

Academic Journal: Concern on Academic Publication Management

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Abstract

In academic work, in the present day, there are increasing expectations on the academic personnel. It seems that the main roles of any academic personnel in any universities or institutes include a) teaching, b) research, c) generation new things, d) promotion by giving service and e) administration. To manage the rapid influx of workload, the academic personnel have to adjust their life style and reorganize the paradigm or "paradigm shift". The first basic rule for any high education academic center is the center has to produce research and publication. Research is the searching process but it will be useless without publication, which means publicize the research findings. This is the way to give knowledge wider and have it become useful for the real life. Publication is the international index for determining the academic property of either academic personnel or institute. Publication is not the new things. It remains ran within the high education curriculum for a long time. It is the basic requirement for graduation of high education. Setting a journal to serve the increasing requirement of each center is widely done. It is the present trend of any institute. Many new journals can be seen worldwide. Of interest, with rapid increasing influx of new journals and publications, the survival of the new journals is of concern. It seems that the survival depends mainly on the standards. Towards standard international journal is a very important topic for discussion. The issue on business law and technology management is hereby discussed.

Keywords: Academic, Publications, Standards, Law, Management

Introduction

The academic society is a very big community in the present day. It is the basic rule that academic personnel have to publish the academic work. It can be said that it is the present game for any the high education academic center. In academic work, in the present day, there are increasing expectations on the duty and job of the academic personnel. The main basic roles of any academic personnel in any universities or institutes are a) teaching, b) research, c) generation new things, d) giving community service and e) administration¹. To manage the rapid increasing workload, the academic personnel have to adjust their life style. The academic practitioners have to reorganize the paradigm or "paradigm shift"¹. The first basic rule for any high education academic center is the required role in producing researches

and publications. Research is the basic data searching process in academic society. This process will be useless without publication. This means publicizing the research findings is the final requirement step of any researching. This is the way to widen or broadcast or generalize the knowledge. This is the way to make the research finding to be useful for the real life. Setting a journal to serve the increasing requirement of each center is widely done. It is the present trend of any institute. Many new journals can be seen worldwide. Of interest, with rapid increasing influx of new journals and publications, the survival of the new journals is of concern. It seems that the survival depends mainly on the standards. Towards standard international journal is a very important topic for discussion. "What will be on the way" is an interesting topic¹.

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Publication is basic international index for comparing between institutes. To determine the academic rank of academic personnel or institute, the comparison of published works is usually used. Publication is not the new activity; it has been existed for many centuries. It remains the main activity in any high education curriculum. For a long time, the graduate students require to perform research and publish their works. It is the basic requirement for graduation of high degree (M.Sc. or Ph.D).

How to get the success in data management for publication?

Of interest, the academic personnel presently get several academic requirements. It seems that they are bombarded by the increasing workload and the "Virtuous Cycle" can be seen¹. These are actual challenge things; a) turn teaching into research, b) turn research into teaching, c) turn teaching into generation/consultancy and d) turn generation/consultancy into teaching and research¹. It seems that this is an actual interrelationship. When one performs an R2R or routine to research work, the application of what the academic personnel teach into the research production and promotion by service can be expected. This is the new thing and should be the role of the any academic personnel. When a new knowledge is defined, it should be used and integrated into teaching session for the new generation, the student. This can confirm the role of university on "society service" or "social brain". In addition, also service can also be recorded and re-summarized to be the new research and knowledge for teaching as a continuous loop, according to the concept of continuous quality improvement. It is the general rule that the supervisor has to supervise, extract and develop papers from the report of their students in any degrees. Duff noted that there are some barriers for the beginners to be overcome. Duff mentioned that "the barriers addressed are time, failure to recognize expertise, a reluctance to subject one's work and ideas to the public arena for scrutiny, and lack of confidence with scholarly writing²." Hence, it can be the role of supervisor for management. To generalize the information from researches, there are 2 main methods, conference proceeding and publication as journal article. Conference proceeding is easier but usually questionable for the standards. A more acceptable method is the publication as a journal article. The institute ranking in the present day is based mainly on the number of international publications.

