Something for Everyone

One of the most important reasons that this newsletter exists for ISAJE members is to provide updates on recent developments that are relevant to the editing, publishing and scientific world. The content of the current newsletter highlights the many changes that are occurring, and the importance of editors, journals, publishers, and societies staying relevant, responding to and predicting developments. Certainly a key driver of change is technological development, including the enhanced forms of communication and rapid availability of vast amounts of information that the Internet provides. Online sites that include research reports and data offer some competition to journals, which were previously one of the most convenient ways to find scholarly research. Research funding organisations often feel that the final outputs should be publicly available, particularly when funding comes from public sources. However, academic researchers are still expected to publish in high quality journals, and may face difficulties having manuscripts accepted when the research findings are already available elsewhere. An Editorial by Professor Alex Blaszczynski published in International Gambling Studies, and reprinted in this issue, further discusses these points.

The enhanced communication and sharing of information provided by the Internet allows journals to expand their roles. For example, Nature Publishing Group has launched a new project that enables researchers to share research findings and receive feedback prior to publication, in an effort to improve research and
Everyone.. continued

manuscript quality. Such collaboration is increasingly being utilised and plays a vital role in improving journal quality, as well as sharing knowledge and skills between researchers and editors. Online tools, blogs and podcasts (such as those made available by the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors and the Committee on Publication Ethics) provide highly useful resources. Electronic communication obviously enables interaction between individuals in geographically separate regions, which is an important element in the success of the Mentoring Scheme. Details are provided in this issue on this important initiative that aims to support addiction scientists who do not have access to expert supervisors. Encouraging early-career researchers can be achieved in many ways; for example, International Gambling Studies held a workshop on how to increase the chance of successful publication specifically targeting non-English speaking researchers at the 3rd Asia Pacific Problem Gambling & Addictions Conference in Hong Kong. Other journals are sponsoring webinars and other activities that aim to educate researchers and increase the quality of submitted manuscripts as well as promoting journals to potential authors.

Despite the benefits of being able to communicate from your office or home, or on the bus using your Blackberry, iPhone or iPad, even teleconferencing does not replace the important experience of face-to-face meetings. I look forward to meeting with many ISAJE members, again or for the first time, at the upcoming Hilton Head meeting in South Carolina. This meeting provides invaluable opportunities to discuss topical issues, receive feedback from colleagues, and importantly, interact with other editors. I personally have found past meetings to be highly rewarding experiences that could not be replicated through technological means. The 2011 meeting looks like it will be a very interesting and enjoyable event thanks to the hard work of the organising committee and speakers. The preliminary program (included in this issue) contains many interesting sessions, including a group discussion and the AGM, where members will be given the opportunity to discuss how ISAJE should be moving forward.

One session at the 2011 ISAJE meeting will focus on citation metrics, which are constantly changing, as highlighted by the recent updates to Australia’s ERA journal ranking system. Measuring journal quality and impact remains an important topic, and the ways of doing this are evolving. Enhanced metadata allows specific details of articles to be tracked, which may signal a move away from a journal’s overall quality, to the impact of individual manuscripts. Impact on a field is no longer restricted to citations in other academic
E y e r y o n e ...  

articles, but includes translation of research into policy and practice and reference to research reports and articles in the ‘grey literature’, including government submissions, white papers and policy proposals. Search tools allow papers to be available to a wide audience and open access allows individuals to access papers without a subscription. New ways of measuring journal quality and impact are being developed that may be more relevant than waiting for citations published in other papers, which is a relatively slow process.

I encourage all ISAJE members to read this issue and please provide feedback on the articles. Please also let me know if you have any ideas or contributions for the next issue, including suggestions for articles, news or announcements. I look forward to seeing many of you in September.

Sally Gainsbury
- Lecturer, Centre for Gambling Education & Research, Southern Cross University
- Associate Editor, International Gambling Studies

M e s s a g e f r o m t h e P r e s i d e n t

Greetings, once again. I hope your editorial duties are going smoothly and you are not overburdened with too many or too few submissions, reviewers who are not meeting their deadlines, ethical concerns, and other matters inherent in the life of an editor. It certainly helps to have fellow ISAJE members with which to share the joys and tribulations of editorial responsibilities.

Your Board of Directors has been quite busy over the past six months. Much of our time has been spent planning the 2011 annual meeting on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina in September. Please remember that the registration website is up and running. The meeting will begin with a reception on Sunday evening, 11 September, with departures on Wednesday, 14 September. The academic program will include a variety of informational, interactive and planning activities. And, sumptuous meals, adult beverages (in moderation, of course) and the
traditional boat ride will be included. Meeting registrations and hotel bookings are being handled by Tina Haslett at Sailair Travel. Please use this website to register for the meeting and book your hotel rooms: https://www.conference.com/eventmanager/OnlineRegistration.asp?eventcode=NY2

In combination with our ISAJE gathering, Kerstín Stenius is organizing a satellite meeting of a proposed International Network of Addiction Research Societies. Approximately 12 to 15 individuals, representing addiction research societies from around the world, will be in attendance. Some of the presentations will be blended with the final day of our ISAJE activities, with the major presentations and discussions taking place on Wednesday, 14 September.

We are again accepting applications for our Young Scholar Award. Please encourage young LAMI country researchers to apply.

As of 1 June 2011 Molly Jarvis will be returning from maternity leave to resume her position as Executive Officer of ISAJE. In September, she gave birth to a healthy, bouncing baby boy named Eduardo. Congratulations to Molly and her new arrival!

Perhaps we will be seeing Eduardo on Hilton Head Island. In her absence, Jean O’Reilly did a superb job assisting the board and keeping us organized. We thank her immensely for her help and will miss her.

Finally, I am pleased to be hosting the annual meeting in South Carolina. I am looking forward to seeing ya’ll (short for “you all” which in the Southern USA is plural for “you”) in September and treating you to some Southern hospitality.

Peter M. Miller
President

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Have a Newsletter Idea?

Have you come across something that your Editor colleagues might find important?

Contact one of the newsletter co-editors:

Sally Gainsbury - sally.gainsbury@scu.edu.au
Daryl Boshart - daryl_boshart@camh.net
2010 ISAJE/WHO Young Scholar Award — Winner Announced!

