)	34.5%	34.0%	33.9%
U.S.	32.0%	31.4%	31.1%
Asia (20)	37.0%	38.3%	39.1%
China	15.3%	16.5%	17.5%
Japan	10.5%	10.5%	10.2%
India	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
Europe (34)	23.1%	22.4%	21.7%
Germany	6.1%	5.9%	5.7%
Rest of World (36)	5.4%	5.3%	5.3%

Source: Battelle, *R&D Magazine*

Asia's role continues to increase



Research output quality from Asia and Australia, 2013



Global R&D - highlights

- **\$522 billion** in 1996, **\$1.3 trillion** in 2009, **\$1.6 trillion** in 2014
- North America, the EU, and **Asia** responsible for up to **92%** of global R&D spend
- Asian share of global R&D continues to increase, driven by **China, Japan, and Korea**, while U.S. and European shares decrease.
- China, India and South Korea have grown their research outputs by **15.6%**, **13.7%**, and **9.3%**, respectively over the last decade

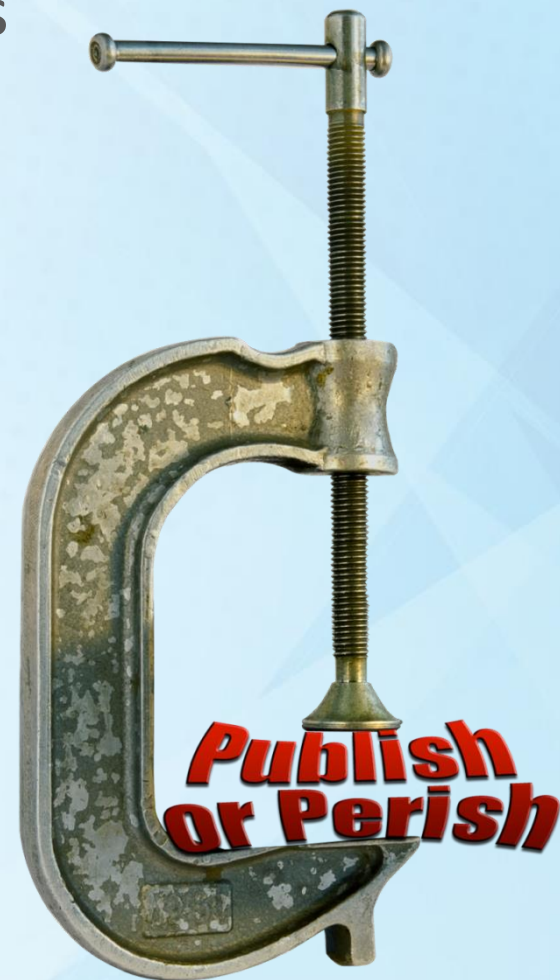
That's great! But what does all this mean?

More pressure!



Pressure on authors (1/2)

- Publishing in high-impact-factor journals linked to grant and tenure decisions
- Need to publish in prestigious international English-language journals over local journals
- Emphasis on number of publications and journal impact factor over research quality
- Pressure to publish quickly, against long processing time to publication after submission



Pressure on authors (2/2)

- High rejection rates of international journals
- New industry focus on data sharing and research promotion through social media, conferences, etc.
- Scarcity of local-language educational resources for non-native English-speaking researchers



Pressure on journal editors (1/2)

- Ever-increasing submission volumes without a proportional increase in journal subscriptions and sales
- Increase in the diversity of submissions, in terms of subject area and country of origin
- Author demand for rapid publication
- Difficulty in finding suitable peer reviewers



Pressure on journal editors (2/2)

- Need to identify and appropriately tackle increasing cases of misconduct
- Increased competition with other journals
- New industry developments to keep pace with – new models of peer review, changes in submission processes, shift toward open access, etc.



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Survey with journal editors and authors

- In 2012, Editage conducted parallel 2 surveys

	Author survey	Editor survey
Target audience	Researchers from East Asia	Editors of International English-language journals
Language	Translated into Japanese, Mandarin, and Korean for dissemination in each country	Disseminated in English
Distribution channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social media forums for researchers• Workshops for academic researchers• Academic societies and research universities• Japanese science newspaper• Editage website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion groups for editors on LinkedIn and ResearchGate• EASE and ALPSP listservs• ALPSP blog• Emails to journal contacts

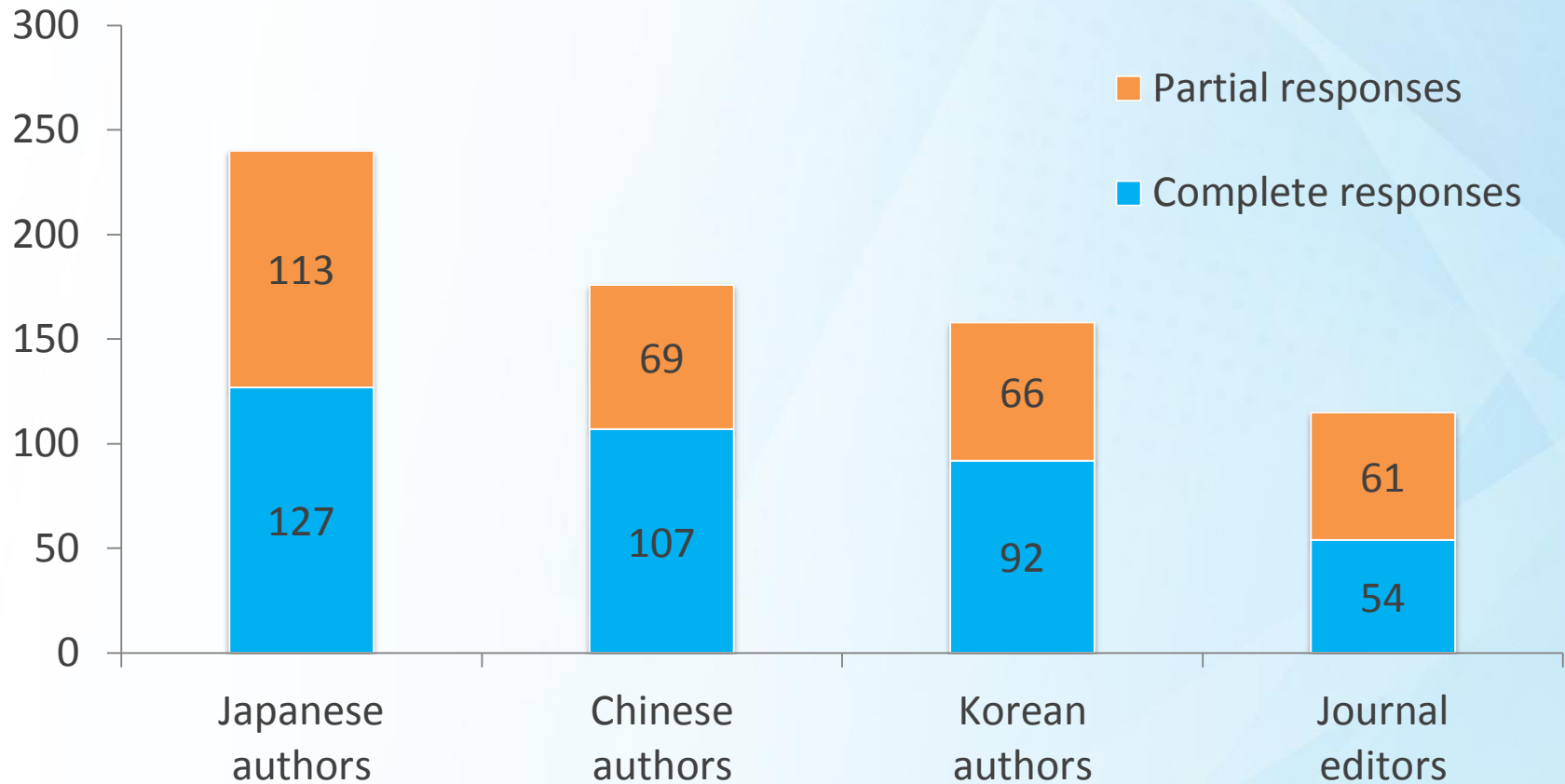
Broad questions addressed

- Do authors from neighboring East Asian countries face common challenges?
- Do journal editors encounter unique problems in submissions from East Asia?
- Are the perceptions that journal editors may have formed aligned with the actual challenges authors face?

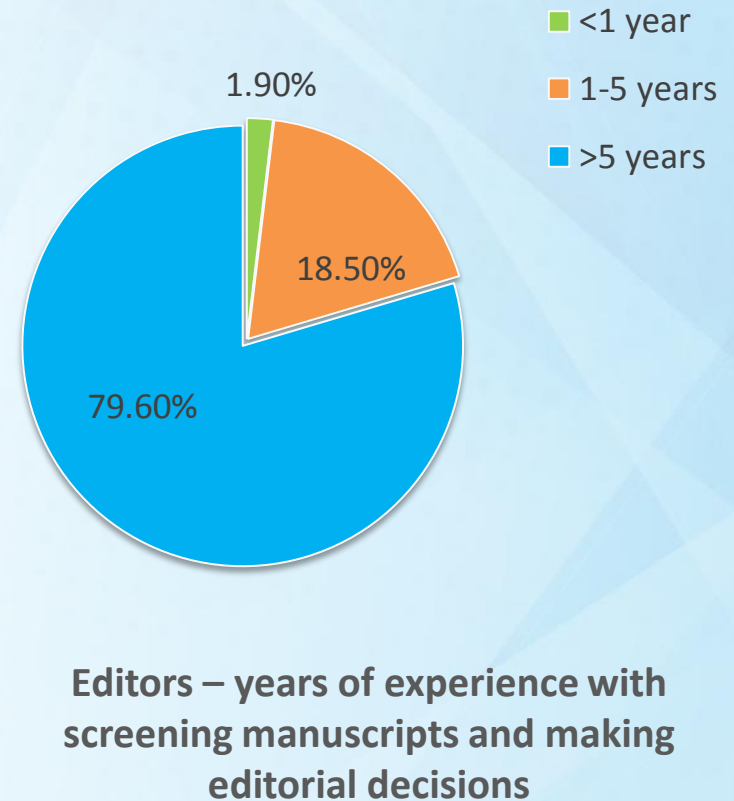
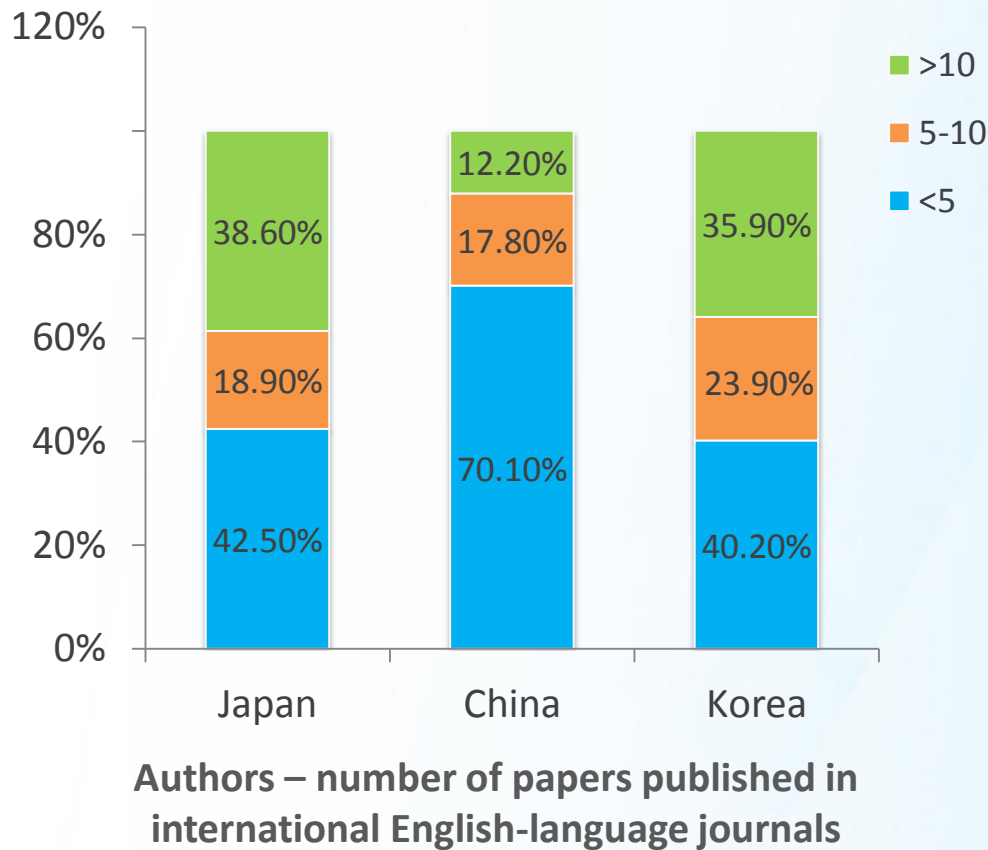
Published study: Cerejo, C. International journal editors and East Asian authors: two surveys. *Learned Publishing*, vol. 27, pp. 63–75, 2014

