


2017 CSE Annual Meeting
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Author perspectives on what's broken in the academic publishing process

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EdItage / Cactus Communications



Have you seen the news?

Is the Peer Review Process for Scientific Papers Broken?
NATURE | RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS: SOCIAL SELECTION
Online debate erupts to ask: is science broken?
Panel discussion about the shortcomings of science sparks chatter about possible remedies.

LSE Impact Blog
Scholarly publishing is broken: Is it time to consider guerrilla self-publishing?
Opinion: Academic Publishing Is Broken

THE CONVERSATION
The scientific publishing culture is broken - can it be rescued?
Academic research publishing is a broken system that needs to be fixed



Let's begin with some facts for perspective...

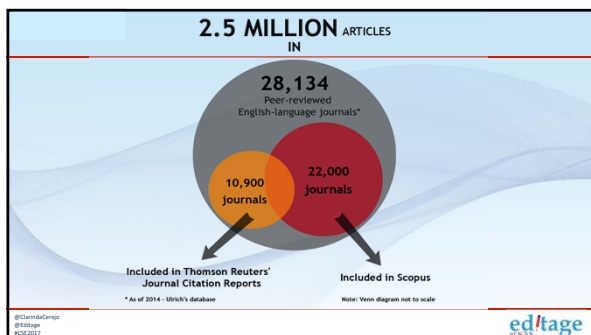
EVERY YEAR

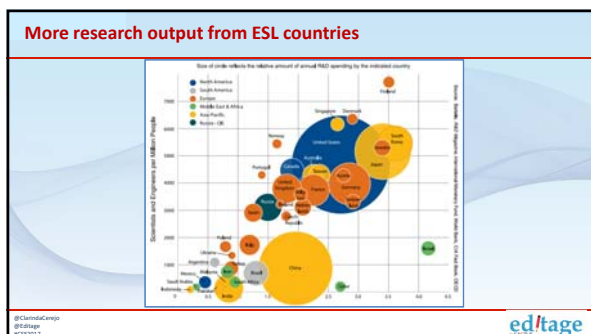
ABOUT **8 MILLION** RESEARCHERS
8,000,000

PUBLISH

2.5 MILLION ARTICLES
2,500,000







Previously identified gap in perspectives between authors and editors

Authors think...

- They understand publication ethics and do the best they can to adhere to standard guidelines
- They address and respond carefully to all peer reviewer comments
- Journal instructions for authors are often incomplete and unclear

Editors think...


- Authors don't realize the importance of publication ethics
- Authors only address the peer reviewer comments they find agreeable
- Journal instructions for authors are generally clear and complete

From: C. Cerjio. International journal editors and East Asian authors: two surveys. *Learned Publishing* 27(1): 63-75.

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This causes a lot of pressure...

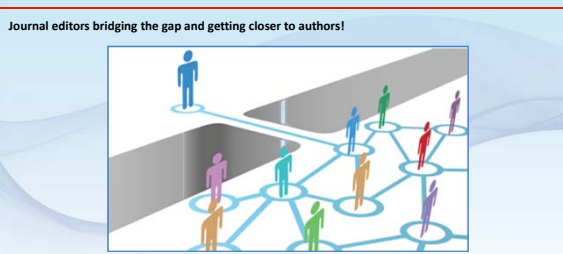
For authors And for journal editors



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What would ease up the pressure a bit?

Journal editors bridging the gap and getting closer to authors!



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So we asked authors globally for their opinions

- Ongoing survey by **EdItage Insights**, a global learning and resource platform for researchers
- Survey being run in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Portuguese

