happy band of 22 contributors and organizations have collaborated in the production of a new edition of Clark’s Publishing Agreements, this time the 9th. It is a true tour de force from key people in the publishing industry and is an example of both a supreme team effort and generosity of publishing spirit, with all royalties going to the Book Trade Charity.

Although the 8th edition was only published in 2010 there has been a plethora of legislation reviews since and proposals for copyright changes, together with ongoing legal cases. All these have a greater or lesser impact on many of the precedents included in the book, which sadly means the 8th edition is already redundant in the book, which sadly means the 8th edition is already redundant. No wonder being aware of bribery implications in people, the proceeds of crime and selling better access for visually impaired readers, the ongoing Google/Authors’ settlements in 2012 of the long-run-2nd edn

Pippa Smart, Herve Maisonneuve, Arjan Polderman

Redruth, European Association of Science Editors, 2013, viii + 231pp. 978-0-905988-11-5 (pbk) £24.99 plus postage

http://www.ease.org.uk/publications/science-editors-handbook (EASE members can download chapter by chapter free of charge but there is no e-edition officially available).

This is a new edition of a handbook once issued in fascicles and not fully updated since 2002. It contains 6 sections containing 56 chapters written by 54 authors. Of the 56 chapters, 23 are completely new and all the others have been extensively revised and updated. The format is A4 double column and a lot of information is fitted in.

The title might mislead: it is entirely about journals.

The main target readership is made clear by Pippa Smart in her introduction. It is to provide ‘a resource to editors and publishers, who struggle to find relevant answers to their questions’ and it is particularly useful to those editors who manage their journals ‘with little or no support from the journal owner/publisher’ and, one might add, who are in fact the publisher. For an answer to the obvious question – what is an editor? – see a table on p. 44. The coverage reflects the membership of EASE as a publishing organization based in Europe and concerned with languages other than English. Other organizations such as ALPSP might have different coverage. Some of the readership might also or alternatively belong to the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors (ISMTE), US-based but active in the UK: it is surprisingly not mentioned in a list of editors’ organizations and resources on p. 97.

EASE Science Editors’ Handbook,

Arjan Polderman

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There is no real competition: smaller guides covering part of the content are now out-of-date. The *Handbook of Journal Publishing* by Sally Morris and others does contain content concerning issues also represented in the more general chapters of this handbook but the aims of the two publications are very different and they complement each other.

The contents are organized as follows.

Section 1 on Editing, which contains sections on units (for example), and section 2 on Nomenclature and Terminology, not comprehensive but for classical disciplines current and expert, provide the essentials needed by all editors with any hands-on roles (92 pages). Section 3 on Policies and Processes and section 6 on Publishing and Promoting help the reader to run a journal (82 pages). Finally, there is a strong emphasis on what the introduction refers to as ‘two of the hottest topics of the moment’: section 4 on Peer Review and section 5 on Ethics (46 pages).

This reviewer’s impression is that four of the sections are more useful than the other two (3 and 6). Everyone who puts together a handbook like this is very aware that they are dependent on the contributors being willing and able to write well on relevant topics and will also accept strict editorial control, both of length and content. Without that some rather outre topics can be included as appears to be the case here with, for example, section 6.4 on grey literature. The authors of the sections on Peer Review and Ethics are well known as experts and what they write is not only very reliable and current but would also be very useful, for example, to anyone approaching the COPE (Committee On Publication Ethics) site with all the complexities associated with a quickly changing field. Why is section 6.7 on legal issues not more closely associated with Ethics? Surely three pages gives too little space to a range of legal topics that concern small publishers a lot if one is to judge from the lists? The section on marketing (6.10) is called ‘promotion’ and is also skimpy if one considers that the readership of editors will be responsible to some degree for publishing. The paragraph on social media in that section does not sufficiently reflect the opportunities for reaching out to readers (and authors) using contemporary media – something that is now central to the work of marketeers in larger companies.

These are quibbles. The book is likely to be very useful indeed for its readership. It is a triumph of hard work and good editing and a tribute to the existence of EASE. What about its usefulness to other readers of this journal? This reviewer suggests that anyone in publishers of any size will find this volume worth working through and keeping for reference. The way younger publishers get into a variety of positions in journals publishing leaves them ignorant of huge swathes of basic knowledge about journals, much of which is very important in the digital environment. What a pity that there is no e-version available for purchase for non-members. Alas, there is no index in spite of a section (1.11) on the importance of indexes. The only way of searching, which this reviewer found himself wanting to do frequently, is using an e-version and the search facilities available online.

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