

Global Publishing Partnerships: Where in the World Do You Fit In?

Moderator:

Adrian Stanley
The Charlesworth Group
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Speakers:

Mauricio Rocha e Silva
Clinics
São Paulo University Medical College
São Paulo, Brazil

YAN Shuai
Beijing Forestry University
Beijing, China

Ana Marusic
Croatian Medical Journal
Zagreb, Croatia

Reporter:

Emmanuel Ameh
Annals of African Medicine
Zaria, Nigeria

Adrian Stanley, chief operations officer of the Charlesworth Group, introduced the session, stating that the Internet in the modern world breaks down barriers and opens up opportunities and partnerships. He noted that foreign authors contribute up to 70% of articles in some US journals. He also noted that editorial practices differ around the world and that it is important to understand other cultures and see things from different perspectives. International collaboration affords the chance to offer input, raise relevant questions, and share knowledge and experiences.

Mauricio Rocha e Silva spoke from the Latin American perspective based on experience with the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO). He raised the

question of whether there was reason for hope in science publishing in the third world; his answer was yes for Latin America, mainly because of the efforts of SciELO. Initially, there was a problem with the indexing of Latin American journals by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), and citation rates for papers published in these journals were low. Understandably, most Brazilian authors published their best papers in indexed journals outside the region. It was impossible to read Latin American journals, even in Latin America. SciELO was established in 1997 and has indexed 279 Latin American journals on the basis of PubMed rules. In 1999-2000, PubMed created a link to SciELO; every SciELO-indexed journal can now be downloaded and read anywhere in the world. With the SciELO-PubMed partnership, Latin American journals have become more visible, editorial quality and peer review have improved, and the author base has broadened. However, it remains difficult to persuade Brazilian authors to publish in SciELO journals. The speaker observed that ISI appears biased toward English-language journals and suggested more association of the first world with third-world journals to improve ISI indexing.

YAN Shuai, director of journal publishing at his university, brought a Chinese perspective based on experience with Chinese natural-science journals. Publishing in English is a problem, and journals are owned and published by universities. Authors are postgraduate students or faculty and are published only in their university's journal. Publication of English abstracts is necessary for visibility and indexing in Western countries. There has

been collaboration with the Charlesworth Group in the publication and distribution of Chinese journals; some are now indexed in the *Science Citation Index*, and Chinese journals make up about 40% of journals indexed by Engineering Information.

An Eastern European perspective was provided by Ana Marusic, editor-in-chief of the *Croatian Medical Journal*. She pointed out that the problems she faces are those of a small scientific community—small journals and a vicious circle of inadequacy. Much has been done to improve the journal, and the journal has benefited from involvement with such organizations as the European Association of Science Editors, CSE, the World Association of Medical Editors, and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and from collaborations with journals, including *The Lancet*, *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, *BMJ*, and *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Her journal is now indexed in PubMed/MEDLINE and PubMed Central and had an impact factor of 0.7 in 2004. Authorship has increased, and up to 50% of contributors are from outside Croatia. Marusic noted that collaboration is important for small journals and that journals need to focus on publishing good papers, increasing visibility, educating the academic community, and doing research on publishing.

It was concluded that there is a need to encourage collaboration and partnership to build a truly global scientific publishing community. CSE is helping in this effort. Already, partnerships between some African journals and first-world journals are making good progress. 