Number of respondents

Total respondents: **326 East Asian authors, 54 journal editors**

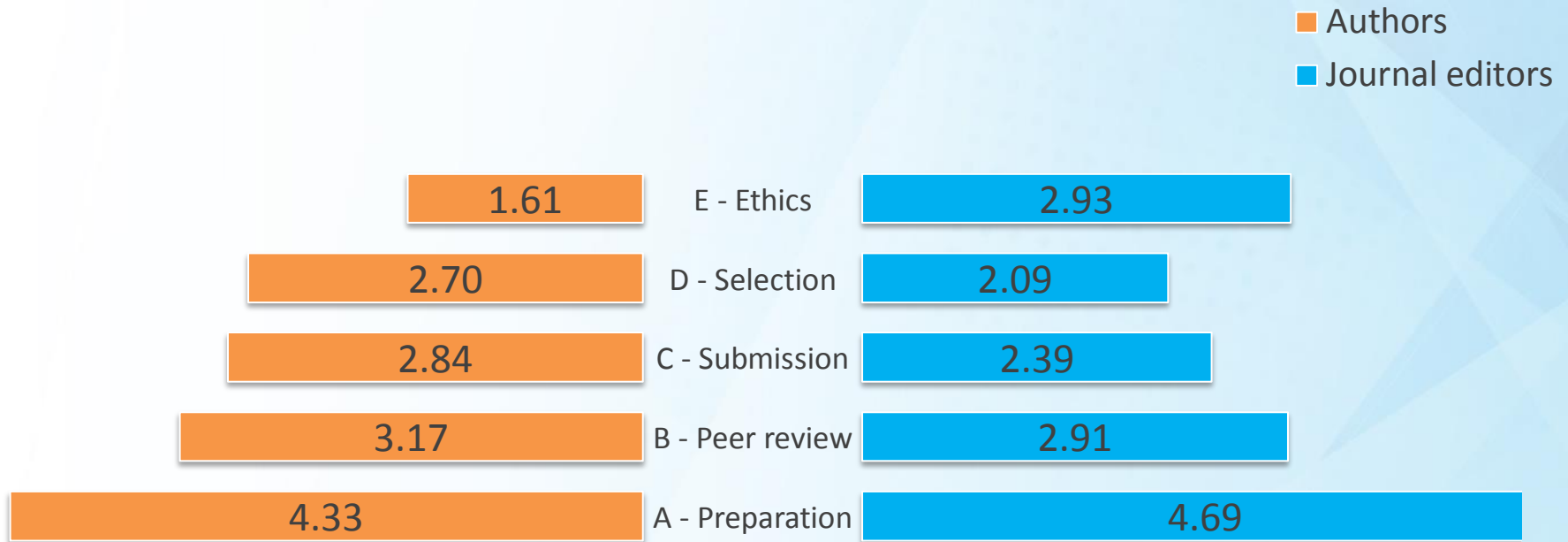


Level of experience of respondents



Which is the most challenging stage of the publication process?

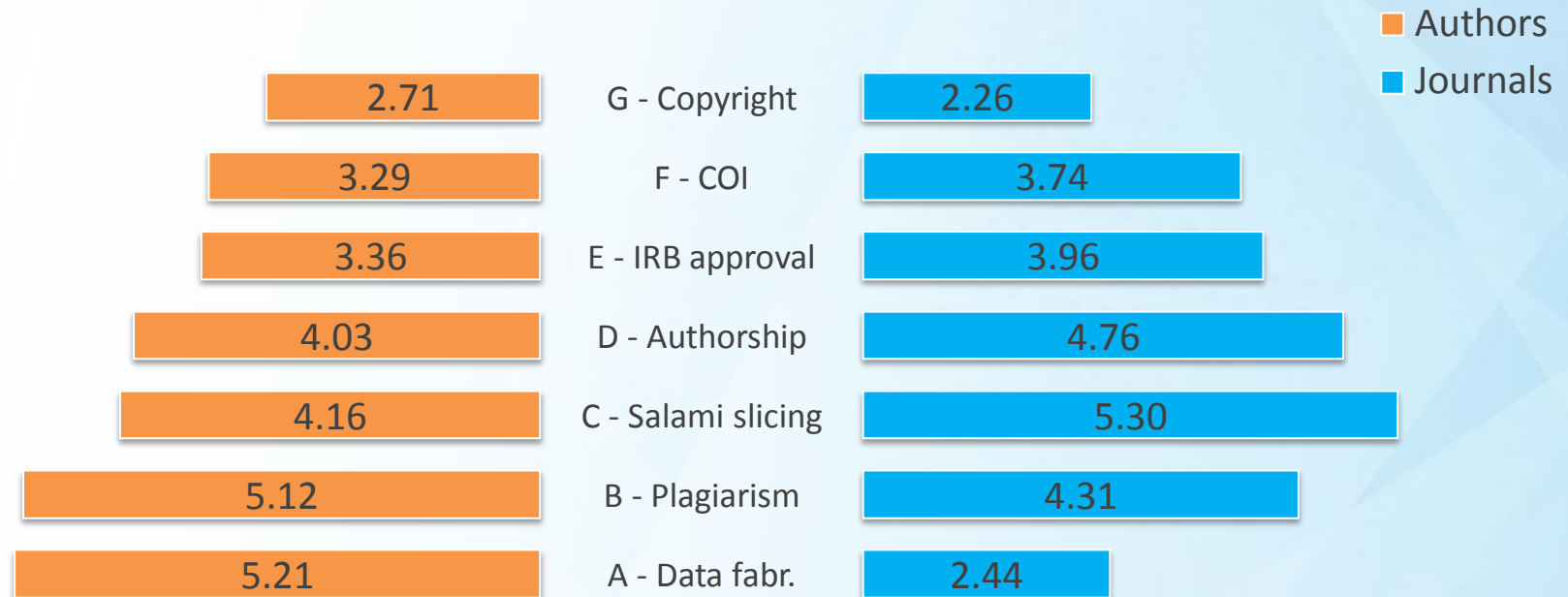
What authors find challenging vs. what journal editors think authors find challenging



Scores indicate the average rank assigned to each parameter on a 1-to-5 scale, where 5 = most challenging

How well do authors understand publication ethics?

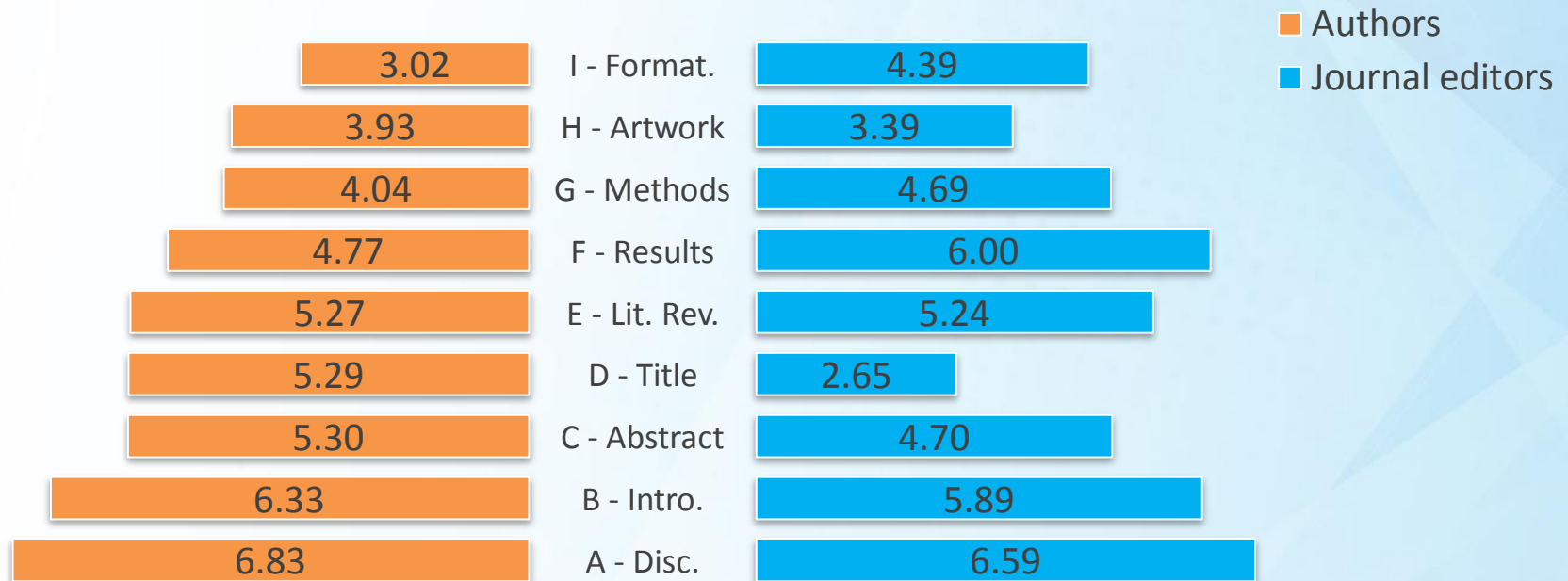
How authors rate their understanding vs. how often journals encounter problems in these aspects



Scores indicate the average rank assigned to each parameter on a 1-to-7 scale, where 7 = best understood aspect (for authors) or most problematic aspect (for editors)

What aspects of manuscript preparation do authors find most challenging?