Seeking authors' opinions on all aspects of the journal publication process

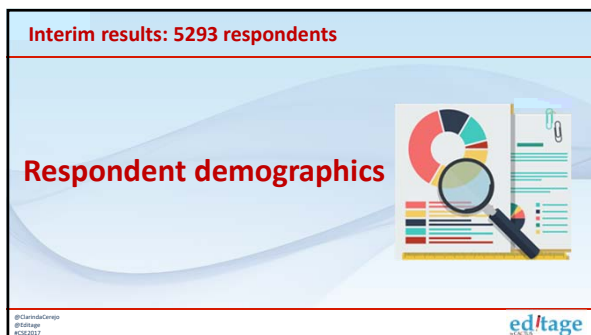


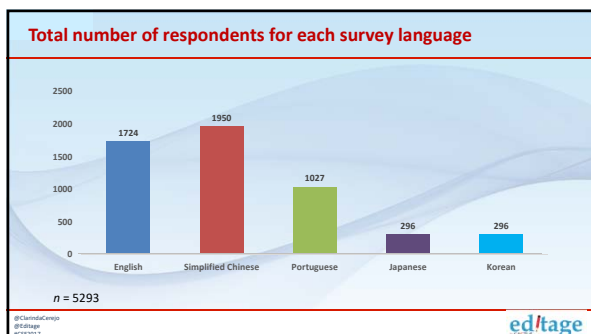
- Manuscript preparation
- Journal selection
- Journal processes
- Peer review
- Open access
- Publication ethics

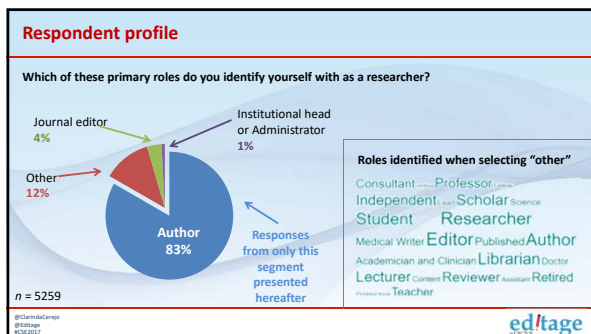
Supported by the industry

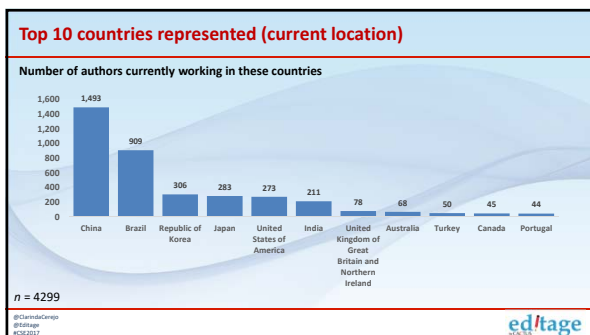


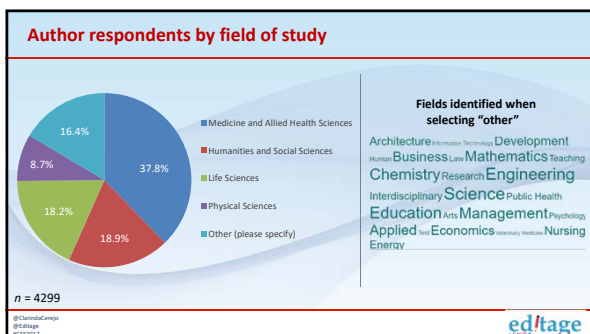
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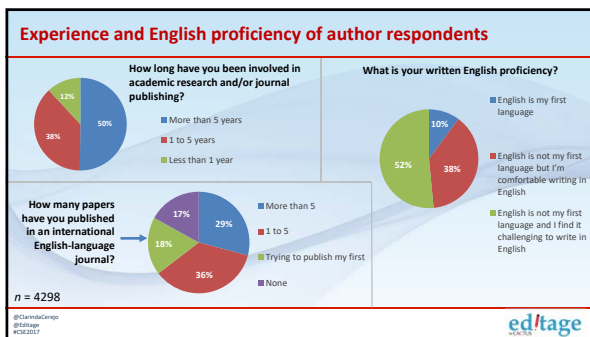




