

My life as an editor - Clarinda Cerejo



I started working as an author's editor in 2006, with Editage, Cactus Communications, a company that provides language editing and publication support services to authors and journals. After a rigorous induction programme at Editage, I began to edit biomedical manuscripts. Each manuscript offered me a unique opportunity to learn something new about science and language, and I thrived on the constant development my work afforded me. Working with authors was also very rewarding as it gave me deep insight into how non-native-English-speaking authors involved in ground-breaking research studies struggle to communicate their results to the global scientific community. It made me feel both proud and humbled to think that, by helping such authors get their work published in international journals, I could be contributing in a small way to the progress of science. Over my tenure of almost eight years at Editage, I have been responsible for editorial training, manuscript quality assessment, editorial research and publications, and author education. During my stint as a trainer, where I was responsible for initiating junior editors and educating them about the publication process, I realized that to achieve high-quality publications, editors need to understand the authors' specific requirements and authors in turn need to be educated about good publication practice.

This understanding prompted me to delve deeper into author education and lead new initiatives towards this end at Editage. I am currently the Editor-in-Chief of Editage Insights (www.editage.com/insights), our comprehensive learning and discussion platform for authors and editors. Editage Insights is available in English, Simplified Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, and its primary objective is to educate authors, keep them abreast of new developments in

scholarly publishing, and help them connect with journal editors and other experts in the publishing industry. I also lead the Scholarly Communications team at Editage, whose primary objective is to understand new developments in the academic publishing industry; engage in discussion with pioneers in the field; and share research findings through posters, conference presentations, and journal papers.

As a researcher, I have explored challenges authors face in the publication process and how journal editors perceive these challenges. I have looked into how journal instructions for authors can be made clearer and easier for authors to follow. I have also studied new models of editing and how author's editors might be able to expedite peer review by fixing some critical issues before submission.

Since my research relates to scholarly publishing, I have published papers in industry journals such as *Learned Publishing* and *Science Editor* (details on my ORCID profile). I have also published a couple of meeting reports in *European Science Editing* and presented posters at annual meetings of the Council of Science Editors and the European Association of Science Editors (EASE).

Journals like *European Science Editing* and *Learned Publishing* offer a treasure trove of information relevant to academic publishing and help readers get a consolidated perspective on urgent issues in the field, such as open access and peer review. My papers are read by other editors and members of societies related to academic publishing. I believe society journals and academic meetings are the best way to share knowledge, opinions, and research findings with like-minded professionals. At the EASE meeting in Split in June 2014, I presented a talk at the session on professional development for editors and a poster on author education strategies.

Apart from these channels, the platform I manage, *Editage Insights*, is a useful resource for journal editors, allowing them to connect with authors and engage in discussion with other editors about various new developments in academic publishing. Editors are welcome to contribute articles as guest authors or provide interviews on *Editage Insights* to share their knowledge and experience with authors and other editors. I believe that, through platforms such as these, editors can benefit tremendously from exchange of information with authors and other editors.

I always advise editors to keep the author at the centre of everything they do. Whatever frustrations editors may encounter, they should bear in mind that the road has been a lot more arduous for their authors.

Editors, engage your authors and build strong relationships with them! This will help make an already great job even more enjoyable and satisfying.