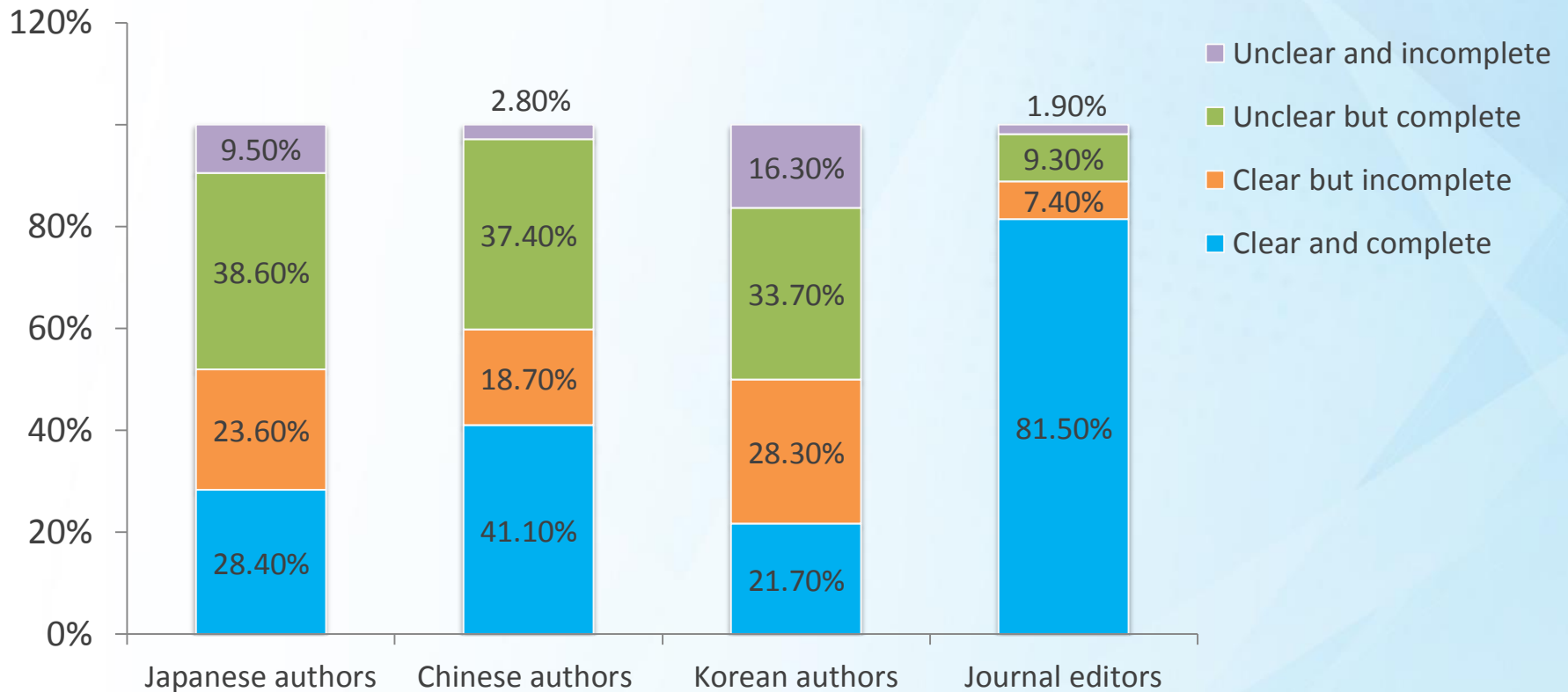
What aspects authors find challenging vs. what aspects editors most commonly encounter problems with



Scores indicate the average rank assigned to each parameter on a 1-to-9 scale, where 9 = most challenging aspect (for authors) or most problematic aspect (for editors)

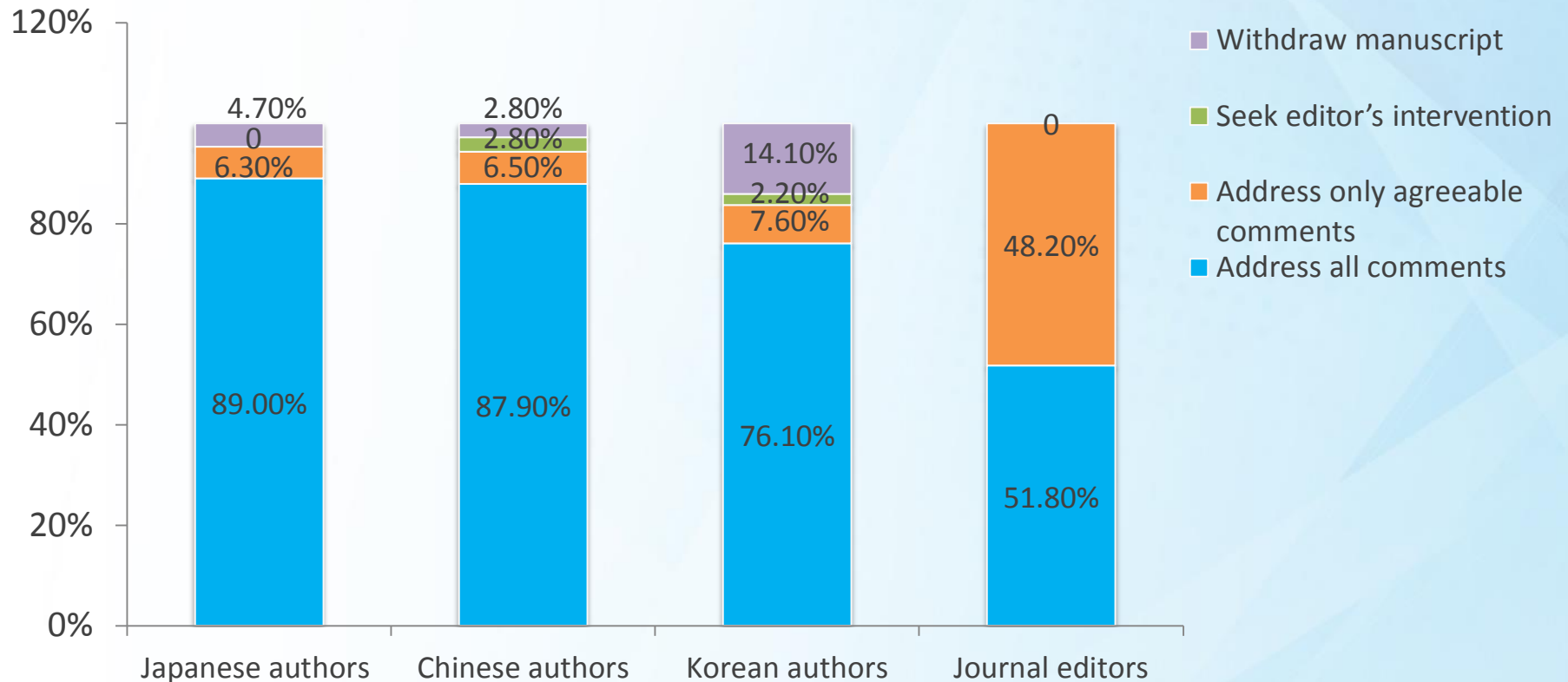
How well are author guidelines framed?

What authors “think” vs. what journal editors “think”



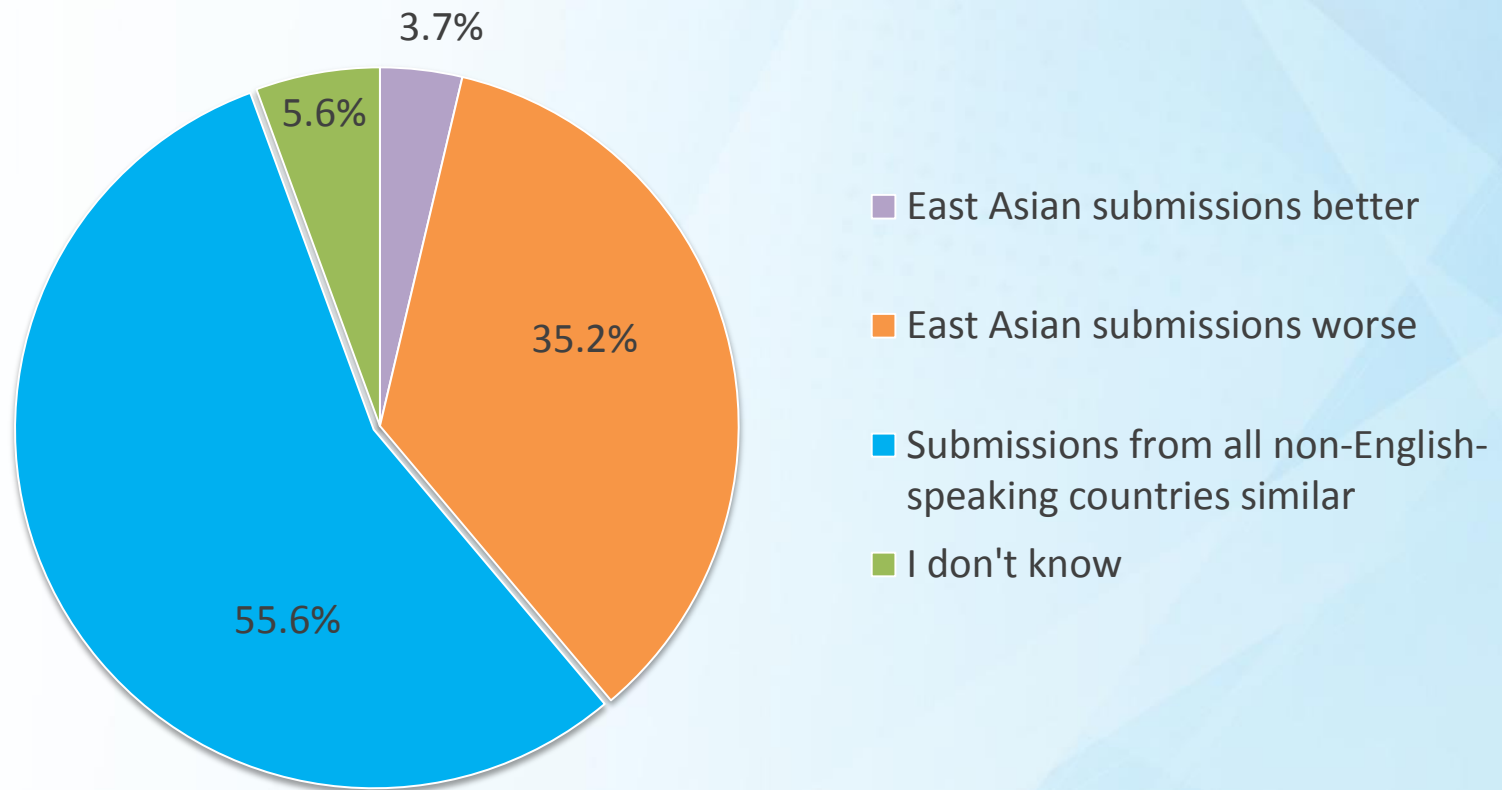
How do authors approach complex peer reviewer comments requesting many changes?