The ISAJE Board is pleased to announce the winner of the 2010 ISAJE/WHO Young Scholars Award. Dr Zhen-Yu Ren, a researcher from Beijing, China, received the award for her paper "Abnormal pain response in pain-sensitive opiate addicts after prolonged abstinence predicts increased drug craving," published in *Psychopharmacology*. The runner-up was Dr Li-Yan Zhao, also from China, for her paper, "Stress enhances retrieval of drug-related memories in abstinent heroin addicts," published in *Neuropsychopharmacology*.

The ISAJE/WHO Young Scholars Award aims to provide recognition for the contributions to addiction science of young scholars from low and middle income countries and to promote their involvement in the field. The award is given for the best paper published by a young scholar from a low or middle income country on any topic related to addiction. The winner will receive a certificate and financial support to attend an international scientific or clinical meeting in the addiction or substance abuse field, to be chosen by the winner in consultation with the Award Committee.

Applications are invited for the 2011 award. To be eligible, the paper must have been published either online or in print form in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2011. The research reported should have been carried out predominantly in a low or middle income country, as specified by the World Bank classification. The applicant must be under 35 years old and should be the lead author in the paper being submitted for the award. He or she should hold a current academic or research position in a low or middle income country, or should have held such a position at the time the research for the paper was carried out. The deadline for receiving applications is 31 July 2011.

Further details including the full eligibility criteria and application procedure may be obtained from the ISAJE Executive Officer, Molly Jarvis, 4 Windsor Walk, London SE5 8AF, United Kingdom. E-mail: molly@addictionjournal.org.

The 2011 award is sponsored by ISAJE and the World Health Organisation. □
Update on the ISAJE-PARINT Online Mentoring Scheme

ISAJE and its satellite website, PARINT (Publishing Addiction Research Internationally), have established a mentoring scheme to support addiction scientists working in low- and middle-income (LAMI) countries. Investigators at institutions that lack a history of writing for peer-reviewed journals often have little guidance when preparing their work for publication. Without a strong record of research achievement, it is difficult to break into research-orientated universities. This scheme provides free, one-to-one support for researchers in LAMI countries to facilitate the publication of completed research.

The core of the service is a database of established researchers who have offered their services as mentors. Our mentors have strong national reputations in their areas of expertise and in many cases are recognized internationally as leaders in their field. They include editors and members of advisory and editorial boards of scientific journals.

Our mentees are people in their early careers who have data that they want to publish in a peer-reviewed academic journal but have little or no experience in writing for such publications and do not have a suitable mentor available in their own institution. The current status of mentees may therefore range upwards from recent graduates who have carried out research for a PhD, through postdoctoral fellows and researchers, to junior academics. Mid-career academics aiming to expand the scope of their activities would also be considered.

As of May 2011, we have sixteen mentors, six of whom have been paired up with mentees from Brazil, Egypt, India, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and Thailand. Three of the mentor-mentee pairs are well on their way to producing publishable papers (the manuscripts’ topics: at-risk drinkers in Thailand, alcohol use among adolescents in Warsaw, and social support and risky injection practices among drug users). Three other mentor-mentee pairs have begun working toward publishable manuscripts.

Visit the mentoring scheme page at http://www.parint.org for information and applications, or contact Molly Jarvis at molly@addictionjournal.org.
Annual Meeting — Registration

This year’s annual meeting, convening in Hilton Head, South Carolina, will take place at the Inn at Harbour Town at the Sea Pines Resort (http://www.seapines.com). Among its many spectacular qualities, Hilton Head is known for its rich history, culture, and perfect sub-tropical climate. Meeting events will be as follows:

- Sunday, 11 September - arrivals, evening welcome reception
- Monday, 12 September - meeting programme, followed by dinner at the Sea Pines Beach Club
- Tuesday, 13 September - meeting programme, followed by an optional boating excursion, which includes dinner
- Wednesday, 14 September - departures

The academic programme will include a variety of informational, collaborative and planning activities that have characterised previous meetings.

The registration fee will be $500, which includes the cost of the meeting programme, the welcome reception, and dinner on Monday evening. A combined dinner and boat cruise on Tuesday evening is offered as an optional extra at $100 per person. Participants are welcome to bring accompanying guests, who can join the social events at a cost of $200 per person, plus $100 if they wish to join the optional dinner/boat cruise on Tuesday evening.

The hotel has guaranteed a special rate of $169.00 per night (book before 03 August 2011). The hotel cannot guarantee availability or the special rate after this date. All rates are subject to 19.5% sales tax and resort amenity fee.

Meeting registration and hotel booking is being handled by Tina Haslett at Sailair Travel. Please use this website to register for the meeting and book your hotel rooms: https://www.conference.com/eventmanager/OnlineRegistration.asp?eventcode=NY2.

You can also telephone Sailair Travel (USA) at 1-615-297-9200 or 1-800-759-5800. Looking forward to welcoming you in Hilton Head! □

- photo of Hilton Head Harbor taken by MoodyGroove. Downloaded from Wikipedia Commons.
ISAJE as a Mutual Support Group

By Jeffrey D. Roth, MD
Editor, Journal of Groups in Addiction and Recovery

While we often think of mutual support groups in the context of recovery from addiction, we may be less likely to conceptualize other groups and organizations as designed to provide their members with mutual support. At this year’s annual meeting of ISAJE in Hilton Head, we will have the opportunity to discuss what ISAJE members want and need in their roles as journal editors and how we might work more effectively together as a society to achieve our goals. I describe here an agenda for the group with some explanation about how this structure provides support for its members.

Introduce yourself and your journal, and feel free to tell us what brought you to ISAJE and to this meeting, what challenges you face in editing your journal, what help you might like from ISAJE, and what solutions and successes you would like to share with the group. Please keep your comments to two to three minutes to allow everyone the opportunity to share. We request that comments not be made about what someone else has shared, and that no one is interrupted while they are sharing. We will have the opportunity to ask and answer questions of one another after this meeting. The program committee has scheduled this hour long group immediately before lunch so that questions stimulated during this group might be discussed in smaller groups at lunch time.

The format for this group is different from many of the presentations at the current and prior ISAJE meetings. Frequently, professional groups rely on outside speakers for stimulation of the group’s growth and development. While such speakers may invigorate the group, sole reliance on such speakers may deprive the group of opportunities for its own members to share their experience, strength and hope in the service of creating support for solutions that emerge from the group itself. Creating a space within our annual conference for mutual support may not only increase our capacity for problem solving; we may also enhance the cohesiveness of our society and encourage increased participation in the activities which support our work, such as service on the board or its committees.

