Bringing Them up to Speed: Teaching Scholarly Communication to New Graduate Students

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Have you visited Hong Kong?

Yes: 2
No: 18
Total: 20
Ask me anything!

0 questions

0 upvotes
A bit about me...

• Educated in Hong Kong and England
• Several years as a school librarian in Hong Kong
• Celebrating 10 years at HKBU :-)
Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)

- Founded 1956 as Hong Kong Baptist College
- Began receiving public funding in 1983
- Gained university status in 1994
Scholarly communication (SC) abilities of graduate students

- An important skill set (Ince et al., 2018)
- But not attractive to students (Fong et al., 2016)
- Low awareness of SC trends in early-career researchers (Nicholas et al., 2017)
How are your graduate students supported in developing SC skills?

- Informal support: 17
- Face-to-face workshops: 11
- Online tutorials: 8
- Course-integrated instruction: 12
- Not sure / Not applicable: 7

Total: 45
How is this support assessed?

- No formal assessment: 15
- Satisfaction surveys: 6
- Assignments/tests: 2
- Other type of assessment: 4
McClellan et al. (2017) reviewed professional skills programming for graduate students

• Stand-alone workshop most common format
• Formal assessment of such programming has been minimal
Supporting SC skills development in HKBU graduate students
Mandatory Common Core Programme (MCCP)

- Introduced in 2014
- Library invited to design courses under the heading of "Research Support Skills"
Two SC workshops

- Introduction to Scholarly Communication
- The Insider's Guide to Getting Published
Challenges

• Lack of assessment
• Diversity of student research experience
• Student convenience
Proposal

• New online-only course combining content of two workshops
• Modular structure
• Summative assessment quiz
Modules

• Defining scholarly communication
• The scholarly publishing process
• The open access movement
• Predatory publishers
• Assessing research impact: Bibliometrics and altmetrics
• Creating a personal publication strategy
Module 1: Defining scholarly communication

After completing this module, you will be able to:

1. Define what is meant by "scholarly communication", and identify its various aspects and stakeholders
2. Understand the rapidly evolving nature of the scholarly communication life cycle, and recognize the need to keep up to date with the latest developments.

Module 2: The scholarly publishing process

After completing this module, you will be able to:

1. Critically assess the advantages and disadvantages of the traditional scholarly publishing process, in order to make informed decisions about publishing your own research
2. Recognize the important role of peer review in scholarly communication
Module 4 Main Content

What are "predatory publishers"?

In the last module, we noted that to enable open access some publishers have moved to the gold model whereby authors pay for the costs of publishing. It is also the case that academics at all levels are under increasing pressure to publish.

Some unscrupulous people have exploited these circumstances to make a profit. In essence, their business model is to set up a "journal" (usually simply a website) and then "publish" any articles that are submitted as long as a fee is paid. Although they may dishonestly claim to perform peer review, they do not actually do so.

Read

Publish and don't be damned: Some science journals that claim to peer review papers do not do so

This brief article from The Economist gives a good overview of the problem of predatory publishers.


In academia, a predatory twist in publishing

Sometimes, it is not the case that academics have been fooled by spam e-mails to submit their work to predatory publishers. This article from the New York Times explains why some scholars knowingly submit their papers to substandard journals.
Student access to course content
Assessment quiz

- Can be taken at any time
- 12 questions
- Two-week delay enforced between attempts
Apart from multiple-choice, drag-and-drop type questions included
Which of the following is the best definition of scholarly communication?

Select one:

- The process by which research findings are shared and published, both formally and informally, so that they are available to the wider academic community and beyond.
- The organization of academic conferences to share research findings with the wider academic community.
- The informal sharing of research results with the wider community, for example via blog posts, social media, and personal websites.
- The publishing of research findings in scholarly, peer-reviewed academic journals.

❌ Sorry, that’s not right. Journal publishing is just one specific type of scholarly communication - there are many others.
Sample quiz questions

Get ready to play!
The Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) calls for impact factor to be the main way an individual's research output is assessed.
Leaderboard

947 p  🐸 Jenny
942 p  😍 Lovesight
937 p  🐅 Kelsey
932 p  💔 Melissa
924 p  🐰 Holahop
908 p  🍓 E
908 p  📝 JD
903 p  🦊 J
903 p  📚 Judy
900 p  ⚽ LT
888 p
Authors paying publishers to make their work freely available is called...
Leaderboard

1857 p  Marcela
1839 p  Melissa
1837 p  JD
1828 p  Judy
1817 p  Lovesight
1804 p  Holahop
1793 p  J
1791 p  E
1778 p  Sue
1776 p  Christina
It's a good idea to submit your manuscript to more than one journal to get it published quicker.
Leaderboard

2843 p  🐻 Marcela
2822 p  😍 Melissa
2807 p  🧑JD
2796 p  ❤️ Lovesight
2764 p  🦊 J
2744 p  🦊 Holahop
2717 p  🏳️‍🌈 Christina
2716 p  🏳️‍🌈 Sue
2703 p  🕵️‍♀️ Judy
2606 p  🇮🇹 Mark
Assessment results

- Most passed on first attempt
- Two thirds scored above 90%
- 17 of 124 students did not meet requirement
Student survey results

• 38 responses (out of 124 enrolled)
Rank how useful you found the modules - Results:

• Assessing research impact: Bibliometrics and altmetrics
• Creating a personal publication strategy
• Predatory publishers
• Defining scholarly communication
• The open access movement
• The scholarly publishing process
How useful did you find the content of the course?
Do you prefer the current or former arrangements for this course?
Takeaways

- Institutional support vital
- Modular online course caters to diverse experience of graduate students
- Calibrate assessments to encourage student engagement
Final questions?

0 questions
0 upvotes
References


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