What authors “think” vs. what journal editors “think”



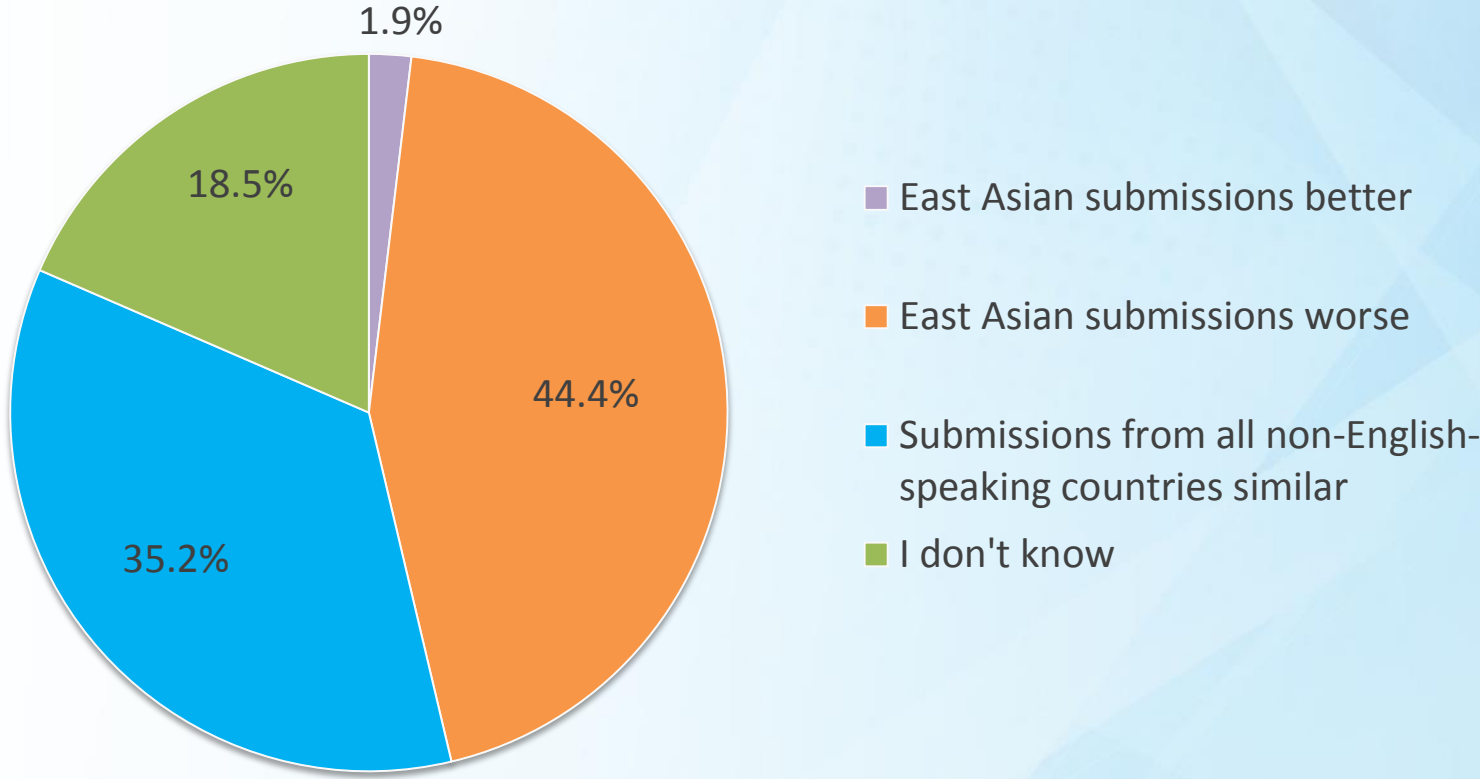
How do East-Asian submissions compare with those from other non-English-speaking countries?

A. In terms of matching the journal scope



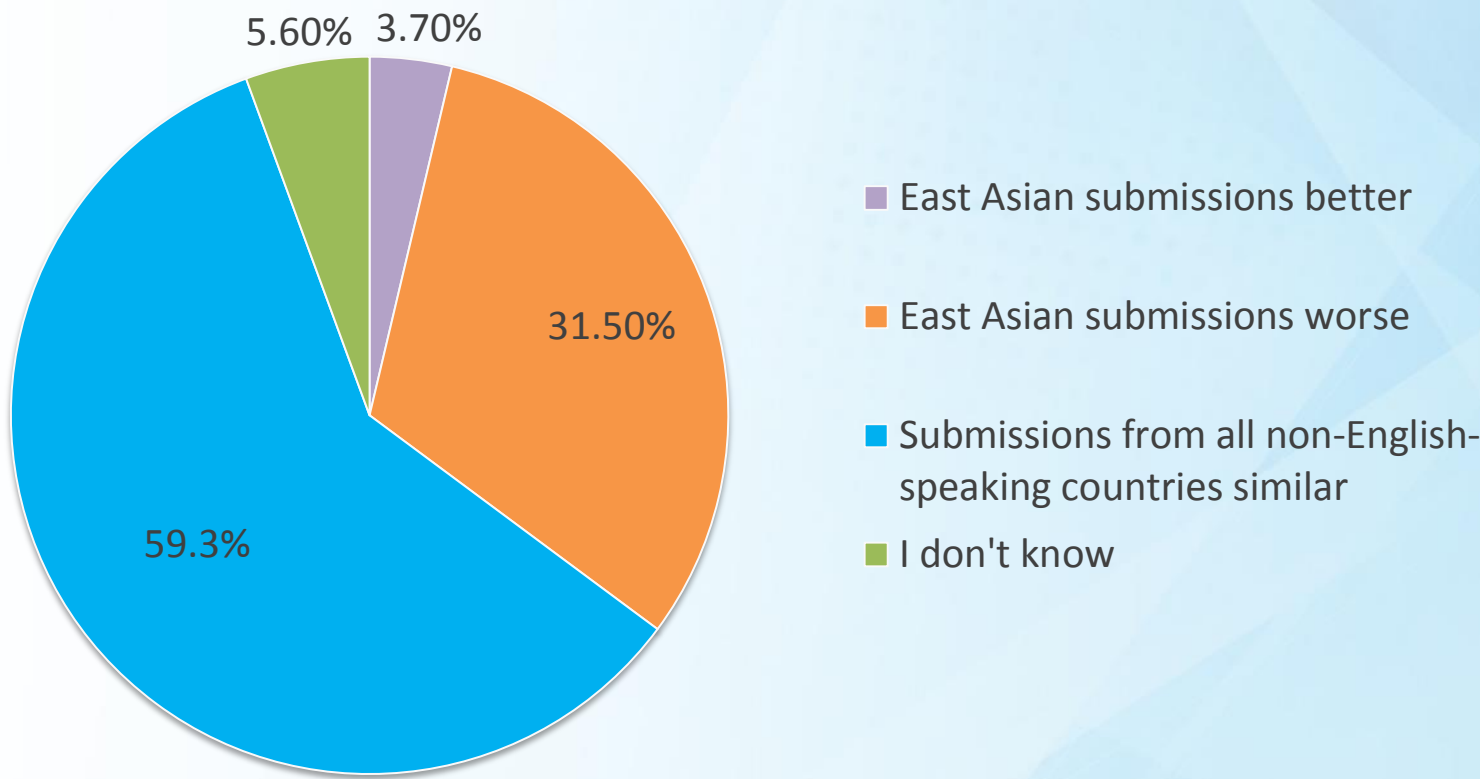
How do East-Asian submissions compare with those from other non-English-speaking countries?

B. *In terms of compliance with ethical guidelines*



How do East-Asian submissions compare with those from other non-English-speaking countries?

C. In terms of how the submission and peer review processes are handled



Authors' wish list (1/4)

A. To make journal selection easier for them



- Document time to first decision, time to publication, and rejection rates and reasons
- Universal database with above information for all journals
- Automated journal selection tools
- Services that help them make pre-submission inquiries
- Journal aims and scope translated into local languages

Authors' wish list (2/4)

B. To make manuscript preparation easier for them

- Pre-submission editing, journal formatting, artwork preparation, and peer review services
- Highly accurate translation software for scientific material
- Reference management and literature search tools
- Standardized journal guidelines and easy access to sample papers
- Checks by statisticians and analytical experts



Authors' wish list (3/4)

C. To make ethical compliance easier for them



- Clear description of journal ethics-check processes, with case studies
- Training workshops and seminars on publication ethics
- Ethical guidelines standardized and translated into local languages
- Ethics-related discussion forums
- Pre-submission ethics-check services

Authors' wish list (4/4)

D. To make the submission process easier for them

- Clearer author guidelines with FAQs, simplified processes, and better use of automation
- Standardized submission processes through stable, user-friendly submission interfaces, compatible with various local languages
- Academic coach to help in interacting with journal editors and addressing peer reviewer comments
- Essential and non-essential changes clearly indicated in peer review reports



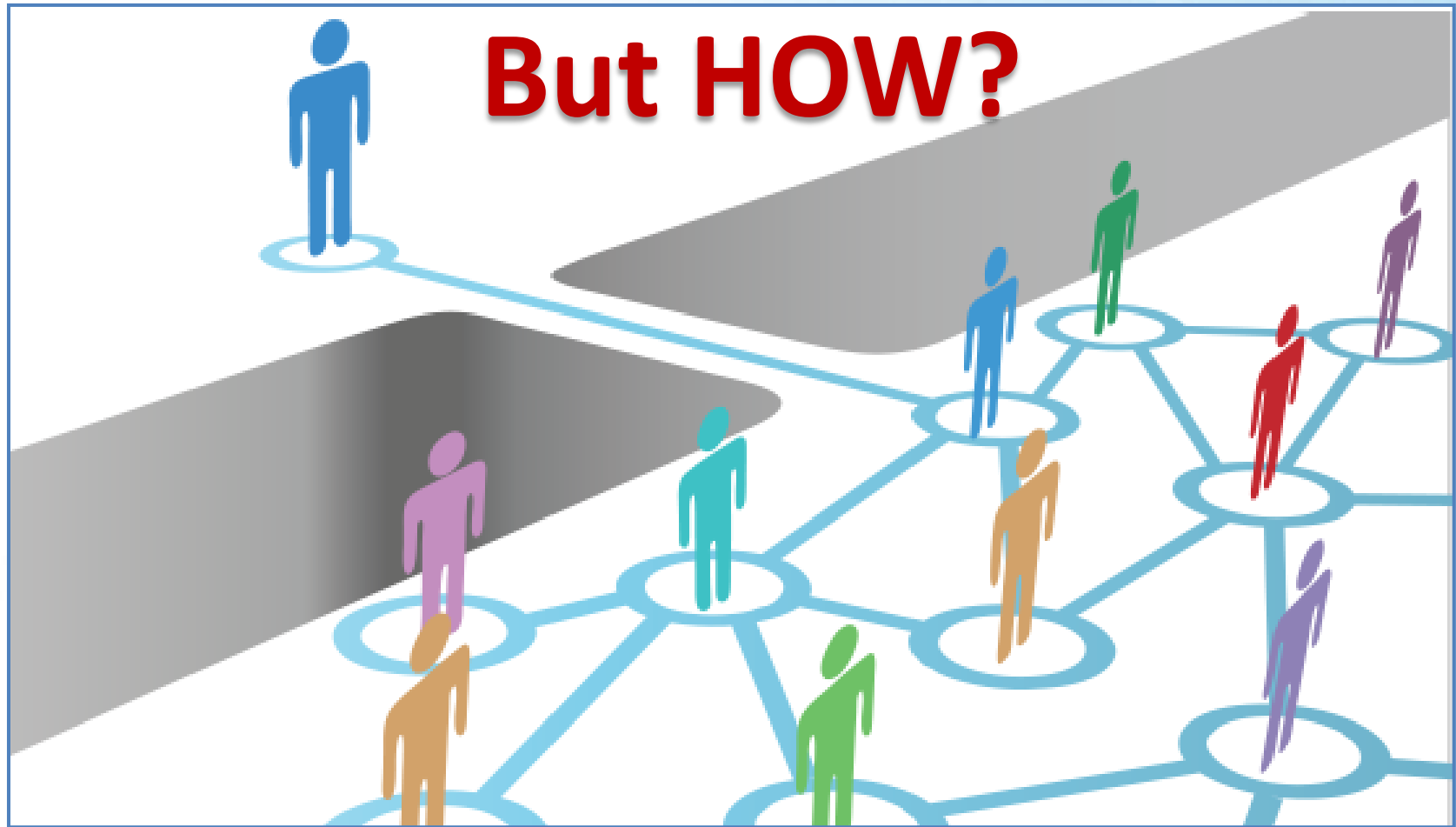
What journal editors would like to educate East Asian authors about