If you have questions, comments or feedback about this group meeting that you would like to communicate before our meeting, please feel free to contact me at jrothmd@gmail.com. □
Sunday 11 September - Arrivals

| 15.00 - 16.30 | Meeting of ISAJE Board of Directors |
| 19.00 - 21.00 | Opening reception at Sea Pines Resort |

Monday 12 September

| 7.30 - 9.00 | Breakfast and registrations |
| 9.00 - 9.15 | Welcome and introductions | Peter M. Miller |
| 9.15 - 9.45 | Citation metrics in addiction science: Use, abuse, and dependence | Paul Candon |
| 9.45 - 10.15 | Cooperation between ISAJE and universities: Czech experiences | Michal Miovsky |
| 10.15 - 10.45 | Coffee break |
| 10.45 - 11.15 | Presentation of two member journals:  
• International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research (Kate Graham and John Clapp)  
• Korean Public Health Research (Sungsoo Chun)  
Note: these are provisional suggestions, editors have not been approached about presenting yet | Chaired by Peter M. Miller |
| 11.15 - 12.30 | Group discussion: What is the prime issue for my journal?  
• What editors want and need from ISAJE  
• How should ISAJE collaborate as a society? | Chaired by Jeffrey Roth |
| 12.30 - 13.30 | Lunch |
| 13.30 - 14.00 | Report from the Ethics Committee | Tom McGovern |
| 14.00 - 14.30 | Update on journal conflict of interest project | Tom Babor |
| 14.30 - 15.00 | Update on guidelines for editor/publisher/society agreements | Gerhard Buehringer |
| 15.00 - 15.30 | Coffee break |
| 15.30 - 16.30 | Annual General Meeting  
President’s report  
Treasurer’s report | Peter M. Miller  
Michael Soyka |
| 16.30 - 17.00 | Short presentation on next year’s meeting venue; call for topics. Discussion of venue for 2013. | Peter M. Miller  
Margareta Nilsson |
| 19.00 | Dinner at Sea Pines Beach Club |
## Tuesday 13 September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<td>7.30 - 9.00</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>9.00 - 9.30</td>
<td>ISAJE-PARINT Mentoring Scheme Update</td>
<td>Peter M. Miller</td>
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<td>9.30 - 10.00</td>
<td>Report on the Addictionary Project and Prewipedia</td>
<td>Michal Miovsky, Kerstin Stenius, Margareta Nilsson</td>
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<td>10.00 - 10.30</td>
<td>Update on Digitization Project</td>
<td>Andrea Mitchell</td>
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<td>10.30 - 11.00</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<td>11.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>E-technologies and scientific publishing</td>
<td>Dan Morgan</td>
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<td>11.30 - 12.00</td>
<td>General discussion of e-technologies</td>
<td>Chaired by ___</td>
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<td>12.00 - 12.30</td>
<td>ISAJE association with the ALICE-RAP project</td>
<td>Peter M. Miller, Kerstin Stenius</td>
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<td>12.30 - 13.30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13.30 - 13.45</td>
<td>Introduction to the addiction research confederation idea</td>
<td>Tom Babor</td>
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<td>13.45 - 14.30</td>
<td>Keynote speech: Why global cooperation between addiction research associations? - Perspectives from the World Federation of Public Health Associations</td>
<td>Mike Daube (WFPHA)</td>
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<td>14.30 - 14.45</td>
<td>WHO on the importance of international cooperation with/between research associations</td>
<td>Vladmir Poznyak?, tbc</td>
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<td>14.45 - 15.00</td>
<td>NIDA and NIAAA on the idea of a confederation</td>
<td>Steve Gust, Ralf Hingson</td>
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<td>15.00 - 15.30</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<td>15.30 - 16.00</td>
<td>Benefits and challenges with research cooperation and exchange across substances</td>
<td>Linda Bosma</td>
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<td>16.00 - 16.30</td>
<td>International/regional addiction research federations/associations and their views on the benefits of broader international cooperation</td>
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<td>16.30 - 17.00</td>
<td>Activities in national organizations and their needs/perceived benefits from international cooperation</td>
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<td>17.00 - 17.15</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
<td>Peter M. Miller</td>
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<td>19.00 - 21.00</td>
<td>Optional boat sunset cruise and dinner</td>
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ISAJE to host global meeting of addiction research associations

In conjunction with the annual meeting of ISAJE in Hilton Head this September, the board of ISAJE has invited representatives of addiction research societies from all over the world to discuss the feasibility of establishing an International Confederation of Addiction Research Associations (ICARA). The background to this initiative, originally an idea created by Griffith Edwards, is outlined below.

Since the late 19th century, and particularly after the Second World War, many national, regional and international organizations have been established to bring together addiction researchers. Within these societies scientists exchange knowledge and experience, try to promote the interest of their research, and disseminate research results through conferences or journals owned by the societies. We know for certain that there are at least 25-30 such organisations for alcohol, drug, tobacco or gambling researchers all over the world, representing social, behavioural, medical and biomedical researchers. More societies could certainly be found, particularly in non-English language countries.

There are several reasons why we think it would be important to strengthen the global addiction research community today. The alcohol, gambling and tobacco industries have internationalized their activities and are expanding, particularly in developing countries. This has global implications for addiction policies and for the framework of research. Also, science is more and more international in its character with an increasing number of international journals and conferences, but important cultural and linguistic barriers to the dissemination of research results still exist. Researchers in most countries, but particularly in the poorer parts of the world, face similar challenges in terms of bureaucratic regulations of research, lack of funding and research ranking systems that prevent the search for solutions of important problems. With the emphases on evidence-based measures to meet new problems, research has been given an important but sometimes ambivalent role in the shaping but also in the legitimization of public health and treatment policies. Many researchers are faced with new challenges in the handling of relations to decision-makers and the media. To summarize, there is a pressing need for researchers to follow and respond to new developments in the organization and financing of research, and in exchange of information, and to discuss the solutions of common, old and new problems.

The rapid developments in the area of scientific publishing led to the establishment of the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) a decade ago. ISAJE has been a valuable forum for the world's addiction speciality journals, for discussions of
common experiences and challenges and for the improvement of our work. Within ISAJE, we have found that small and national addiction journals have more in common with the big and international ones than we could have imagined, and that mutual and non-hierarchical exchange is fruitful for all parties. We think that ISAJE at least partly could serve as a model for the activities within an international confederation of addiction research societies.

