COPE: Today and tomorrow
Promoting integrity in research and its publication

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Disclosure: CG works for Wiley and benefits from the company’s commercial success. CG receives no form of compensation from COPE for his voluntary role with COPE. GP has nothing to disclose.
COPE today
COPE today: Let’s pause and reflect

An enormous amount of great work
• 11,000+ members in 103 countries (Algeria to Zimbabwe)
• International and diverse
• All research and scholarly work
Introduction

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), organizations that have seen an increase in the number, and broad range in the nature of complaints about publications and our organizations have collaborated in an effort to identify principles of transparency in publication and to clarify that these principles form part of the criteria of which publications are evaluated.

These criteria are largely derived from those developed by the Directory of Open Access Journals, and additional membership criteria may also be used by each of the subject associations. We do not intend to deny access to publications that failed to demonstrate they met the criteria for transparency and quality of content.

UPDATE: This is the second version of a work in progress (published in December 2013, January 2014). We encourage its wide dissemination and continue to update it and the specific criteria. Background on the organizations is below.

About the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, http://publicationsethics.org)

COPE provides advice to editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics and, in particular, in cases of research and publication misconduct. It also provides a forum for its members to share information about applications received. We do not intend to deny access to publications that failed to demonstrate they met the criteria for transparency and quality of content.


The mission of the DOAJ is: to curate, maintain and develop a source of reliable information about open access scholarly content. All COPE members are expected to follow the Codes of Conduct for Journal Editors and Publishers.

Membership

Chair: Michael Wise

Applies standards

All are served

International

Cross-disciplinary
Education
Chair: Elizabeth Moylan

Flowcharts (18x10)
Guidelines
Discussion documents
Cases
Statements
Outreach and Events
Chair: Mirjam Curno

Education, support
Seminars
Forums
Workshops
Facilitation and Integrity Subcommittee

Concerns about members raised for review by COPE

- Concern/issue received
- Triage by Facilitation and Integrity Officer

New approach

Facilitate resolution

Does not adjudicate

Complaints
Chair: Tara Hoke

Ongoing process at journal/publisher/elsewhere

Facilitation and Integrity Officer contacts COPE member to facilitate follow up

Provide advice/guidance to the presenter if able/appropriate

Facilitation and Integrity Officer reviews
- Ensure all issues for the submitting issue have been addressed
- If process was adequate:
  a) COPE recommends
  b) COPE recommends

Assign to a member of the Facilitation and Integrity Subcommittee

Follow up with COPE Member

The subcommittee member assigned will work with the presenter, the Facilitation

...
72% say a top issue is lack of education in publication ethics amongst reviewers and authors.

62% say reviewers and authors lack education and training in research ethics.

34% cite a decline in the quality of papers submitted for review.

87% agree publication ethics is an increasingly important subject.

87% agree ethics issues are becoming increasingly complex.

82% agree research ethics is an increasingly important subject in their field.

63% of respondents outside of Europe and North America cite a lack of peer reviewers as a top issue.

55% cite an increase in online publications as top issue.

Research
Chair: Adrian Ziderman
Members
The wider community
Understand needs
Plan accordingly
Nominations
Chair: Zoë Mullan
Council
Diverse
Global
Experienced
Growing
Often behind the scenes

COPE team
Lead by Natalie Ridgeway
Linda Gough
Sarah Gillmore
Iratxe Puebla
Dominic Mitchell
Cynthia Clerk
Cathy Whiteley
(Thank you all!)

Strategy
Chair: Ginny Barbour
COPE’s future

Finance
Chair: Deborah Poff

Governance
Secretary: Charon Pierson
COPE tomorrow
Today’s problems tell us about COPE tomorrow

Irene Hames, at 7th International Congress on Peer Review, 8–10 September 2013, Chicago, USA

http://bit.ly/2qAD5Be
Contributing issues: It’s complex

• Research is now a regular job for many
  – yet basic training often neglects ethics

• Research is global, yet managed locally

• Easier to manipulate text, figures, review
  – with few accepted standards

• Publishing, and research, is changing fast

The wicked problem threatening academic research
http://bit.ly/2q9FH7Y
Underlying problems: incentives

Why is so much research dodgy? Blame the Research Excellence Framework

The Ref star system encourages novelty but offers no incentive to replicate studies – and that’s exactly what scientists need to be more sure of our claims

The Ref completely undermines our efforts to produce a reliable body of knowledge. Photograph: Alamy

The study of psychology is facing a crisis. A lot of research doesn’t show the same results when the experiment is repeated, and it is critical we address this problem. But the Research Excellence Framework has led to a research culture where it feels as though you can’t publish research if it confirms previously published results. This is not only wrong, but it is also bad for science.

Photograph: Alamy
Today’s problems tell us about COPE tomorrow

“We need a culture of responsibility for the integrity of the literature... it’s not just the job of editors

Ginny Barbour, COPE Chair, 2015
COPE tomorrow
Diversity + collaboration

• Institutional members (a pilot now)
• Diverse geographies, disciplines

A road we need to travel together