- The need to study something relevant, meaningful, and novel that advances the science
- Research ethics, plagiarism and self-plagiarism
- The need for a high-impact study for a high-impact journal
- Getting a thorough pre-submission check by a native English speaker for substance as well as language style
- English-language competence and better writing quality

How can journal editors beat the pressure?

By bridging the gap and getting closer to your authors!





**LET'S TAKE A
BREAK**
and come back to
find out how you can
get closer to your
authors

In this section, we will talk about...

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- Mismatch in the perspectives of authors and editors
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 - **Improving communication with authors**
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 - Publication support and author education

Points of journal communication with authors

1. Instructions for authors
2. Submission and editorial decision-making process
3. Corrections, resolutions, retractions



Getting closer to your authors

1. Improving communication with authors

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Are journal instructions easy to understand?

Journal instructions are:

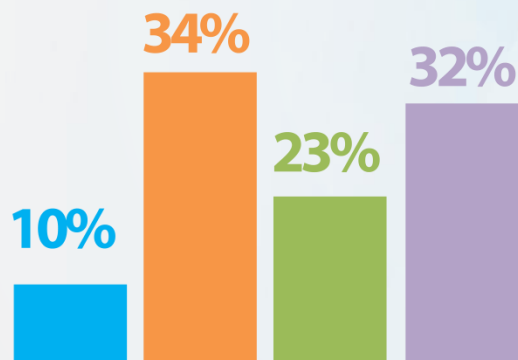
 Unclear and incomplete

 Clear but incomplete

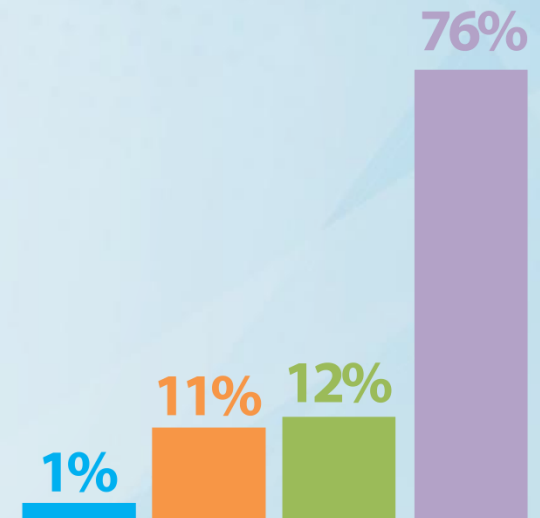
 Unclear but complete

 Clear and complete

What authors say



What journal editors say



Further research on journal instructions for authors

- Survey results led us to further explore author instructions
- Analysed author instructions of 80 international journals – 40 biomedical and 40 physical sciences
- Scored each journal for completeness and clarity in 5 broad categories

Published paper: Nambiar R, Tilak P, Cerejo C. *Quality of author guidelines of journals in the biomedical and physical sciences*, vol. 27, pp. 201–209

Categories and criteria assessed

Aims & Scope	Submission & Post-submission Processes	Formatting Instructions	Ethical Requirements	Authorship Criteria
1. Target audience	4. Contact information	9. Manuscript Categories & word limits	14. Conflicts of interest & funding disclosure Policy	18. Copyright policy
2. Types of studies accepted	5. Submission requirements & process	10. Sample paper availability	15. Duplicate submissions & plagiarism policy	19. Authorship criteria
3. Specific areas of interest	6. Peer review process details	11. Table & artwork guidelines	16. Misconduct handling policy	20. Process for resolution of authorship issues
	7. Indexing information	12. Reference style	17. Ethical approval of methods	
	8. Open access/self-archiving policies	13. Heading structure, & style		

Activity

Assess the journal guidelines in the handouts on these 5 parameters.

What aspects have been covered well?

What areas could be improved upon?

Study results

- **No journal scored 100%** on both completeness and clarity
- “Formatting instructions” were well addressed across journals, but **sample papers** rarely provided
- **Target audience** not clearly defined in Aims and Scope
- Ethical policies described but no mention of **journal policies for tackling ethical breaches**
- **Duplicate submissions, plagiarism, copyright** issues; **authorship criteria** rarely touched upon
- **Biomedical journals fared better** than physical science journals in most categories

Recommendations

- Review and update journal guidelines regularly
- Clarify target audience to avoid scope mismatch in submissions
- If not detailing ethical policies, direct authors to COPE, ICMJE, or EASE (available in >20 languages) guidelines
- Physical science journals should also subscribe to ICMJE and adopt relevant recommended policies

Getting closer to your authors

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Some questions we've received from authors (1/4)



I have submitted my paper some time ago. Over the last few days, I noticed that the status is changing quite fast, and it seems that some steps are skipped. What does this imply? If I want to contact journal editor, how should I draft my mail?

Some questions we've received from authors (2/4)

I am submitting my paper to a journal that does not have an online submission system. So the submission and all correspondence is through email. Now the question is, there are two chief editors, two consultants, and 20 to 30 editors. Whom should I send my paper to? I'm so confused. Why isn't there any specific person in charge of submissions?



Some questions we've received from authors (3/4)



Hi, I got a mail from the Chief Editor after the first round of revision saying that my paper is technically accepted, but needs language proofreading. However, after I got proofreading done and submitted the paper, the status changed to "under review" once again. I sent a mail to the Chief Editor after a week to understand if this status change is normal. Here's the Chief Editor's reply: "Thank you for your e-mail. You may rest assured that your revised article is progressing through our review process. There are some technical issues that are currently being reviewed. Please bear with this, and I expect to get back to you in early January with a decision." How should I interpret "There are some technical issues that are currently being reviewed"? Is this technical issue related to the system or my paper?

Some questions we've received from authors (4/4)

After I submitted my revised MS to the journal, a month and a half later the handling editor of my MS contacted me requesting to complete some minor revisions and resubmit but this time using email attachments and not through the online submission system as usual! I sent him the revisions using attachments and asked for an update about the status of my MS. Fifteen days later he answered me "that they received my final revised MS and it is now with the EiC for the final decision and I should wait for few days". Two days later the editor contacted me again asking me to check and correct the editorial proofreading of my MS, but with no clear information about acceptance or rejection. I checked the proof and returned it within few hours and now I am waiting. What is your assessment of the progress of my paper? Can the proofreading happen before acceptance? And what should I do in this case?!

P.S: On the online submission system of the journal the status for my manuscript still Under consideration by Editorial Office.



Recommendations

- Describe the submission and review process clearly in your instructions for authors
- Explain the different workflow statuses in author guidelines
- If possible, specify tentative time frames for each step
- Communicate clearly
- Communicate timely
- Specify next steps at every stage

Getting closer to your authors

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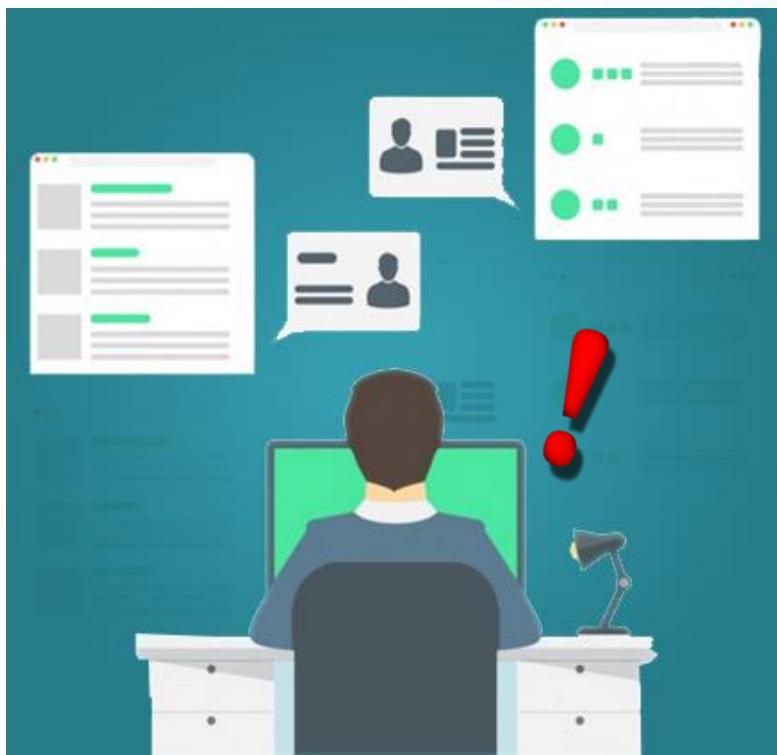


Case study (1/3)

An author (Author A) submitted his paper to a journal. The paper was accepted and published in the January issue of the journal. The journal offered the author a free print copy of the January and February issues.



Case study (2/3)



When he received the February issue, he was surprised to see his name on another article that he had not written. He immediately wrote to the journal to inform them about the error.

Meanwhile the article erroneously published under his name had already been cited on social media. The actual author (Author B) of the paper complained to the journal about plagiarism and intellectual property theft.

Case study (2/3)

The journal editor investigated the matter and realized that a new editorial assistant had worked on the February issue and had entered the wrong author name.



What would you do?

Case resolution

- The journal editors wrote to the actual author and the falsely credited author with an apology and an explanation of the error on their part
- The journal published an erratum online explaining the error, and corrected the article online within a day
- The subsequent print issue also contained the journal's formal apology and erratum
- The journal tagged the author on social media and issued a public apology
- Author B cleared allegations against author A on social media as well

Recommendations

When dealing with potential corrections/retractions...