Research societies have played an important role in the professional development and scientific identity of addiction research professionals and shaped national, regional and international policy responses. Some of the existing societies are international in character, but do not reach across scientific fields. National organizations often do not benefit from possible international contacts. National or regional organizations seem to be much more prevalent in the economically advanced countries, where the scientific infrastructure and the health and welfare systems are relatively well developed. In other parts of the world, where these kinds of organization could play a particularly crucial role, they are not yet established.

There is a lot of experience and knowledge in the existing addiction research organizations that could be spread internationally and that could support the establishment of new organizations in countries and regions where such are needed. But we need a forum for this exchange and to respond to the developments at the national and international levels that are likely to influence the future of addiction science, such as the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol, which was recently adopted by the World Health Organization.

An international confederation of addiction research associations could, as we outline in the invitation letter, promote support for research and support measures and activities that will protect scientific integrity. It could serve as a forum for exchange of practical information about fund-raising, advocacy, management, training, and sponsorship of scientific journals. It could support the establishment of research associations in low or middle income countries or countries with emerging economies where alcohol and other addiction problems are expanding. Finally, it could possibly articulate a global vision or global visions for the role of scientific inquiry in the prevention and treatment of addiction problems.

We are very happy that more than half of the invited organizations, from all continents of the world, have accepted the invitation, as well as representatives of WHO and the biggest US research funding bodies.

The meeting will start with an invited and inspirational talk by Mike Daube, representing the World Federation of Public Health

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**Global meeting**

continued
Associations. Mike Daube is not only representing an organisation that could serve as a model, but he is also a well known public health researcher from Australia, with experience researching alcohol, drugs and tobacco. The meeting will continue with presentations of the WHO’s views on the possible benefits and functions of a confederation. NIDA and NIAAA have also been asked to express their thoughts about the idea. After this, international as well as national associations will present their core activities and thoughts about the confederation idea, and a separate discussion will deal with the benefits and challenges of cooperation across various addictions. All this will be part of the ISAJE meeting (September 13), and thus open also for the participants in the ISAJE meeting. Following the first day, and to mark the conclusion of the ISAJE meeting, all participants will be attending a boat cruise and dinner. This will provide an opportunity for ISAJE members to interact further with representatives from addiction societies.

The second day of the meeting (September 14, following the conclusion of the ISAJE conference and intended exclusively for association representatives, with some ISAJE representatives present) will be a discussion between members of the research associations. Here it will be decided whether the idea of a confederation is feasible. If so, the meeting will discuss which would be the core activities and the formulation of a preliminary mission statement for the confederation. It will talk about its affiliations and funding possibilities. It will also elect a working group to prepare a proper founding meeting where the confederation can become formally established.

In any case, and even if the confederation idea against our expectations does not gain sufficient support, the group will finally discuss how to communicate the debate and decisions of the meeting around increased global research cooperation, using ISAJE’s journals.

ICARA is a bold idea, but one that seems to respond well to the interests, hopes and needs of many research associations today. And if it will be realized, ISAJE can be proud to have been not only the initiator but also, hopefully, one of its founding members.

Some of the societies that may send representatives to attend the ICARA meeting include the South Korean Alcohol Research Association, the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs, the Latin American Biomedical Research Association on Alcoholism, the Centre for Research and Information on Substance Abuse (Nigeria), the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (US), and the Research Society on Alcoholism. □

Kerstin Stenius
The Editors collect news items from many sources, and would like to particularly acknowledge and promote the EASE Journal Blog for their excellent summary of relevant issues.

Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) — Update

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the first round of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative was run in 2010, with results published by the Australian Research Council (ARC). This initiative included many elements, but the most controversial was the ranked journal list, which has been widely criticised by the scientific and research communities. There was clear and consistent evidence that the rankings were being used inappropriately, with, for example, some universities using publications in highly ranked journals as the basis for funding, promotions, and even staff appointments, and some institutions demanding researchers only publish in A and A* journals. The ERA rankings process failed to adequately address cross-disciplinary journals, niche journals or journals that address matters of national or regional policy and importance. Further, it did not consider the need to reward young and emerging researchers. Above all, it did not factor that publishing journal rankings would artificially stymie the growth of those journals not ranked A or A*.

The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Carr, recently released an announcement stating that the prescriptive A*, A, B, and C ranks for journals will no longer be used. There are still plans for journal evaluations, although the Minister stated that this will include the capacity to accommodate multi-disciplinary research, which is of particular importance in the addictions fields. The statement did not appear to grasp the point made by the Australian Academy of Science that the focus should be upon the quality and impact of papers rather than the journals that publish them. Further changes will be open for public comment during July 2011 as part of the draft submission guidelines. It would be prudent for journal editors and publishers to consider the proposed changes and make submissions to express their views, as well as encourage submissions from authors, reviewers and co-editors.
Fraud and scientific misconduct

There has been a lot of discussion about fraud and scientific misconduct by journals, publishers and editors. Unfortunately, there is mounting evidence that these practices are not uncommon and often occur undetected. A study published in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* (2010; 15 November, online) compared retraction for fraud and error. The analysis of all 788 papers retracted from PubMed since 2000 found that those retracted for fraud (about 25%) were more likely to appear in publications with a high impact factor. Approximately half of these fraudulent papers came from “repeat offenders”, compared with 20% for erroneous papers, indicating ongoing scientific misconduct among authors. Fraudulent research papers were more likely to have multiple authors and be from the US.

There are some measures that can be taken to combat fraud; since January 2009, the *International Journal of Cardiology* has required all papers it publishes to carry a statement that all authors adhere to its principles of ethical authorship and publishing. Since then, the number of fraudulent cases has reduced and cases have been easier to handle with authors more likely to agree with how their cases should be handled (Shewan & Coats, 2010, *International Journal of Cardiology*, 144(1): 1-2).

