

Publishing and Editing Academic Journals in Asia

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Part Two Editing Scholarly Journals

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The Framework

- ☐ The Editor as Gatekeeper
- ☐ Editorial Responsibilities
- ☐ The Future

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Editors as Gatekeepers

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Stakeholders

- Editors serve three sets of stakeholders
 - ▣ Readers
 - ▣ Authors
 - ▣ Sponsoring organizations

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Readers

- Readers expect editors to select suitable articles
- Initial questions that editors ask:
 - ▣ Who will read this, and why?
 - ▣ What will a reader learn from the article?
 - ▣ Why does it matter?
 - ▣ Is this information easy to find?
- Each journal serves a primary or core group of readers
 - ▣ Editors understand their core readers and select articles for them
- Journals also serve a secondary group of readers
 - ▣ Editors ensure this group can understand the articles selected

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Readers

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- Why do scholars read academic publications
 - ▣ Not for fun
- They read to:
 - ▣ Keep up to date with the literature
 - ▣ Find questions and ideas to use for their own research
 - ▣ Find material useful for teaching
 - ▣ Expand their knowledge
- Readers want to know if an article is worth my time and effort to read it
 - ▣ Titles and Abstracts should provide the answer

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Readers

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- **Research** begins with questions
- **Writing** begins with answers
 1. Answers to questions of who, what, when, where: Information (facts)
 - Discovered through research
 2. Answers to questions of why and how: Explanations (arguments; claims)
 - The results of analysis
 3. Interpretations
 - Implications and significance
- Readers need to see these point clearly, and editors should identify them

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Authors

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- Authors want:
 - ▣ Communication with an editor
 - Explanation of the review process
 - Explanation of how to present information and explanations in ways that readers expect
 - For example, how to define issues, develop research questions, deal with the literature, present arguments
 - ▣ Prompt processing of submissions
 - ▣ Useful feedback
 - ▣ Copy editing
 - ▣ Effective distribution of their work
 - ▣ Archiving to ensure future availability

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Journal Sponsors

- Journal sponsors want:
 - ▣ Publications with integrity (to protect ehri reputations)
 - ▣ Contributions to knowledge
 - ▣ Enough readers to justify ongoing support
 - ▣ Sufficient Income to cover costs
 - ▣ In some cases, profit

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Editorial Responsibilities

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Editorial Responsibilities

Preliminary

- Prepare a Mission Statement
 - ▣ What is the purpose of the journal?
 - ▣ What is the intended audience?
- Set Boundaries
 - ▣ What does the journal cover?
 - ▣ What does the journal not cover?
- This information should be available on a web page and in the journal

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Editorial Responsibilities

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Preliminary

- Prepare and update the following forms
 - Guidelines For Authors
 - Guidelines For Referees
 - Author Information Sheets
 - Agreements to Publish
 - A Style Sheet explaining the house style
- Record and track submissions
- Arrange procedures for processing manuscripts

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Editorial Responsibilities

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Preliminary Screening □ Handle Peer Review □ Supervise Revisions □ Handle Copy Editing □ Arrange Layout □ Proofread □ Prepare front matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Prepare a cover □ Use high resolution final version to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Upload digital copies □ Print hard copies □ Distribute print copies □ Archive the Version of Record
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Editorial Responsibilities

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- Preliminary Screening
 - Does the submission potentially fit the journal?
 - Should it be sent out for Peer Review
- Peer Review
 - Standard: Minimum of two reviews per article
 - Avoid conflicts of interest
 - Decide whether to use double- or single-blind reviews?
 - Send guidelines to reviewers
 - Evaluate reports
 - How much weight to give the reports
 - Decide what recommendations to send to the author