- Protecting scientific integrity should be your first priority. Take responsibility for correcting errors in your published papers
- Ensure your instructions for authors state your policies and processes for issuing corrections or retractions
- When you become aware of an error, be polite but firm with the authors about the journal policies
- Protect the whistle blower
- In case of a potential retraction, keep the authors updated about the status of investigations
- In case of retractions, negotiate with authors to agree on the most acceptable wording of the retraction notice

Activity

Does your journal communicate well with your authors?

- Through instructions for authors
- Throughout the editorial decision-making process
- For corrections, resolutions, retractions

List down any areas of improvement

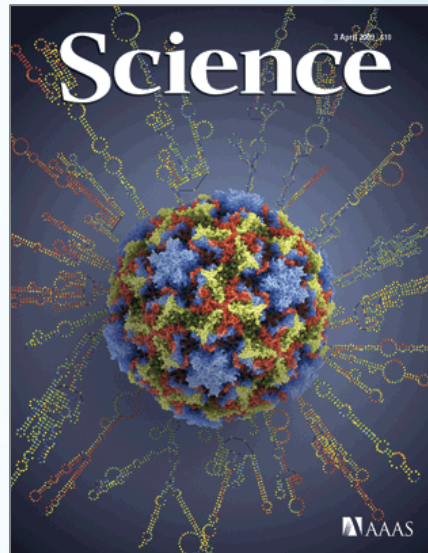
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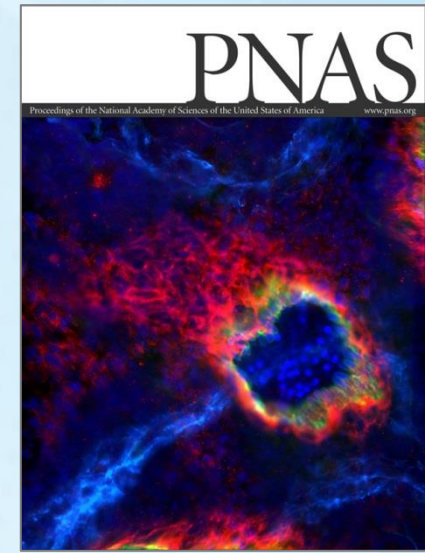
Percentage rejections without peer review



78%



74%



50%

An informal analysis (Scholarly Kitchen blog) of 18 journals showed varied rates of outright rejection, from 7% to 88%

Mean journal processing times (months) by discipline

-As per a study from Oct 2013

Discipline	Submission to first decision	Acceptance to publication	Submission to publication
Chemistry	4.73	4.18	8.91
Engineering	5.00	4.30	9.30
Biomedicine	4.65	4.82	9.47
Physics	5.21	5.72	10.93
Earth Science	5.74	5.96	11.70
Mathematics	8.20	5.11	13.30
Social Science	6.17	7.93	14.10
Arts and Letters	7.21	7.00	14.21
Business/Economics	10.75	6.96	17.70

One author's experience – paper on validation of genomic results (1/2)

Submitted to *Science*, rejected without review

Submitted on Oct 6, 2010

Rejected on Oct 18, 2010

Submitted to *Nature*, rejected without review

Submitted on Oct 20, 2010

Rejected Oct 28, 2010

Submitted to *Genome Biology*, rejected after review

Submitted on Nov 1, 2010

Rejected on Jan 5, 2011

Appealed to *Genome Biology*, appeal accepted

Appealed on Jan 10, 2011

Appeal accepted on Jan 20, 2011

Resubmitted to *Genome Biology*, rejected after review

Resubmitted on Jan 21, 2011

Rejected on Feb 25, 2011

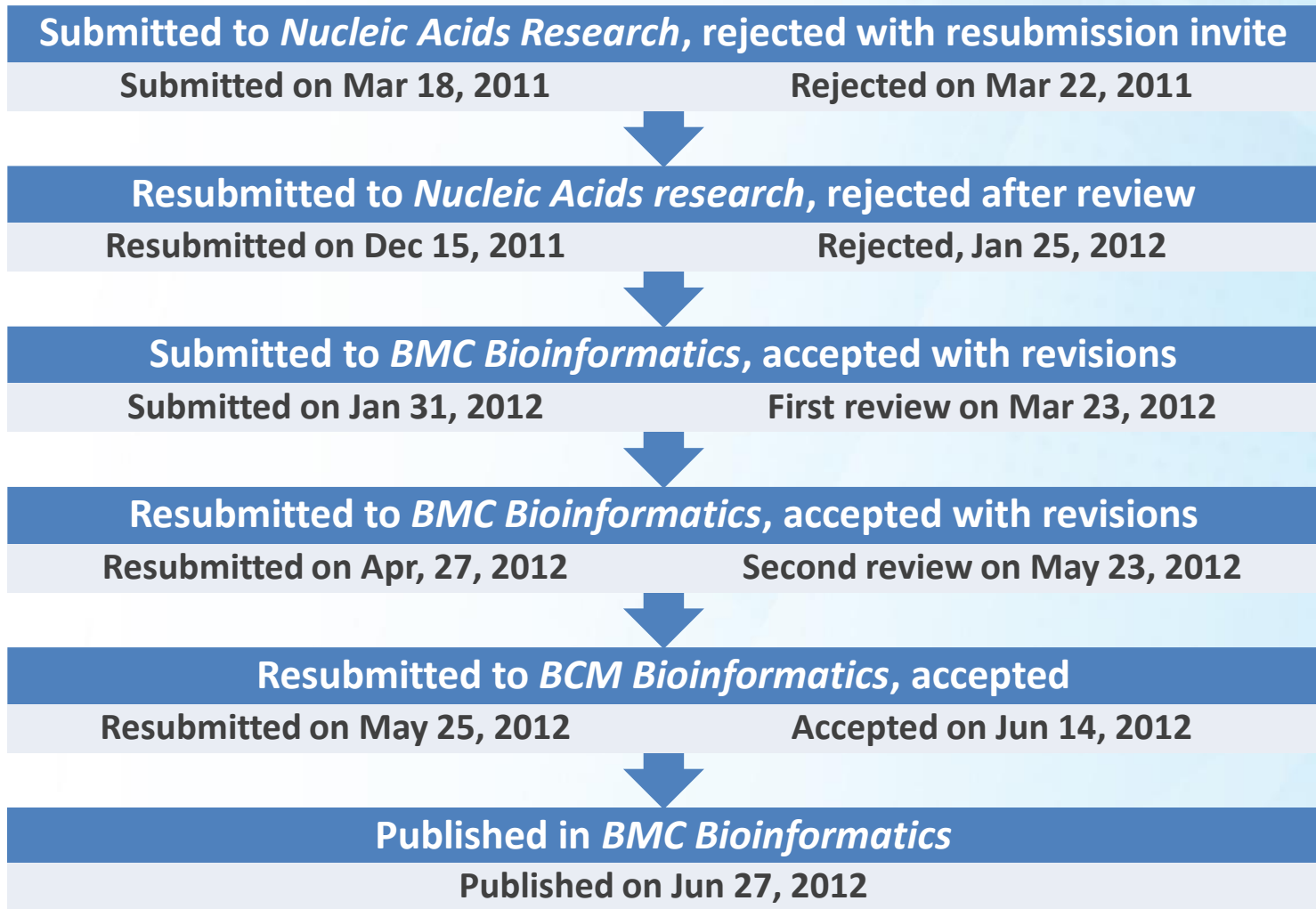
Submitted to *Bioinformatics*, rejected without review

Submitted on Mar 3, 2011

Rejected on Mar 13, 2011

2/3 referees thought the paper was interesting, few specific concerns raised

One author's experience – paper on validation of genomic results (2/2)



Other ongoing projects delayed resubmission

Factors affecting journal processing times

- Back and forth with authors for
 - Improperly formatted manuscripts
 - Incomplete/unclear author information
 - Incomplete submission package
- Time and effort spent on initial editorial triage and rejection without review
- Inefficiencies in submission and workflow systems
- Difficulties in finding appropriate and willing peer reviewers
- Reviewer time wasted on manuscripts with poor language and basic presentation issues
- Time taken to process files in different formats like Latex, XML, etc.

Are there solutions?

Many journals are reducing their processing times through

1. Process improvements
2. Author and journal support services
3. Technological integrations



Getting closer to your authors

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Innovations in the editorial screening and peer review process

- Less stringent editorial screening criteria →  **PLOS** | ONE
- Your Paper Your Way → 
ELSEVIER
- Post-publication peer review → 
F1000Research
OPEN SCIENCE • OPEN DATA • OPEN PEER REVIEW
- Cascading peer review →  **BioMed** Central
The Open Access Publisher
- Peer review templates for standardized format → 
**AMERICAN
JOURNAL OF
DENTISTRY**

