

Scholarly publishing*

A workshop on scientific publishing was held recently.

Nikil Ranjan Das (University of Calcutta) said that publication is an important issue for academic professionals. Quality of work, writing, English, etc. are all essential components of a quality publication. Impact factor (IF) is another significant parameter for ascertaining the quality of publication, but it varies from subject to subject. Neither the number of publications nor IF is the only important factor; rather the quality of publication is the most important factor. And this can be achieved by taking care of the content and perfection of the manuscript. He also said that plagiarism is a deadly disease spreading these days. Shortcut routes to publish should be avoided. Our target should always be to publish our work in quality journals where peer review process is undertaken for all submitted articles.

Asutosh Bose (University of Calcutta) said that students need training for learning proper writing of their research findings. The most important factor is that a manuscript should be such that there is increased probability of its acceptance and publication in a good journal to properly highlight the new findings.

Aninda Bose (Springer) spoke on how to write and publish scholarly articles. He said that writing scientific articles is a lot different from writing other articles. It is actually technical writing. Researchers have to learn to write and communicate their findings. According to him, fabrication of data and falsification are the most serious crimes in publication. Plagiarism is no less. Curiosity and tenacity are the two most important qualities in a researcher that makes him different from the common masses. Research is considered complete only when it is published and it has to be in international language, i.e. English, so that re-

searchers from all around the world can come to know about the findings. English for writing research papers should be simple, easy and should not be ornamental. He further mentioned that science communication to the common masses about the new happenings and findings of researchers is also an important aspect. He explained the concept of 'publish or perish'; publication popularizes the new findings and people come to know about them; this opens up ways for collaboration and even receiving funds. He said that maximum rejection of articles occurs due to the fact that the work does not suit the aim and scope of a journal. So we should carefully go through the aims and scope of a journal before communicating our article there.

Bose gave global statistics about the publications of research papers. He said that there are more than 34,000 English journals and more than one crore papers are published each year. These are just 40% of the total number of papers that are submitted; rest 60% is either rejected or revised after review. Thousands of referees are contributing worldwide towards research paper publication. Among the 60% of articles which are not accepted, most are revised and a small part is actually rejected. Bose emphasized on reading. He said that reading improves writing skills. Reading can help structure the arguments, get new ideas and to know exactly what to do in context to writing. According to Bose, there are three states in India where people choose 'authoring' as their career. They nurture the skill of writing. Maharashtra and Kerala are among them. Reading can help select a proper journal for one's article, as it can let one know the quality of the papers published by the journals. He said that logic and creativity, both contribute equally to the quality of article writing. Similarly, reading and writing are intimately related. We have to assign regular time for reading and downloading newly published articles and should look for controversies and unexplained findings. We should read commentaries, editorials and meeting reports for getting new concepts and ideas about the research going on in the

world. Proper literature search is one of the most important issues for research and publication. Good awareness about one's field of research is essential and can be achieved by interacting with peers in conferences and seminars. Certain important factors need to be considered for selection of journals, i.e. publication frequency, target audience, open access or subscription, publication charges, etc. Among the many journals, only around 6000 are indexed in *Web of Science*. IF, is not the only quality deciding parameter of a journal. Bose also explained about the various facilities available for authors from Springer. He talked about the Edanz site, which is beneficial for the humanities researchers. Publication ethics should always be followed. Plagiarism, fabrication and falsification of data should be strictly avoided. Proper author contribution should be considered and justified. He discussed in detail the pros and cons which should be kept in mind while drafting a scientific research article. He also spoke about the IMRaD model. He said that it is essential to cite current articles in order to bring out the present relevance of the work. We have to write our manuscripts to express, not to impress. Bose spoke about the author services available on-line, i.e. realtime, Latex search, author mapper, exemplar, etc. He also covered a few aspects of book publication.

C. Kumareson (Springer) spoke about the various features of Springer, its history and statistical details about the publications made by Springer round the year. He also discussed the dilemma between print versus e-article publication.

Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay (University of Calcutta) dwelt on the importance of such kind of authors' workshop. He drew attention to the digitization work of old books by the library in the University of Calcutta. A book published in 1561 has been digitized in the University's library.

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