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Editorial Responsibilities

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- Check the MS for copyright violations
 - ▢ Most authors don't understand copyright
 - ▢ Traditional and Creative Commons
- Revise and Resubmit
 - ▢ Nearly all submissions will require revisions
 - ▢ Send referees' reports (or excerpts) to the author
 - ▢ Explain what changes you consider essential
 - ▢ Review revised version when it is resubmitted
- Handle or supervise copy editing
 - ▢ Bring manuscripts in line with the journal's House Style
 - ▢ Check that references are complete
 - ▢ Deal with unclear points, confusing language

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Editorial Responsibilities

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- Finalize manuscripts and send for layout
- Proofread
 - ▢ Check the layout and send it to the Author for checking
 - ▢ Send corrections to the person handling layout
 - ▢ Review corrections after they are made
- Prepare front matter
 - ▢ Template for title page, publishing information
 - ▢ Table of Contents
- Prepare the cover

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Editorial Responsibilities

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- Receive high resolution pdfs from layout
 - ▢ Without trim marks for online versions
 - ▢ With trim marks for printed versions
- Publish the journal
 - ▢ Upload online version
 - ▢ Send pdf to printer for print version
- Deposit Version of Record
- Archive the Version of Record for long term availability
- Send copies of their articles to authors

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The Future

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Persistent Identifiers

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- Persistent Identifiers are becoming increasingly important internationally
 - ▣ For Journals: ISSN (usually supplied by a national library or similar agency)
 - ▣ For Articles: doi - Digital Object Identifier (supplied by publishers)
 - ▣ For Authors: ORCID [Open Researcher and Contributor ID] – Authors apply personally at <https://orcid.org/>

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Artificial Intelligence

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- In 2024 scholars can translate material from languages they can't read
- Students can prepare essays on topics they haven't studied
- Lengthy or complex texts can be summarized
- AI can copy-edit texts
- If AI provides new ways to access, distribute, and analyze research data, academic publishing might be completely transformed

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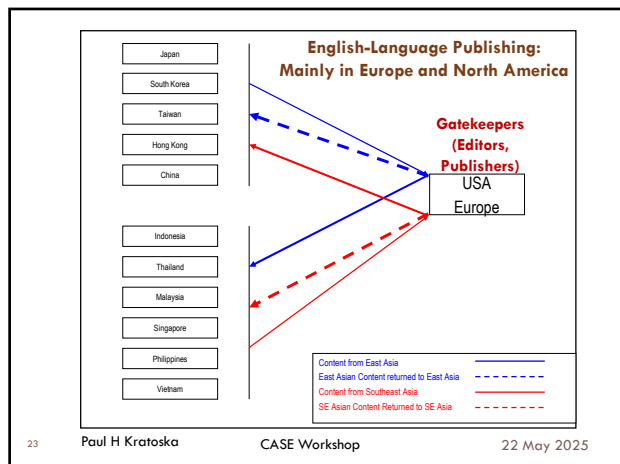
Readership

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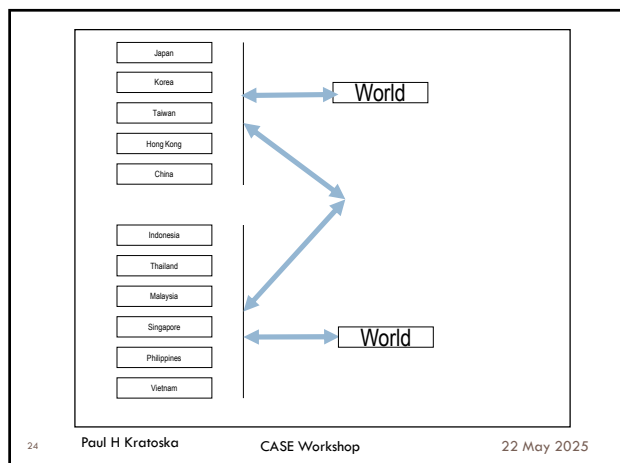
- Major journals filter research according to the interests of international readers
- Authors send articles of local concern to international journals under pressure from universities
- Much Asian research fails to reach other Asian countries
- The next slide outlines the current situation
- The second slide suggests an alternative

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Thank You

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