Getting closer to your authors

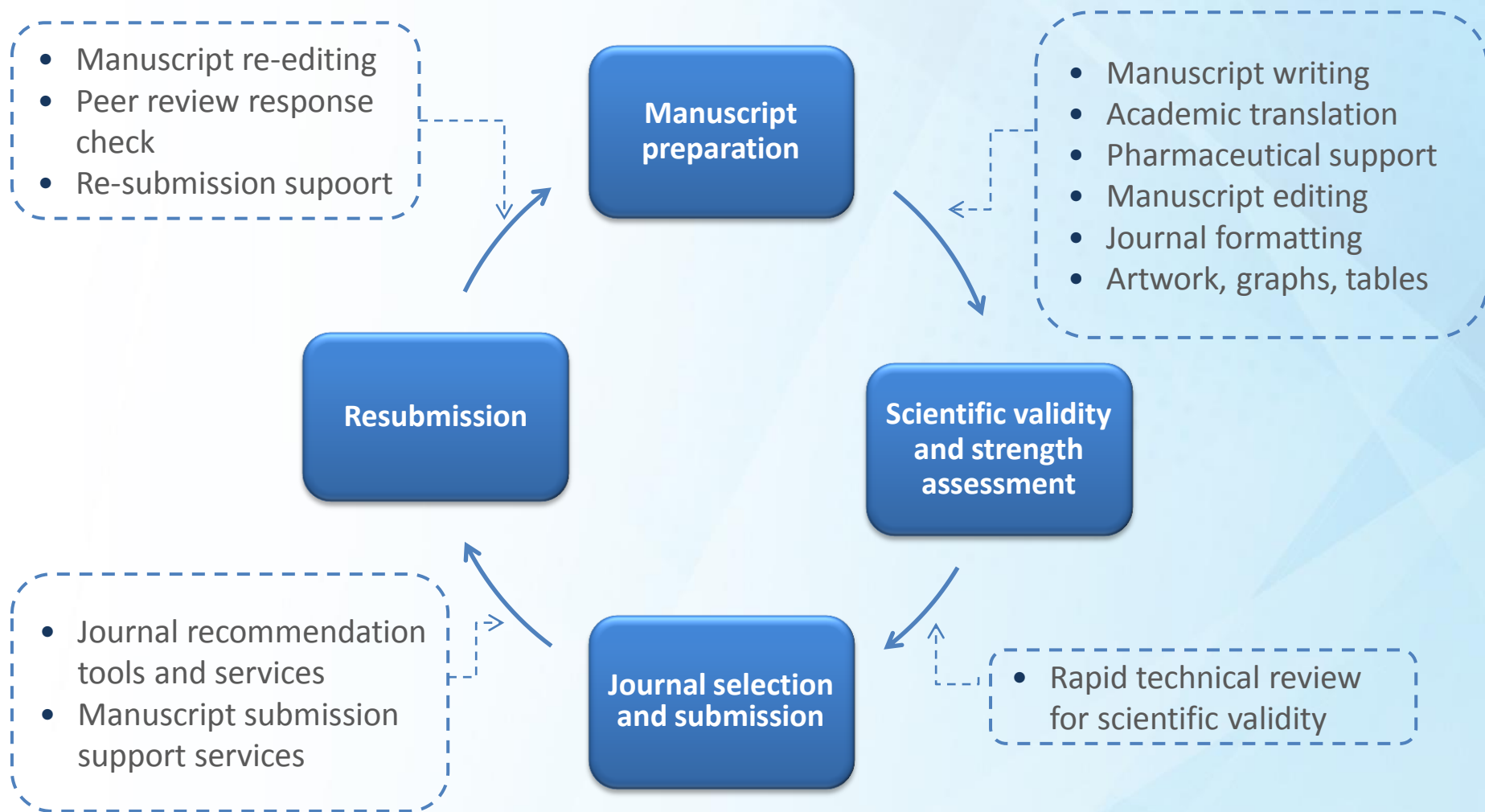
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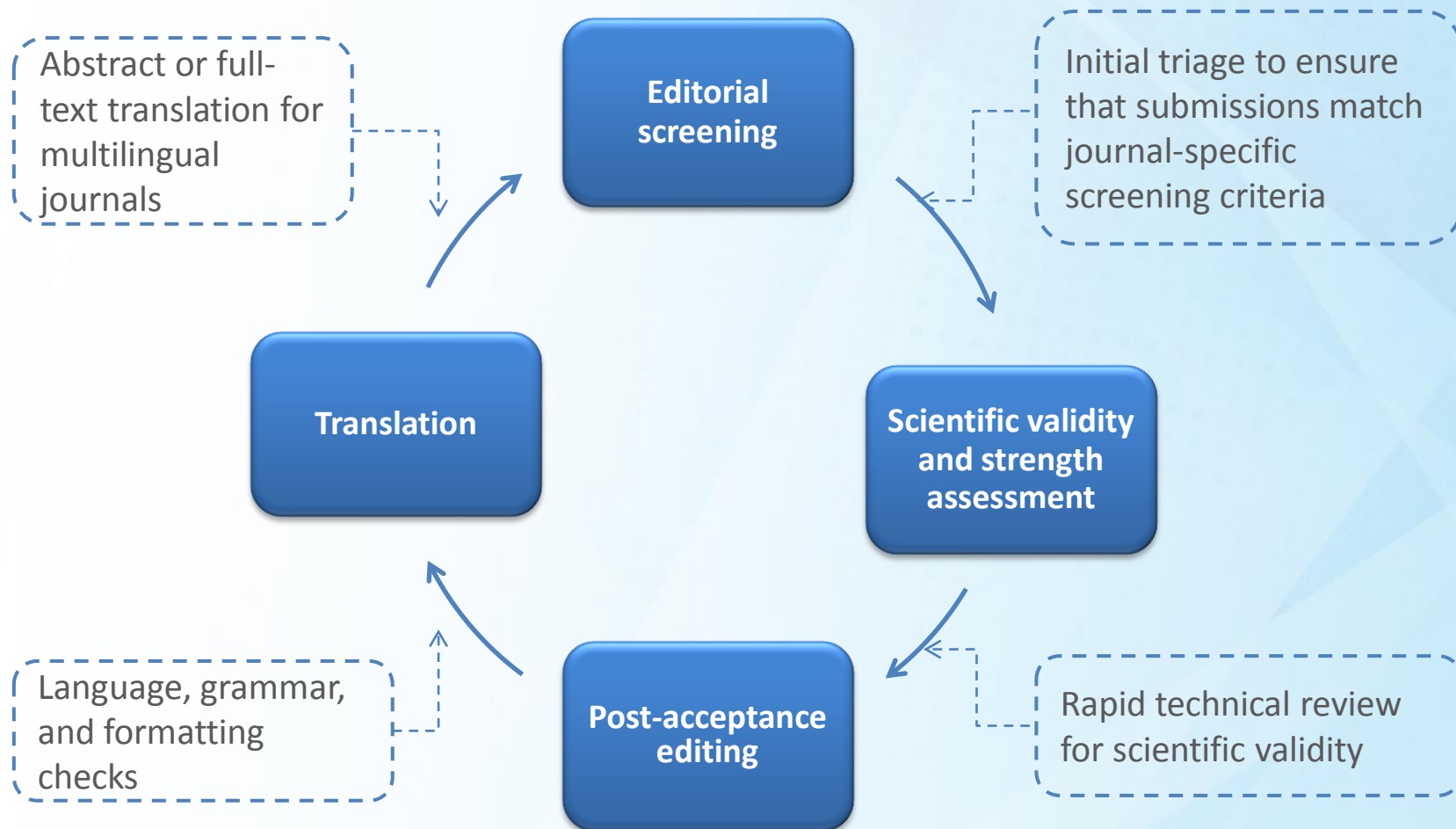
How some journals are using author and journal support services

- Directing authors to send their manuscript to these services for editing, technical review, etc. before journal submission
- Partnering with these vendors to offer their authors discounts on these services
- Outsourcing their own processes like editorial screening, post-acceptance editing, etc. to these services

Author services offered by Editage



Journal services offered by Editage



Editage rapid technical review template

TITLE, ABSTRACT, & KEYWORDS	
1. Does the title clearly describe the article?	
	Choose an item
Problem identified:	
Action recommended:	
Relevant manuscript text (optional):	
Nature of revision:	Double click to select from dropdown
2. Does the abstract clarify the study purpose and significance?	
	Choose an item
Problem identified:	
Action recommended:	
Relevant manuscript text (optional):	
Nature of revision:	Double click to select from dropdown

Reviewers categorize each change as essential-major, essential-minor, optional-major, and optional-minor


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 **Translation with Editing**
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To identify and resolve instances of accidental plagiarism

 **Artwork Preparation**
Impactful visual artwork that meets the journal's technical guidelines

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Premium Editing

Intensive language and structural editing of academic papers to increase chances of journal acceptance



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Getting closer to your authors

1. Improving communication with authors
- 2. Reducing article-processing times**
 - Process improvements
 - Author and journal support services
 - **Technological integrations**
3. Publication support and author education



Tools that are helping speed up journal workflows (1/3)

1. ORCID

- Offers free unique digital identifiers for researchers
- Automatically updates author's publication record
- Integrated into workflow systems of many journals
- System identifies author by ORCID and automatically pulls in publication record, affiliations, coauthor list, etc.

ORCID

Connecting Research
and Researchers

Tools that are helping speed up journal workflows (2/3)

2. Overleaf



- Online collaborative writing and publishing platform
- Supports complex formats like Latex and allows easy format conversion
- Allows users to prepare manuscripts in journal-specific templates
- Authors can submit updated versions through Overleaf, and journal system displays changes

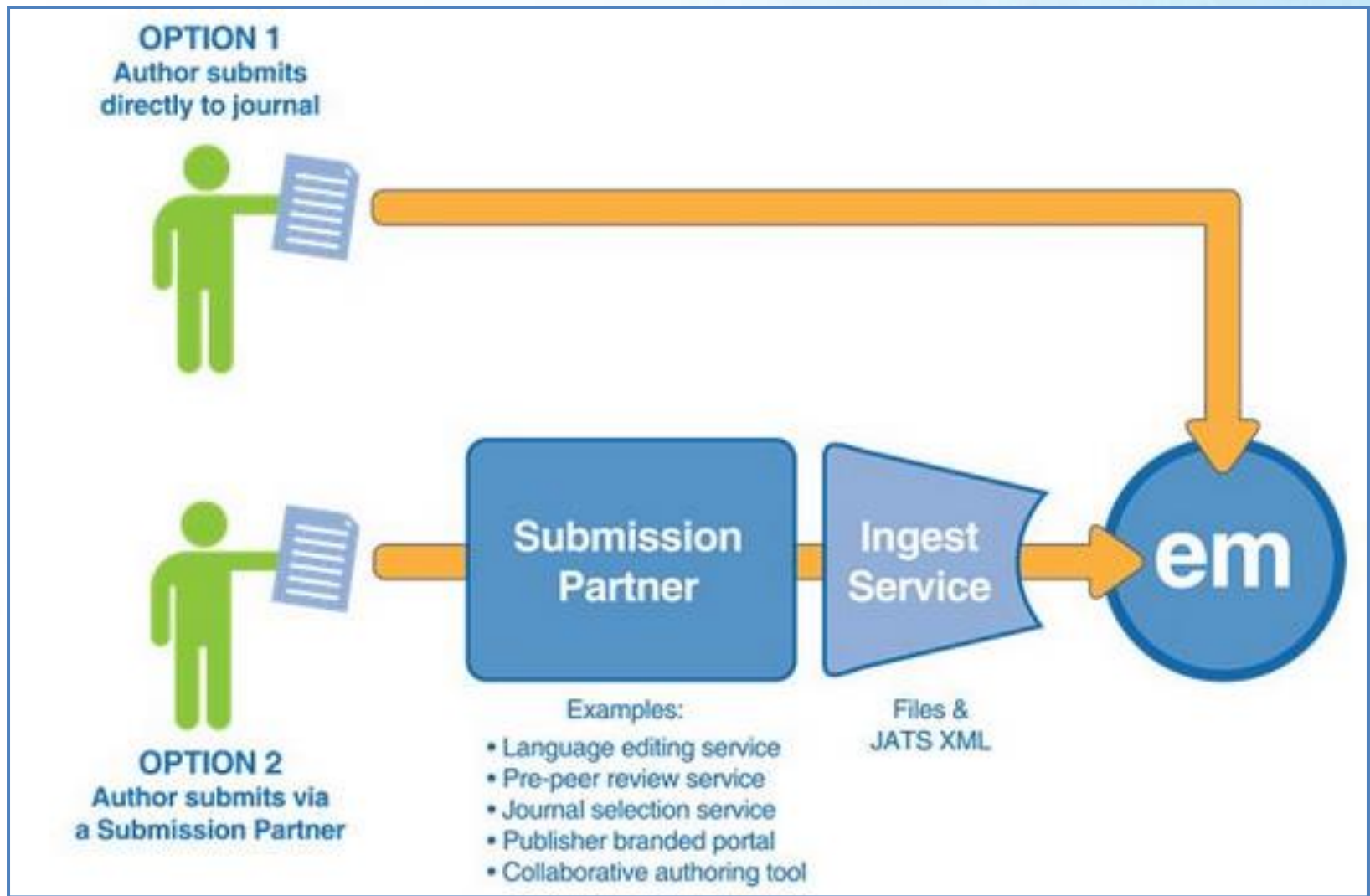
Tools that are helping speed up journal workflows (3/3)

3. Editorial Manager Ingest

- New feature of Editorial Manager workflow systems
- Allows authorized third-party author service providers (like Editage) to submit manuscripts on behalf of authors in a single click
- Files transferred along with all metadata in a standardized format



