

Scientific Publishing – some personal reflections

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Point of departure

The scientific communities are our most important stakeholders, as we fully depend on their approval.

- Is our research scientific or not?
- Is our education based on scientific results or not?



**Our mission statement:
"Science for the Professions"**

What we are doing must be based on research accepted by the scientific community, or it will not be science that we offer the professions.



Scientific communication

- To achieve the approval of the scientific community, we most communicate.
- The most important means of communication is the written text of scientific publications.



A matter of “professionalism of science”

I will point out three issues :

- To take part in a scientific conversation.
- To strive for quality.
- To see publications in context.



1. The professionalism of scientific conversation

To strive for influence through text:

- A matter of being read and cited.
- To reach actual readers, not only potential readers.
- An ethical dimension.



...the ethical dimension:

- To make the best use of the public resources given to us.
- Any good solutions we can offer ought to reach as many as possible.

2. Publishing as part of a quality process

We can strive to enhance research quality with the help of the publishing process:

- The more conversations we take part in, the more scrutiny will our research get.
- The benefits of the peer review process (also an extra safety for a doctoral student).

3. The professionalism of seeing the context

Are we part of the conversation or do we have to create a position first?

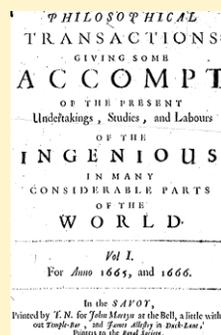
- Publishing strategies based on individual and institutional needs.
- Let our position guide our strategies.
- The standards of our own publications?



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The first fully peer-reviewed scientific journal was published in 1665.

For 350 years, this model has become more and more important. There is a reason for this.



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There are valid points for debate

- The focus on Web of Science impact factors and ranking.
- A too narrow perspective leading to fragmentation and self-citations.

A part of professionalism to see this in a wider perspective.



A Web of Science impact factor can be seen as a measure of scientific conversation.

- The articles are read and cited.
- The topics are important in the scientific community.
- Impact factors must be interpreted.



My personal view

Strong advantages with dissertations based on international peer-reviewed articles:

- Adds a further dimension of quality assurance to the process.
- The students learn the craft while there is a supervisor to guide them (we owe all our doctoral students this).



Some scientific traditions keep the monograph in particularly high regard.

With a finished PhD, based on articles, it is always possible to write a monograph based on the dissertation (perhaps for a wider audience than a dissertation, and from a more established position, with no worries about an examination board).



Summing up publishing as scientific professionalism

- The scientific community is our most important stakeholder.
- Taking part in a scientific conversation.
- Individual and departmental publishing strategies based on actual position.
- An understanding for the current debate but an ability to see it in context.



Unless we publish our results in channels accepted by the scientific community, and take part in the scientific communications in our fields, we can't make any solid claims about offering science for the professions.

- THE END -