Authorship ID — new database

The Open Researcher & Contributor ID (ORCID) Initiative ([http://www.orcid.org](http://www.orcid.org)) has been formed by a group of publishing and research organisations as well as universities and societies with the mission of resolving author-name ambiguity. It is addressing this problem by building a registry of unique identifiers for individual researchers, with an open and transparent linking mechanism with other author ID schemes. The aim is to enhance the scientific discovery process and improve the efficiency of funding and collaboration. Anyone with an interest in scholarly communications may become an ORCID Participant. Researchers may use ORCID to more efficiently and accurately record and present their research profiles. Publishers may use ORCID to better track and organise manuscripts and research-related writings. Funding agencies and societies may use ORCID to assess and track researchers and research projects over time. There are currently no fees or obligations for participants, although it is likely that fees will begin to be charged in 2012.
A recent article in *The Economist* (May 28, 2011) highlighted the unique situation of academic publishing in the current age of media business. Despite attempts by librarians to reduce their spending, journal subscriptions represent a substantial proportion of university library budgets, 65% in the UK for example. As other media outlets have struggled and diversified, often providing free online content as demanded by readers, academic publishers do not appear to have been similarly impacted by the recession. Elsevier, with over 2,000 titles, made £724m on revenues of £2 billion, an operating-profits margin of 36%.

As researchers provide academic journals with their articles at no cost, publishers then sell bundles of journals back to the universities at prices that have risen well above the rate of inflation. Some universities have dropped journal bundles and selected a few key journals, paying for individual article access as necessary. Academic authors also typically send email copies of papers to colleagues or interested parties on request and some list pre-publication copies on websites for download.

The music industry faced difficulties when customers stopped buying pre-packaged bundles of music (CDs) and content became easily available online. Open-access journals do not seem at this stage to pose a significant threat to publishers, although this area of the industry appears to be growing. Publishers have increasingly diversified the tools available for researchers and are providing innovative options. In particular, search tools are becoming more specific and useful, allowing researchers to find relevant articles using apps. These tools may satisfy researchers and by sending researchers to articles in relatively obscure journals, universities will be less likely to drop bundled packages. The publishing industry appears to be shifting with the development of new technology and increased reliance on online content. Journal editors, researchers, universities and publishers are likely to each play a role in shaping the future of the journal industry. □
Author-suggested reviewers more favourable

A study published in *PLoS ONE* (2010; 5 (10);e13345) has found evidence that when peer reviewers are suggested by the paper’s authors, the feedback is more likely to be positive than when the journal editors choose the reviewers. The journal *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* is an interactive open access journal where the author’s and reviewers’ comments are publicly exchanged. The aim of this system is to bring a new openness to the reviewing process. Results showed that editor-suggested reviewers rated manuscripts between 30% and 42% less favourably than author-suggested reviewers. It is possible that the authors suggested close friends or colleagues in order to gain a favourable review, or alternatively, the reviewers selected by the authors were true experts in the field and able to conduct a fair review of the paper, as opposed to those with less specific expertise who may be selected by editors. The authors, Bornmann and Daniel, suggest that journal editors should consider the use of author-suggested reviewers and if used, should consider bringing in more than one editor-suggested reviewer for the review process. A trial of open peer review at the *BMJ* (reported in the *Scholarly Kitchen Blog*) showed that it did not affect the quality of the review, but did lengthen reviewing time and make it harder to recruit reviewers.

Encouraging prepublication data sharing

Nature Publishing Group has commenced a project that encourages prepublication data sharing in *Nature Precedings*, its open-access repository (http://precedings.nature.com/). Researchers can post pre-print manuscripts, posters and presentations on this site to claim priority and receive feedback on findings prior to formal publication. The goal is to improve best practices among researchers. The project, a collaboration with the Human Microbiome Project, will allow scientists to post data alongside metadata and any ethical, legal or funding aspects. Documents are permanently archived in a citable format for other
Data sharing

Researchers to cite and re-analyse the data. In a similar project, open-access publisher BioMed Central’s Trials journal has created a new series called “Sharing clinical research data” (http://www.trialsjournal.com/series/sharing). Trials is also experimenting with and refining innovative approaches to improve communication about trials to move beyond publishing traditional trial results articles.

Publishing Ethics 101

The International Society of Managing and Technical Editors (http://www.ismte.org) has released Publishing Ethics 101: A Guide for the Editorial Office. Investigating claims of ethical misconduct in journal publishing can be a confusing and challenging process. The line between ethical and unethical behaviour is often blurry, and obtaining the necessary information to render a fair and conclusive decision takes time and persistence. It is also unclear the extent to which journal editors and publishers are responsible for taking actions on ethical misconduct. ISTME’s new educational resource aims to provide guidelines to assist editors by familiarising them with the general landscape of ethics publishing. The guide includes information about:

- Different types of publishing misconduct
- Players who may be involved in cases of unethical behaviour
- Basics of a solid ethics policy
- Steps for correcting literature associated with verified misconduct.

The guide is only accessible to ISMTE members as the 30-day free trial has now ended. Individual memberships are US$135 and members are offered significant resources and benefits. Visit http://www.ismte.org/Join_ISMTE for more details.
COPE Discussion Document — Focus on plagiarism

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) website has always been a useful go-to for editors needing assistance with ethical dilemmas confronting their journal. The COPE flowcharts, particularly, provide step-by-step guidelines on a variety of topics (note: these are now available in Italian and Spanish, and other translations are planned).

COPE’s newest endeavor, the discussion document, is an attempt to stimulate discussion on ethical issues that are nascent, quickly evolving, or contentious. Professionals are invited to read and comment on these documents, and feedback will be used to inform future COPE guidelines and policies.

The first discussion document concerns plagiarism. Although plagiarism flowcharts are already available online, COPE’s discussion document is an acknowledgement that plagiarism is neither cut-and-dry nor static—there are many degrees of plagiarism, each requiring its own response, and new detection technologies have also altered the playing field.

The discussion document can be found here: http://www.publicationethics.org/resources/discussion-documents. COPE invites comments from any and all, and whether a member of their organization or not. Send your feedback to cope_opsmanager@publicationethics.org.

Musings on the future of academic journals


This article touches on how the following may affect academic publishing: Google and other search engines; data repositories that allow access and sharing; differing types of Open Access; Brazil, India, South Korea, and particularly China’s increasing presence in research; rapidly changing technologies and social media; and the changing ethical landscape.
The 1st COPE Asia Pacific Seminar and Forum will be held November 14, 2011 in Melbourne Australia. The theme of the seminar is how publication ethics is similar across different disciplines. Journal editors, researchers and journal authors from the four points of the scientific compass—physical sciences, life sciences, social sciences and health sciences—face many of the same challenges (authorship disputes, plagiarism and duplicate publication). COPE's 1st Asia Pacific seminar will provide insights from each of these four compass points. The speakers will focus on the ethical issues they have faced personally, and discuss how they dealt with them and how they have crafted their policies and processes to avoid potential future problems.