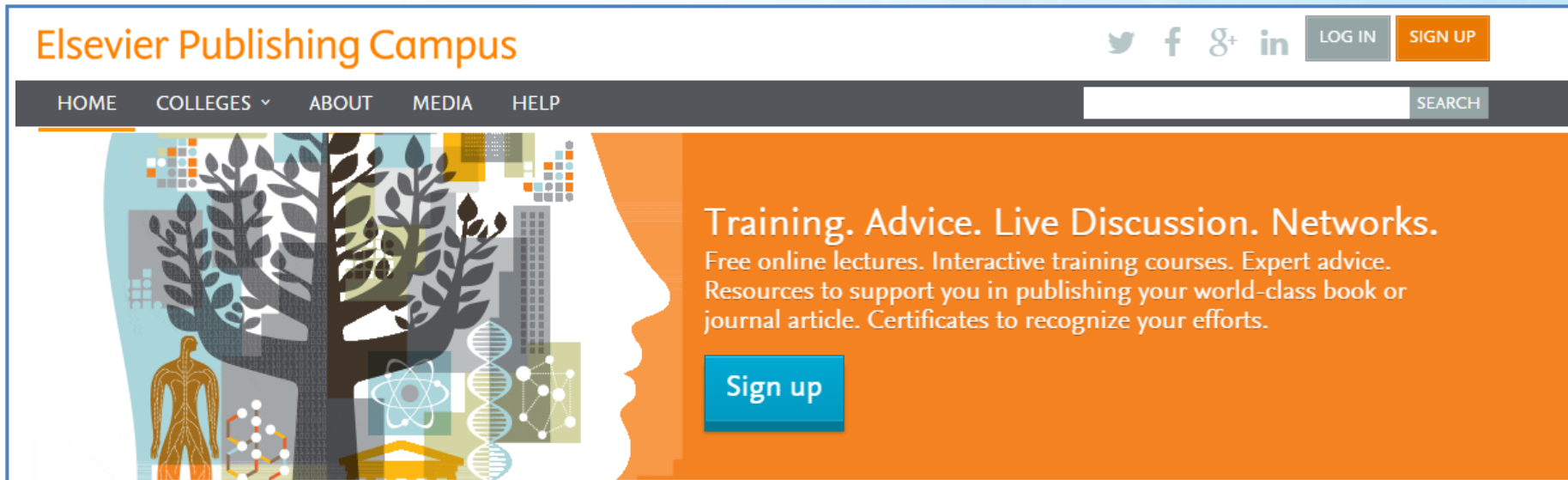
How Ingest works



In this section, we will talk about...

- Global research output trends and their impact on authors and editors
- Mismatch in the perspectives of authors and editors
- **Getting closer to your authors**
 - Improving communication with authors
 - Reducing article-processing times
 - **Publication support and author education**

Some publishers that are offering authors educational support



The banner for Elsevier Publishing Campus features a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'COLLEGES', 'ABOUT', 'MEDIA', and 'HELP'. It includes social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, Google+, and LinkedIn, along with 'LOG IN' and 'SIGN UP' buttons. A search bar is also present. The main content area has an orange background with a silhouette of a head profile. Inside the head, there is a collage of scientific and educational icons: a tree, a human figure, a DNA helix, a molecular structure, and a building. To the right of the head, the text reads: 'Training. Advice. Live Discussion. Networks. Free online lectures. Interactive training courses. Expert advice. Resources to support you in publishing your world-class book or journal article. Certificates to recognize your efforts.' A blue 'Sign up' button is located below this text.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

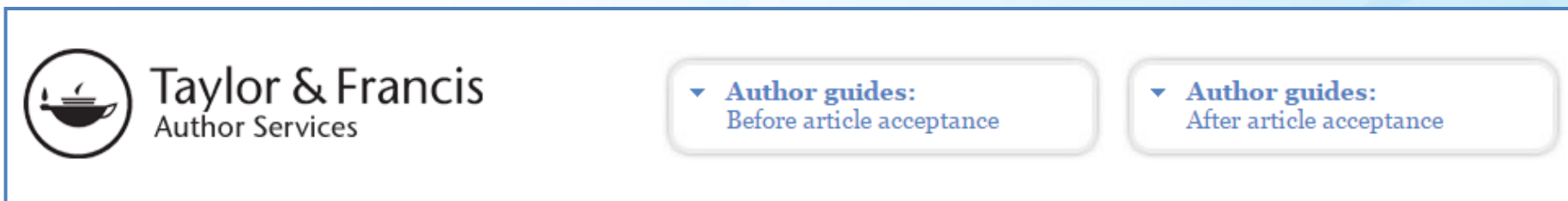
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journal article. Certificates to recognize your efforts.

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The Taylor & Francis banner features the publisher's logo on the left, which consists of a stylized oil lamp inside a circle. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'Taylor & Francis Author Services'. On the right side of the banner, there are two rounded rectangular buttons. The first button contains a downward-pointing triangle followed by the text 'Author guides: Before article acceptance'. The second button contains a downward-pointing triangle followed by the text 'Author guides: After article acceptance'.

Taylor & Francis
Author Services

Author guides:
Before article acceptance

Author guides:
After article acceptance

Some publishers using Editage Insights content (1/2)

The screenshot shows the Editage Insights website interface. At the top, the Wolters Kluwer logo is on the left and the Editage by CACTUS logo is on the right. A navigation bar contains links for Home, Editorial Services, Service Guarantee, Educational Resources, Open Access, Journals, and Order Now. The main content area is titled 'Featured Content' and includes several articles and videos. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Explore our Resources' and a 'Meet Dr Eddy' section. Below the featured content, there is a 'Manuscript Preparation' section with two articles.

Wolters Kluwer **editage** by CACTUS

Home » Educational Resources » Articles and Videos

Explore our Resources

- Manuscript Preparation
- Journal Publication Process
- Industry Hot Topics

Meet Dr Eddy

Dr. Eddy who represents the collective knowledge and expertise of Editage's team of publication experts, guides authors through the publication process and answers questions related to publishing, new trends in the industry, ethics, and beyond.

Featured Content

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Some publishers using Editage Insights content (1/2)


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By Kakoli Majumder
- Basic guidelines on using upper case versus lower case in scientific writing**
By Yateendra Joshi
- Quick tips on writing titles for tables and figures in scientific papers**
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ed|tage Insights
Resources for authors and journals

Editage Insights (1/2)

A one-stop resource that:

- Allows editors to talk directly to authors about journal processes in the authors' language
- Educates editors about the pain points of authors and the questions they are asking
- Offers authors learning and advice on all aspects of journal publishing and good publication practices
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Sample tutorials

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Sample video

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A textbook of anatomy and physiology¹ reports that the concentration of potassium ions inside of the cell is relatively high and...
(Source: B. Smith, Science, Vol. 11, PP. 15-20, 2000)

IDEA BY X. FINDINGS BY Y. METHOD BY K.
CONCEPT BY A. **MY IDEA** FINDING BY X.
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0:06 / 3:40

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Journal editors giving authors advice

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Dr. Eddy, who represents the collective knowledge and expertise of Editage's team of publication experts, guides authors through the publication process and answers questions related to publishing, new trends in the industry, ethics, and beyond. Send in your question to Dr. Eddy now.



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Workshops and webinars

Seminars on publication ethics

Osaka University, January 2014



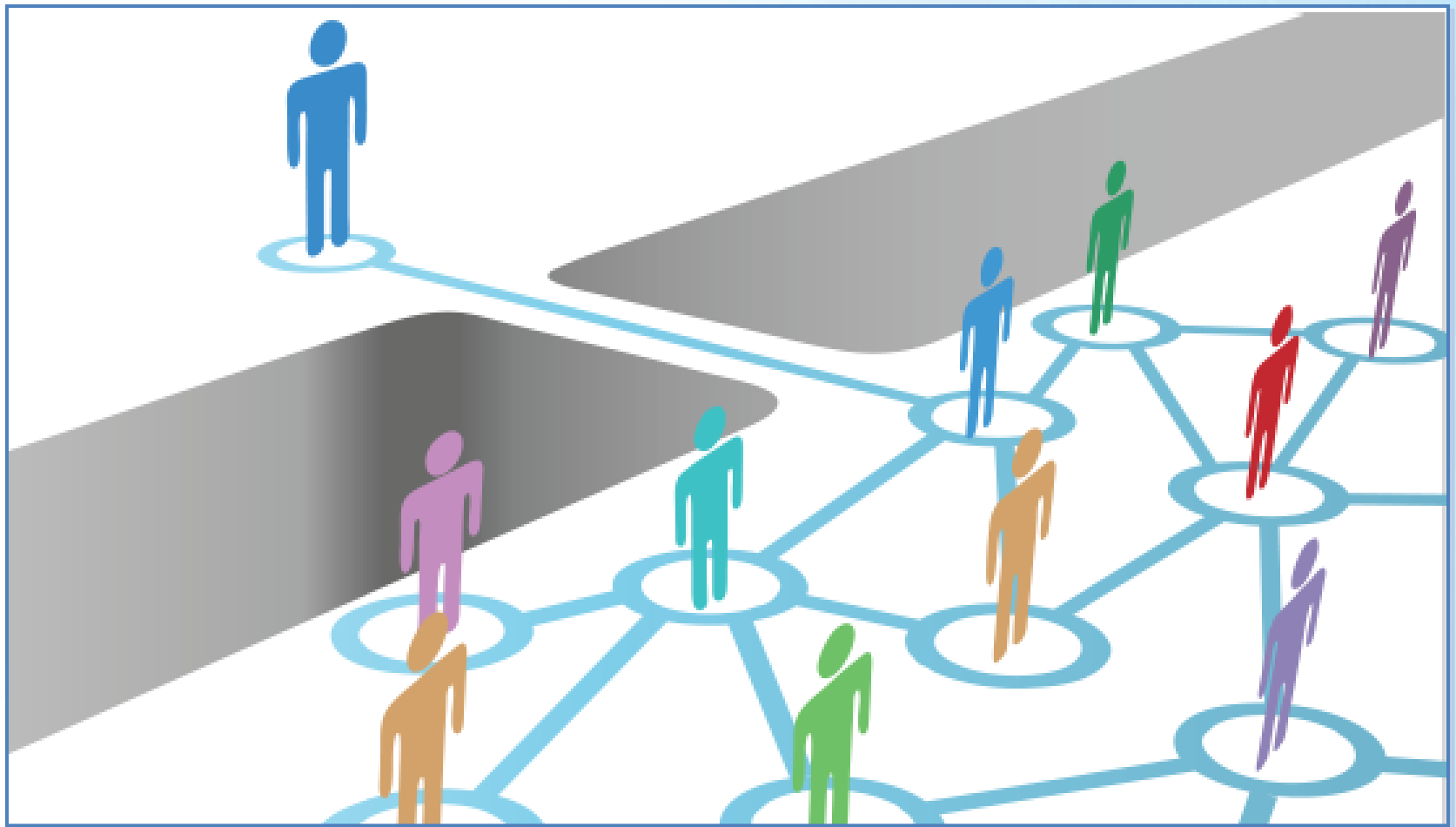
Keio University, January 2014



Points to remember

- Authors are at the center of your journal's success
- With open access and the author-pays publishing model, **the author is now your customer**
- Becoming more author centric will increase your reach and improve the quality of submissions

Get closer to your authors today!



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Questions



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