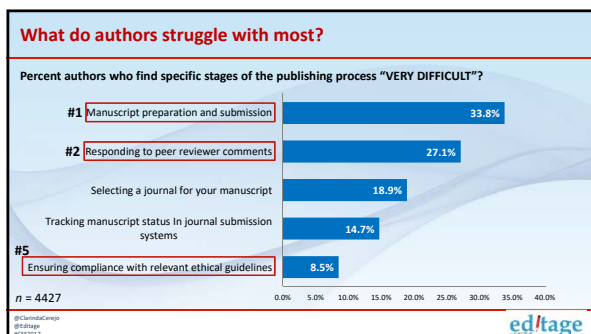


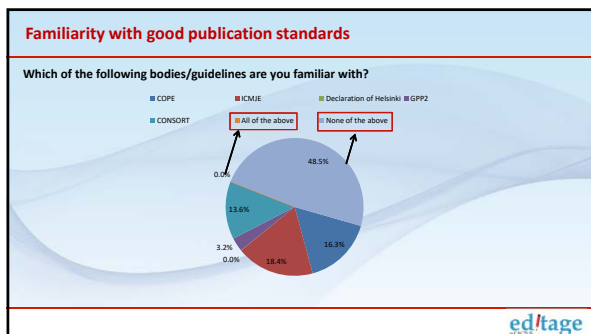


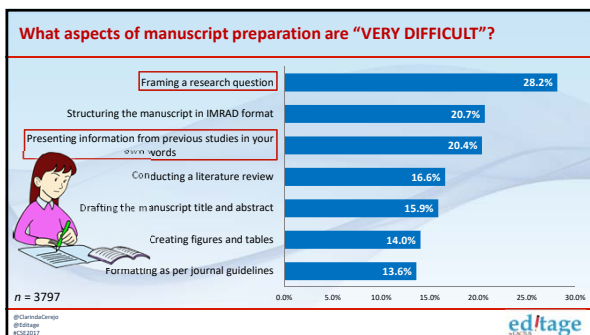


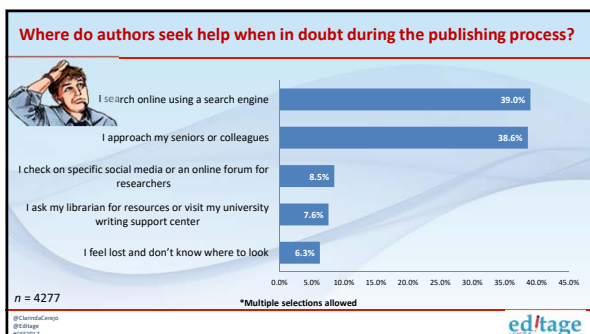












Perspective-based questions for authors

I think...

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How do authors choose a journal for their manuscript?

Factors considered, ranked from most important (1) to least important (7)

- 1 The journal should have a **high impact factor** for my field
- 2 The journal should have published **similar papers**
- 3 The journal should offer a **short time-to-publication** or have a rapid publication option
- 4 My **colleagues and seniors** should be reading the journal regularly
- 5 The journal should have a clear and professional-looking **website**
- 6 The journal should be **open access** or have an open access publishing option
- 7 The journal's **submission process and charges** should be clearly mentioned on its website

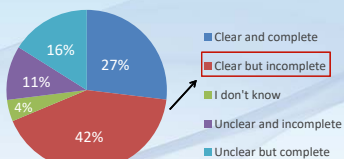
n = 3876

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Perspectives on journal instructions for authors

In general, how well do you think journal guidelines for authors are framed?



n = 3799

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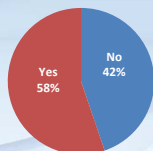


Perspectives on open access publication

Have you ever published in an open access journal, or chosen to make your paper open access in a subscription-based journal?

Reasons for publishing open access (% respondents)*

- Increase research reach (34.3%)
- Coincidence (29.5%)
- Preference for OA (15.3%)
- Publication guarantee by the journal (13.6%)
- Institutional/funding body mandate (7.3%)



Reasons for not publishing open access (% respondents)*

- Coincidence (34.3%)
- Affordability (29.5%)
- Lack of understanding (15.3%)
- Mistrust in quality of OA journals (13.6%)
- No adequate benefits of OA seen (7.3%)

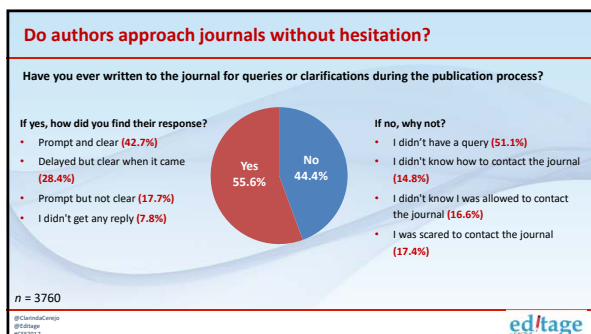
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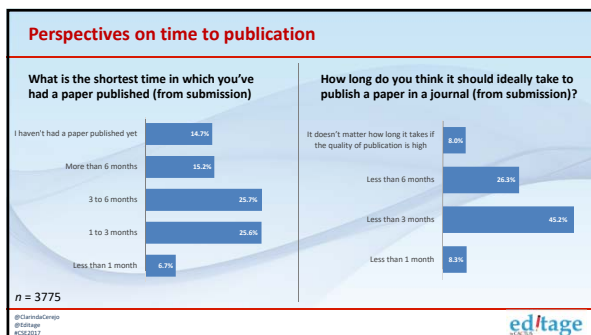


