

The roles of the Journal Editor and Publisher in the digital age

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The current climate of journal publishing is one of relentless pressure on academics to publish, resulting in exploding submission rates and matching rejection rates, and ever-heavier demands on editors, reviewers, and journal management. In the days before international peer-reviewed journals went to online submissions and predominantly automated handling, the Author submitting an article could expect to (eventually) get a letter from a journal editor or her/his delegate. This in itself was a 'human touch', but it also was an opportunity for the editor to convey to the author(s) an overall sense of what would be most helpful to focus on in a revision. Now that most journals have moved exclusively to online submission and manuscript handling, how has the author-editor relationship been affected? Liz Hamp-Lyons will discuss how journal editors can maintain the human face of article publishing even in such difficult times.

Chris Tancock, the Publisher for Elsevier's language & linguistics portfolio, will describe ways in which publishers like Elsevier are aiming to provide authors with tools to help them manage their article submission workflow and achieve the recognition their work deserves in the most effective manner. Authors and their institutions nowadays need and expect greater flexibility with regards to publishing. These needs include increasing expectation of (and often requirement for) open access publication and other means of sharing one's articles as widely as possible. But because rejection rates are typically between 70-95%, some would-be authors have tried inappropriate strategies in desperate attempts to get published. Tancock describes some of the ways Elsevier is handling such issues and offers advice to authors for how to promote oneself and one's work within best ethical practice for becoming published.

Biodata

Liz Hamp-Lyons, former Chair Professor of English at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, is now a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Research in English Language Learning and Assessment at the University of Bedfordshire (CRELLA). Her research focuses on speaking and writing assessments, particularly in academic contexts. She is a former Editor of the *English for Specific Purposes* journal, the Chief Editor of *Assessing Writing*, and the founding Editor of the *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*. She is an active participant in COPE (Council on Publication Ethics).

Christopher Tancock has ten years' experience in STM publishing. He joined Elsevier in 2006, initially managing social science book projects before moving to journals. He is now Senior Publisher for linguistics, managing some 16 journals including the prestigious 'Journal of Pragmatics', 'Lingua' and 'Journal of English for Academic Purposes'. He has degrees in European

studies and linguistics and is based in the Oxford, UK office. In his "spare" time, he manages the Oxford City Division of St John Ambulance and is qualified as a Patient Transport Attendant.