The seminar will include invited talks:
- Physical sciences—Richard O’Hair, editor of Journal of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry and a chemist at Melbourne University
- Life sciences—David Vaux, Walter and Elizabeth Hall Institute, is a double-blind peer review advocate, and a specialist at spotting image manipulation
- Social sciences—Alfred Allan teaches ethical issues in psychology and researches ethics in professional practice at Edith Cowan University and is a fellow of the Australian Psychological Society
- Health sciences—Neville Gibbs, editor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care

In addition, there will also be a COPE Forum in the afternoon, with discussion of cases submitted by members. This is a wonderful opportunity to network with other editors and share your experiences and challenges. The seminar is free for COPE members and $150 AUD for non-members. Non-members wishing to attend can contact the administrator for details on how to join COPE. More information can be found at:

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES

Addressing conflicts of interest in journals: Interview with Liz Wager

In the first installment of ISMTE's Interview with an Expert series, Kathy Brister, Managing Editor of Journal of Applied Microbiology and Letters in Applied Microbiology, speaks with publishing ethics expert Liz Wager, Chair of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), about the key issues surrounding conflicts of interest (COI) in journal publishing. The interview is packed with valuable and practical information that editorial staff can immediately apply to their own ethics policies and practices. Available free on the ISMTE website, the interview was conducted in spring of 2011 and runs approximately 12 minutes. Just click and listen! In this podcast, you will learn:

- How COIs are defined
- Examples of who in the peer review process may have COIs
- How COI policies vary among journals
- Advice on what good COI policies should include and how to enforce such policies
- How to handle declarations of COI and what to do when COIs are undisclosed

The next planned podcast will be on Image Manipulation with Mike Rossner from the Rockefeller University Press. □

Listen to the podcast of Liz Wager discussing conflict of interest here: http://www.ismte.org/Interview_with_an_Expert_Series
The primary purpose of research, whether in the field of humanities, arts, biology, physics or medicine, is to endeavour to advance scientific knowledge that furthers our understanding of our natural and social environment. Good science informs and influences practices, improves processes and interventions, enhances clinical outcomes, and shapes policy-decisions. These aims are achieved through the timely dissemination of valid and reliable information derived from methodologically rigorous research methodologies and conclusions founded on the accurate and objective interpretation of data. Although research findings are communicated through a number of different media, for example, conference presentations, reference/technical books, reports, and newspaper/magazine articles, it remains true to state that articles published in peer-reviewed journals represent the accepted standard by which the majority if not all scientific research is evaluated. Scientific articles gain their credentials and credibility by virtue of their manuscripts being assessed and published in a peer-reviewed journal. Rightly or wrongly, the higher the impact factor of the journal (tiered rankings), the greater the manuscript's perceived standing - but not necessarily its validity.

Setting aside the debate as to its reliability and effectiveness, the peer-review process utilized by academic journals is designed to ensure that manuscripts submitted for publication are characterized by: acceptable levels of academic scholarship; an adequate
rationale justifying the need for the research, the presence of a fair and non-selective review of the literature; methodologies and designs that are appropriate; relevant statistical analyses; and the interpretation of results that do not exceed the data obtained. Recognizing that the review process does not necessarily mean that findings are valid, the process does contribute significantly to minimizing the potential for critical errors to permeate the literature. The process involves allocating manuscripts to a number of acknowledged experts who have the requisite knowledge and skills to evaluate its quality, understand the issues, identify errors, omissions or biases, and critically assess methodologies. These experts have an obligation to assess all aspects of the manuscript in an impartial manner within a specified timeframe that allows rapid feedback to authors.

In this context, journal editors are motivated to accept and publish manuscripts that report innovative and original findings that have not been published previously. Currently, the vast majority of journals within the field of science require authors to confirm that the manuscript is submitted solely to the journal, is not in press, has not been previously published and is not submitted elsewhere. The present policy adopted by International Gambling Studies follows suit.

There are several reasons for this requirement. First, there is the self-serving but nevertheless important consideration of editors wanting to ensure that their journal is identified as the flagship publication that reports important new, innovative and exciting findings. Similar to the situation confronted with newspaper editors, there is little merit or advantage in publishing material that has already been published elsewhere even if it is of high quality substance. The adage, there is no news in old news applies. The editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, Franz Ingelfinger, unashamedly acknowledged this factor as far back as the late 1960s (cited by Relman, 1981). In general, it is the original publication that attracts citations and hence enhances the journal's impact factor and status as a top-tiered journal.

Another second reason for not accepting manuscripts published elsewhere is to reduce the number of redundant publications, that is, those are simply describing the same data set albeit with varying perspectives or introductions. Although this may lead to the construction of superficially impressive publication vitae for emerging researchers, such practices fail miserably to add any value to the existing body of scientific evidence. On the contrary, they serve to add unnecessary duplication of material not to mention imposing a burden on reviewers. Reviewers, it must re-emphasized, voluntarily contribute their time and effort in assessing manuscripts, often a time-consuming activity that ultimately...
Publication policy

...what is becoming increasingly apparent is that governments and their related funding agencies, and the gambling industry provide several types of financial support for gambling research projects; namely competitive grants and commissioned/tendered projects.

In the most common approach, governments allocate a quantum of money for competitive research grants. The National Health and Medical Research Council, National Institute of Health and Australian Research Council are examples of competitive grant schemes. Priority may be given to certain issues or themes but the stipulated condition and expectation of these grants is such that findings will be published in peer-reviewed journals. There is no requirement to provide a formal report to the funding agency. Accordingly, under this model, researchers are free to submit manuscripts to journals indicating that the material has not been published elsewhere.

In the second approach, governments and gambling industry operators may call for tenders in response to a call for research to address specific topics; these mainly relate to policy decision-making or influencing policy developments.
decisions. Examples of these include but are not limited to Gambling Research Australia, Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre, the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling, and ad hoc groups temporarily constituted for special projects such as the 2000/2001 Gaming Industry Operators group in Australia.

Researchers successful in obtaining grants under this approach have increasingly found themselves in a bind with respect to publications in peer-reviewed journals and the dissemination of research to a wider audience. In several instances (the proportion remains unknown) the condition of the grant requires the researcher to submit a formal report to the funding body prior to submission elsewhere, and the requirement to submit manuscripts based on the funded research to peer-reviewed journals after the submitted report has been accepted by the agency and the full report published on its website. Not surprisingly, the funding body is motivated by the desire to be credited with being the first to publish findings. This, however, places the researcher in an unenviable position where the research findings cannot be rewritten in condensed form and submitted to a journal since the data and findings have already been published. For all intents and purposes, placing written material on the web is equivalent to publication.