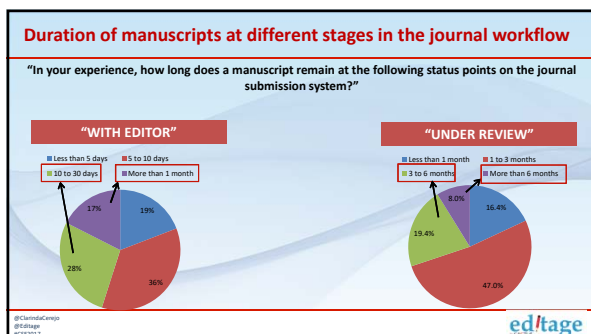
*Multiple selections allowed

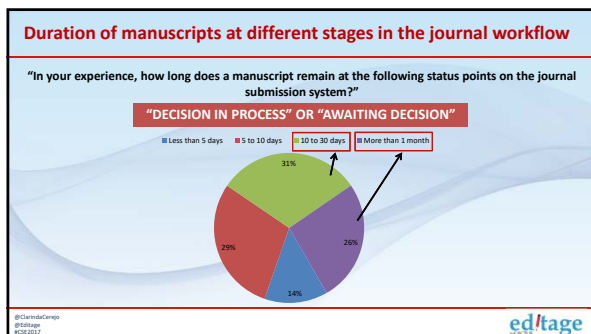













The verdict...



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What aspects of journal publishing do authors want changed?

Would you like to change something in the publishing system?

Yes (check my comments below) 51.7%

No, I am satisfied with the system 48.3%

n = 3712

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What aspects of journal publishing do authors want changed?

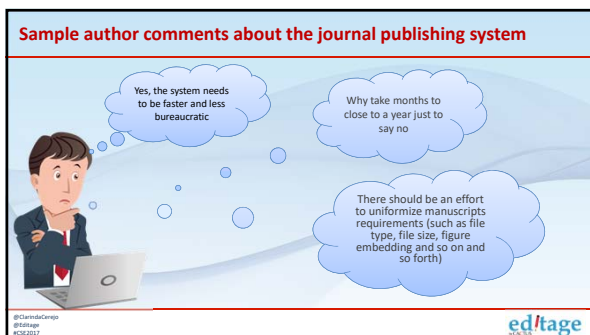
Main pain points and author-suggested areas of improvement

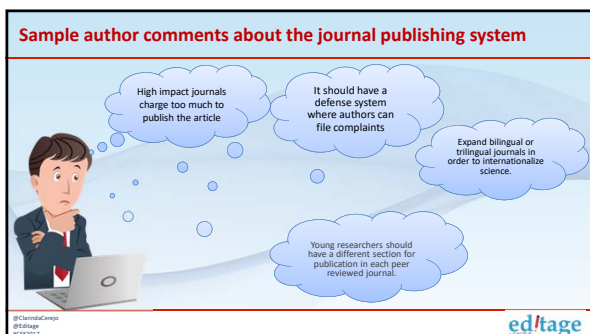


- 1 Time to publication
- 2 Peer review process/quality
- 3 Fairness/objectivity/bias
- 4 Affordability (costs/charges)
- 5 Pressure to publish
- 6 Process standardization

n = 3712

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Key takeaway... There's a lot that's broken!

Let's begin by fixing the basics!

1. Reduce time to publication
2. Increase transparency in peer review
3. Eliminate bias
4. Communicate effectively with authors
5. Create new opportunities for young researchers
6. Offer learning resources



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Get involved!

Participate in the Editage Insights survey and share it with your authors!



<https://www.editage.com/survey-author-perspectives-on-academic-publishing>



Question Period / Open Discussion

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