

LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Aghassi WJ. **Roadblocks deter today's Einstein.** *Physics Today* 2007;60(10):12.

(<http://tinyurl.com/4or374>)

Letter supporting the letter by William Aghassi *ibid.* 60(10)12 but going further, saying "Actually credentials also mean little today, unless your research is in a trendy topic like string theory and you write from a famous university like MIT, Cambridge University, Imperial College or Caltech. Gatekeepers and editors shun originality."

Maher A, Waller S, Kerans ME. **Acquiring or enhancing a translation specialism: the monolingual corpus-guided approach.** *Journal of Specialized Translation* 2008;10:56–75.

(http://www.jostrans.org/issue10/art_maher.pdf)

An account of how to go about setting up and using a corpus of model texts to guide editing or translation decision-making. It describes tools and proposes approaches that provide practical solutions for the working translators and editors who work in specialized fields. The article complements a poster that was first presented at the ninth EASE conference in Krakow in 2006.

Vasconcelos SMR, Sorenson MM, Leta J, Sant'Ana MC, Batista PD. **Researchers' writing competence: a bottleneck in the publication of Latin American science?** *EMBO Reports* 2008;9(8):700–602.

(doi:10.1038/embor.2008.143)

Writing for publication in an English language international journal is a linguistic burden for non-English speaking countries. In Brazilian research output, poor English language knowledge and poor writing skills are often a barrier to publishing in high rank journals and to reaching high scientific productivity.

PUBLISHING

Schmoch U, Schubert T. **Are international co-publications an indicator for quality of scientific research?** *Scientometrics* 2008;74(3):361–377.

(doi:10.1007/s11192-007-1818-5)

The article deals with the role of internationally co-authored papers, or co-publications. The authors compare, within a dataset of German research units, citation and co-publication indicators as proxies for scientific research quality assessment. They also address the relationship between citations and co-publications. Their results suggest that, although there is a strong partial correlation between

citations and co-publications, co-publication indicators cannot be used as a proxy for research quality assessment.



RESEARCH EVALUATION

Regazzi JJ, Aytac S. **Author perceptions of journal quality.**

Learned Publishing 2008;21:225–235.

(doi:10.1087/095315108X288938)

Investigates author-perceived quality of science, technology, and medicine journals, using questionnaire survey, focus groups, and semi-structured face-to-face interviews. The three most important attributes were the reputation of the journal, the estimated length of time to article publication, and the readership of the journal.

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Promoting EASE

You'll have noticed that EASE membership is growing satisfactorily, thanks to sterling efforts by Sheila Evered in contacting lapsed members and by various people in encouraging new ones. We wish to build on this and 2009 is a great time to do so, as we have the attraction of our triennial conference in the beautiful city of Pisa. Members will receive a €50 discount on the registration fee, so we hope that most of those attending will join up.

We would like all our members to help promote both EASE and the conference as much as possible, particularly by distributing the second circular regarding Pisa (a pdf may be obtained from Sheila or the website) and distributing fliers and copies of *ESE* at any conferences they attend (contact Sheila at secretary@ease.org.uk).

Do you have ideas for strengthening our relationships with our sister societies? We would like to accumulate a complete list of these! If you belong to an organization that complements some of our activities, please let us

know. Examples of successful collaborations this year are the discount membership deal with the Society for Editors and Proofreaders, whereby members of both get a discount (our own Editors' Big Deal of bundled subscriptions!) and teaming up with Mediterranean Editors and Translators at EuroScience Open Forum (see p 108). Contact Joan Marsh (jmarsh@wiley.com) or Alison Clayson (alison@clayson.org) and let us know your ideas.

Publicity Officer

Following on from the above, is anyone interested in becoming the EASE Publicity Officer? It's an unpaid post, but think of the glory of putting this on your CV! You would liaise with Council and the other Committees to obtain news of EASE activities, then send press releases to relevant newsletters. Assembling a list of relevant newsletters would be a first task – all those free e-bulletins to which people subscribe so that they can fill up their inbox. Candidates should contact Joan Marsh (jmarsh@wiley.com).