The main disadvantage to academics is that they cannot classify reports as peer reviewed publications for purposes of promotion or tenure. The more significant issue is that important research findings contained in such reports are (1) not subjected to transparent independent peer-review processes that are comparable to those applied in scientific journals, (2) may not be exposed to any peer review process, (3) may be made available on websites which potentially interested individuals may not be aware of, or regularly visit, and (4) may not be listed in search databases such as PsycINFO or Ovid Medline. Thus the potential for these reports to be neglected remains high, and their standing as scientifically valid documents, remaining low.

The Editorial Board of International
Gambling Studies is in the process of revising the stance on accepting manuscripts for consideration that contain material published in government and other funded reports, for the following reasons. Submitting funded reports to independent peer review strengthens the confidence in which reported findings can be accepted as methodologically valid or not, and contributes to the dissemination of important research findings to a much wider audience across international jurisdictions. In so doing, researchers will gain access to studies through library databases that they otherwise would not necessarily or easily locate. In addition, it fosters the archiving of research findings within scientific journals over time. The risk with government posted reports is that their shelf-life on the web is often limited or relegated to archived directories that are not readily accessed. The same policy changes may apply to key articles published in foreign journals. It should be borne in mind that English language journals have a bias toward research conducted in North America, the UK, Australia and New Zealand. Groups in Asia and Europe are also conducting significant research but their findings are restricted to publication in foreign language journals. An international journal like International Gambling Studies ought to consider encouraging researchers in foreign countries to submit their work and bring it to the attention of their English-speaking colleagues.

The spirit of the proposed revision of this policy is not intended to promote the wholesale submission of unmodified manuscripts derived from the original report, or the general acceptance of manuscripts based on reports for allocation to peer-review and consideration for publication. Rather, the intent is to ensure that manuscripts are formatted in the appropriate style and content appropriate to International Gambling Studies, report additional data/statistical analyses, and offer different perspectives. Additional requirements are the statement that the findings of the study have been published with proper referencing to that report and website, and confirmation that copyright permission has been obtained from the funding agency.

Does this shift in policy have the potential to reduce the quality and standing of International Gambling Studies? Is their value to be derived for the readers of the journal? The expectation is that it will lead to a greater flexibility in editorial decision-making resulting in a more effective dissemination of gambling research findings to a wider international audience.

Reference:
Macros for the terrified

by Paul Beverley

Paul is the author of a 370-page book entitled ‘Macros for Writers and Editors’ (available free of charge from his website at www.archivepub.co.uk) and has travelled around the UK in the past two years, running courses for editors who want to learn how to use macros.

Your illustrious editor (Sally Gainsbury) saw an article that I had published in another magazine about how editors (and their clients) can benefit from the use of macros, and asked if I’d pen a few words for this publication. I’m happy to do so because I feel strongly that editors are, in some circles at least, being short-changed.

Although I’m a relative beginner with Microsoft Word, having only been using it in earnest for five years (I used Acorns for the 20 years before that, a proprietary UK-based computer that is now a veritable dodo), I do know from personal experience that word-manipulating programs have immense potential for the editor.

So why do so few editors use more than a few macros (if any at all)? Is it because they don’t realise how much time they could save and/or how much more effectively they could do their jobs? Or is it because they think that macros are difficult, complicated, technical things?

If it’s the latter then take heart! I can assure you from the training work I’ve done, that even avowedly non-technical editors can gain great benefit from using macros.

But let me come back to what I said at the beginning about editors having been short-changed.

Are macros technically challenging?

As an editor, I’ve grown up in an environment that says that, in order to be able to use macros, you need to learn how to (a) record macros (b) work within the Visual Basic programming language to put recorded macros together to make bigger macros and (c) make small changes to the programming of those recorded macros to tailor them to your use.

But why bother creating your own macros? Why reinvent the wheel? There’s a huge library of ready-made macros available. All you have to do is (a) learn how to install and run a macro, (b) work out what sort of macro
ARTICLE

**Macros**

would help you most, (c) find the appropriate macro and use it.

The *real* difficulty is knowing which of the 300+ macros is going to be most useful to you.

But let’s go back a few steps and answer some basic questions.

**What is a macro?**

A macro is just a script – a list of instructions – a recipe, if you like, that does things to words and their formatting. What it does is to automates certain repeated tasks within Word documents. Computers are good at doing repetitive tasks, and unlike me they don’t get bored, let their attention wander and miss some of the words/phrases/punctuation/styles that they were supposed to have been changing. They are also extremely quick!

So the idea is that you let the computer do the things that can be done by rote while you concentrate on engaging with the text, working out what the author was actually trying to say and seeing whether a small change in wording or punctuation can make it so that the reader lights straight away onto the author’s intended meaning without having to reread the sentence. I just love the challenge of trying to achieve that aim. OK, that isn’t what this article is supposed to be about, but macros, for me, are tools that do the boring bits and allow me to concentrate on the really interesting parts of my job as an editor.

**How do I load and run a macro?**

Well, it’s not that difficult to achieve, and there are instructions available (for example in my book), so I don’t want to waste precious space and time here – there’s a recipe to follow, and the more often you use it, the simpler it becomes.

And even if you do find the process of loading a macro difficult, it’s actually using the macro that you’re going to do mostly, and that’s just a matter of clicking the appropriate keystroke.

**Where can I find the macros I want?**

That’s fairly easy. I have put together a free electronic book with over 300 macros in it, written by editors (well, mostly by me) for editors, so just download the book, find the ‘How do I install a macro?’ section and get started.

**Which macros would help most?**

Editors can be involved in a huge range of different jobs, so how do you know which macros will be most useful for your way of working? And even where two editors are doing the same job, they may well tackle it in very different ways, so there’s no way that I can say, ‘You need to use such and such a macro.’ So let me try to give you a flavour of *some* of the things that macros would allow you to do.

But even if none of these is for you, please
Macros

don’t give up: there are so many macros that perform such different tasks, that if you persevere, I’m sure you’ll find a handful that will serve you well.

