WORKING ON SCOPUS WITH THE THAI BOARD

Hammerhead Scopus umbretta

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INTERACTIONS WITH THAI EDITORS AND BOARD

- Workshops reveal great enthusiasm among editors to learn:
  - ways to improve journals
  - understand the Scopus evaluation
- Local Board works hard to improve overall success
IMPROVEMENTS

- Much better editor understanding of the process
- Their extensive interaction with the Local Board has ensured journals are of high quality on submission
- Higher success rate
KEY AREAS of EVALUATION

- Journal policy*
- Content quality*
- Journal standing*
- Regularity
- Online availability

Observations that follow relate to candidate journals in general
JOURNAL POLICY
SCOPE AS A VISION OF THE FUTURE

- Sometimes be just a vague statement - journal rapidly publishes high quality articles
- The area is sometimes so broad as to have no niche to occupy
- Sometimes no clarity about why an author would choose to publish there
- Ethics increasingly important and needs tuning to subject

*International Journal of Entomology and Zoology*
JOURNAL POLICY – CONTINUING PROBLEMS

- Claim to be international, yet editors/authors are drawn from one country
- Narrow authorship appropriate for a region?
- Regional journals do best if the attempt to link with wider international audience
- Journal names not always helpful for either reader or potential authors
JOURNAL POLICY – REFEREE PROCESS

- Sometimes unclear
- Hints that it is not of a high standard
- Difficulties in attracting referees
- Use biased referees
- Checks on refereeing

That’s it? That’s peer review?
CONTENT QUALITY – IMPORTANCE OFTEN UNDERESTIMATED

- Quality of layout counts
- Figures can be revealing cut from Excel!
- Are abstracts useful?
- Are the articles readable and not plagiarised
- Look at the hypotheses and conclusions especially
- Frequent problems
descriptive/repetitive
essay/review lacking intellectual synthesis
CONTENT QUALITY
CONFORMITY WITH STATED AIMS AND SCOPE

- Are the articles recognisably associated with the journal title and scope?
- Are they reasonably distributed across the scope?

This can be a problem for some journals… suggests they have problems in attracting articles
What percentage of articles have been cited?
How many times are articles cited?
How recent are the citations?
Who is citing the articles?
What country does the citation come from?

However inclusion in Scopus may shift this… what it will look like in future?
JOURNAL STANDING
EDITORS

- Listed person – just a board member
- Are the editors well known and published?
- Not always needed - some excellent professional editors not academics
- However they need a good/accessible board
- Big boards – are they padded?

Professional editors benefit from a website that outlines a convincing publishing philosophy
JOURNAL REPUTATION

- Almost undefinable, but understood with research fields
- Not equivalent to metrics
- *Studies in Conservation*  CiteScore = 0.55
- Readers not authors
- Many downloads
- Big impact
- Takes time to acquire
HIGHER IMPACT FACTOR
HIGHER RETRACTION FREQUENCY
INCREASING CITE SCORE OR IMPACT FACTOR

- Increasing quality
- Widening access to journal’s audience
- Care with short/preliminary communications
- Publishing timely reviews
- Increasing publication speed
- Integrated cross-referenced special issues
- Requiring updated reference lists
- Saving good articles for beginning of year
- ORCID

Need for immediacy cannot await a full paper

Generally regarded as ethical...
Carbon in Black Crusts from the Tower of London

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Investigates the origin, fluxes, and transformation compounds within black crusts on the stone Tower of London. The crusts were analyzed and organic carbon, including the water soluble elemental carbon and low solubility compounds appeared to be conserved because of long times. Conversely, more soluble ions, like formate would be removed from the layers quickly by rainfall. At higher organic carbon acetic acid may be produced within the biological transformations. Currently, traffic contributes to increasingly organic rich crusts. The elemental carbon to buildings darkens and has important aesthetic implications. The presence of lead was indicated in previous studies suggesting that the blackening may be due to lead content.

Experimental Section
Tower of London. The Tower of London incorporates many buildings in addition to the central White Tower and is divided into three fortified wards: the Inner Ward, the Central Ward, and beyond lies the Outer Ward, a fortified corridor created at the end of the 13th century. The wharf and moat revetment are outside these wards. More than twenty different stones were employed during the centuries of construction. One widely used material was a hard limestone (Kentish Ragstone), which is most frequently encountered in uncoursed walling (6), and is the substrate for most of the sampling undertaken during this project.

Environment. Since the late 13th century London has been a polluted city. The last 100 years have seen a transition from coal smoke to emissions from petrol and later diesel fuels (7). In the Victorian period, English cities were badly polluted, and building stones rapidly became blackened and damaged by sulfation (8). Although there have been many improvements in overall air quality in the last 50 years, emissions in central London remain high. Before the 1950s air pollution came from coal burning (3), and contained elemental carbon with adsorbed organic compounds and

Urban air pollution is a major cause of damage to architectural and cultural heritage. The historical significance and aesthetic value of these buildings make them a priority for pollution control. The blackening of the Tower of London is a major concern for its aesthetic and historical significance.

Europhotonics, press, television, radio... even National Geographic!
CUMMULATIVE CITATIONS

Nature

Science & Technology

Atmospheric Environment

Environment

article number

citation
CITATION ENGINEERING
... typically by increasing internal citations

- Increasing the number of citable non-article items: letters, product reviews etc
- Writing heavily self-referenced editorials
- Pressuring authors to cite the journal
- Manipulating the reference lists

Usually regarded as unethical...?
In Chinese, Korean especially, but also Smith in English and Singh in India can cause mis-identification of authors.

This is much improved by ORCID.

Many journals ask for ORCID numbers on submission.

http://orcid.org/
CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

- The CSAB and SCOPUS team meets every 6 months
- Reviews progress
  - Re-evaluation
  - Referee quality
  - Publisher ethics
- Feedback to publishers
About 10% of the journals are not in English. Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Polish are frequent, but also Farsi, Chinese...

Can I assess the article? Can I get help?

Is the journal going to widen its readership?

“We only want Polish readers…”
Environmental journal character

Very broad topic area

How do you judge quality?

Yet probably an issue with all topic areas

Reflects my own experiences…
WIDENING READERSHIP
NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- Journal title in English – more a problem for Roman alphabet languages such as Malay, Polish etc.
- Offer key words and abstract in English
- Translate both figure and table captions
- Reference list in Roman alphabet
Claims to be based in US, yet almost no articles from US

India 100 Nigeria 87 China 46 Egypt 42 Saudi 24 Brazil 22 Malaysia 22 Ghana 18 Iran 13

Web site seems to be in Dubai

Vast number of editors and none from US universities or institutes

Time between to acceptance is very short

Articles general, not discipline specific

English was poor in all cases examined