So let me suggest a few scenarios in which macros might be of help…

– You’re reading the text and you see coming up a numeral – ‘6’, say – and you need it to be ‘six’, so you click somewhere on the line and run the NumberToText macro, and the ‘6’ is instantly changed. Then the text says ‘At A level, I got 3 As, 2 Bs and 1 C’ – so click, click, click (run the macro three times) and it becomes ‘... I got three As, two Bs and one C.’

– How many times a day do you change a comma into a full point and then make the next word start with a capital, or change a full point to a comma and then lowercase the following word, or change to a semicolon, or to a colon? In each case, all I do is place the cursor somewhere in the final word, and press Ctrl and Alt, together with the desired punctuation mark, and let the macros change the punctuation mark and sort out the case of the first letter of the following word.

– You come to something that looks like a degree symbol (°), but you suspect it might not be. You run WhatChar, and it tells you that it’s actually a masculine ordinal (as used in Nº). And in some fonts, the number 1, the letter ‘l’ look remarkably similar – or the ‘O’ and the ‘0’. WhatChar will tell you what each is, even spelling it out as, say, a ‘lowercase el’.

– You have a book made up of some Prelims plus chapters 1 to 10, and an appendix, all in separate files. Even if the client wants you to deliver them in separate files, wouldn’t it be helpful to have all the text in one file to make it easy to search for things? There’s a macro that combines them for you automatically. (And there’s also a macro that can split up one big file into separate chapter files, if you need that.)

– Do you need to take all the pictures and diagrams out into a separate file, leaving behind call-outs: ‘<Figure 1.1 here>’ etc.? FigStrip does that. And if you have to do the same with tables, there’s TableStrip.

– You see a word/phrase and you want to look back to the previous time it was used. Select it and, with one keypress, InstantFindUp will take you straight back to the previous occurrence of that word/phrase. What’s more, the word/phrase is now in Word’s Find box, so by clicking Ctrl-PageUp and Ctrl-PageDown, you can jump through each and every occurrence in the text. (And if you do Ctrl-Alt-PageUp and Ctrl-Alt-PageDown, two other macros allow you to jump case-sensitively so you avoid those occurrences that are not in the exact same case.)

– You’re comparing two files: perhaps someone has made some edits to one of them, and you want to check/compare/implement...
them in the other file. So you make the two files visible on screen, perhaps with Window–>Arrange All and then, as you look through the edited file and find something interesting, you run the FindSamePlace macro, and it will jump immediately to the same place in the other file.

– You’re editing some text and each time you come to a reference citation, say, ‘Bloggs and Brown 1997’, if you run CiteCheck, it looks through the reference list, finds what it thinks is the right reference and asks you. If you agree that it’s found the right one, it will unhighlight the reference (assuming that you highlighted them all before you started this process) so that you know that this reference has been cited. Then, at the end, if any of the references are still highlighted, you will know (or at least suspect) that these are uncited references. What the macro also does, in the text, is to highlight every occurrence of ‘Bloggs and Brown 1997’ so that you don’t need to check it again when next it is cited.

‘Know your enemy’

Before you start to edit a text – especially if it’s a whole book – it’s really helpful to know if the author has (in)consistently used certain conventions. True, you may have a brief that tells you what convention to use, but if not, find out what the author has (mostly) used and stick with that. Here are just a few suggestions: US, UK etc English spelling; -is- or -iz- spellings; serial (Oxford) comma or not; are certain words hyphenated or not (e.g. non-linear/nonlinear)? have authors’ initials got full points and/or spaces: JLB or J.L.B. or J L B, or J. L. B. Matekoni?

Four macros: TextAlyse, DocAlyse, SpellAlyse and then ISToIZ or IZtoIS will analyse your document and list all the different conventions, spellings and hyphenations etc used, and/or highlight them. And it will even alert you to possible misspellings of proper nouns, e.g. if it sees Beverley and Beverly, it will tell you it has found, say, five for the former and one of the latter, so you now know to check if this is two different people or just a spelling error.

If you’re really keen, you can run these macros again at the end of the job to check whether you have been consistent in applying these conventions.

One macro with a thousand applications

I’ve saved the most powerful macro to last: FRedit, a short form of ‘find and replace edit’. It provides an easy way to do a sequence of global find-and-replaces (F&Rs) on a document. Simply create a list (‘script’) of F&Rs in a separate Word file (or open an existing script) and run the FRedit macro; it makes all the changes that you specify in your list, one by one, in a matter of seconds. You can have as many different scripts as you like, for different jobs and different clients. Also,
because the scripts are held in Word files, it’s very easy to chop and change your scripts at any time.

We’re not just talking about changing the text. As with Word’s own F&R dialogue, FRedit also allows you to change formatting (bold, italic, superscript, subscript, small caps and underline) as well as styles. For example, it can automatically change, throughout the document, CO2, SO2, H2O, m/s2, B.C., A.D. etc into CO2, SO2, H2O, ms–2, BC, AD, etc.

As with any powerful tool (e.g. a chainsaw!) global find and replace can be extremely dangerous if not handled carefully. However, FRedit helps you there because it allows you to highlight any or all of the changes made so that, as you read the text, you can see where changes have been made. What’s more, you can use different highlight colours for the various different changes.

Another application of this highlighting is to use a set of global ‘changes’ where you don’t actually change the text at all; you just apply various colours of highlighting to various words/phrases. I’m sure you can think of your own applications of this, but I find this useful with ‘plain English’ texts where I have a long list of no-no words/phrases such as ‘implement’, ‘going forward’, ‘in conjunction with’ etc. These are all highlighted for me so that as I read I can edit them out.

Although the principle is simple, you can use it to do some very sophisticated editing of Word files, especially if you use wildcard F&Rs. But don’t worry if you’re not an expert on wildcarding, because FRedit comes with a huge library of scripts, so you can cut and paste the various bits of script into your own script file for any given job. For example, hyphens to en dashes within number ranges, eliding numbers (6734–6756 to 6734–56), uneliding them (6734–56 to 6734–6756), automatically applying coding (<A>, <B>, etc) to headings, moving footnote markers outside punctuation, etc, etc. The list is endless.

Lots more where these came from

I hope these few suggestions fire your imagination and encourage you to look at the rest of the macros. By picking the ones that best suit your way of working, you can save yourself a lot of time, and they will enable you to produce a more consistent output.

If you can’t find a macro that does what you want, do ask me because there might be other people wanting to do the same as you. If I then write a macro for you (no charge!) then others can use it – and maybe me too. Happy macroing! ☐
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