Academic journal ran by the university

As noted, many new academic journals are launched and ran by the university. This is the attempt of many universities to upgrade the publication and provide the way for their students to get the publication. First, it is the responsibility of the academic personnel to try themselves best to publish in the best journal. Ranking should be

firstly considered. It is also suggested that the publication in their universities, as an in-breed publication, should be avoided. Sometimes, the students get the problems due to poor English, no innovation idea (strict to classical format without new idea), no incentive and not dare to do. This results in unwanted in-breed publication that might further result in downgrade of the newly set journal of the university. Woodrow said that "the majority of research undertaken by nurses remains unpublished (Humphris 1999), so much potentially useful experience, knowledge, ideas and research are lost³" and further suggested that "in-house journal to encourage nurses to develop their skills of writing for publication³." However, as noted, in-breed publication can be questionable on standards of reviewing. This can result in low merit of the in-house journal.

Not only the topic of the findings of article and avoidance of in-breed publication but also other issued should be thought. It should be noted that it should "not set a journal as a toy". Journal is an academic piece of publication, not a gray magazine or cartoon. It is necessary to think before launching a journal. Starting the process by selection on international editorial board and peer review is needed. To promote a good journal, the management team and editorial board have to have a wide vision targeting international board. The standardization is needed since it is the important thing that fits with the concept of quality management and accreditation at present. For a good journal, there must be a) standard regulation, b) specific scope and c) good peer review process (actual peer reviewing, strict criteria for acceptance or rejection, justice in management)¹. Journal has to aim at quality of the articles, not the quantity. Zheng noted that "the reviewer is required to address detailed aspects of the paper under review and to resend his or her opinion on the paper.⁴" It is no doubt that the editorial management is a very important step of the publishing process⁴. Both "clarity and brevity" are required properties of the editors⁵. Zheng mentioned that "the editors begin action with the receipt of the manuscript, direct the various steps of evaluation, correction and re-submission, until a decision is made to accept or reject the paper at the regular meeting of Decision Making Group.⁴" Finally, ethics is important issue for running of any new journals.

Ethical concern on the academic publication by university

As already mentioned, ethics is important issue for running of any new journals. The ethics in publishing is widely mentioned. First, it is the rule that the publication ethics should be maintained and it is the role of university to provide this concept to the students. The recent report from Egypt is very interesting⁶. El-Shinawi et al. concluded that "an educational awareness campaign is effective in increasing medical students' awareness about RCR and should be

incorporated into current medical school curricula in Egypt⁷. In fact, education is usually mentioned as a way to stop the misconduct⁷⁻⁸. However, an interesting question is why there is still misconduct despite the implementation of the education program. At present, the research misconduct becomes the present big issue for any universities. Research ethics becomes a pre-requisite course in many universities. Also, many universities declare the highest punishment to any students or staffs who have misconduct. Nevertheless, the problem still exists at a high incidence. Some universities declare for free of misconduct. Of interest, despite the declaration, the misconduct occurred at a short period later (For example, after declaration in 2015, the problem "J Med Assoc Thai. 2015 May;98 Suppl 4:S22-6." and "Asian Pac J Cancer Prev. 2015;16(6):2323-6." occurred). Indeed, the misconduct by not only medical students but also senior medical professors and deans can be seen. Nevertheless, the difference is the fact that those senior plagiarists still go on his duties without any punishment while the cases of students is usually strictly managed. Indeed, guilty, confession and punishment has to be transparent to the public⁹. This is an actual way to promote recognition and acceptance of ethical issue in medical education⁹. The lack of the ethical model, inadequate and no standards for management of misconduct might a neglected and forgotten issue to be noted.

For the newly set journal by any university, the big concern is on the ethical problem of the submitted article. Standard guideline in management of submitted article is needed. Verification of free of unethical issue is needed and if there is a detected problem, the management is needed. In general, "journals discover research misconduct when articles are reviewed (an editor or a reviewer detect signals), or after the article's publication when a reader or a whistleblower call the journal¹⁰." Maisonneuve noted that "when errors and fraud are identified, journals can publish 3 statements: erratum for errors, expression of concern for errors or fraud when evidence is not established, and retraction when evidence is obvious¹⁰." In some difficult case, the ethicist as consultation should be considered¹¹.

It seems that there should be both roles. As noted by Wager et al., "institutions should: • have a research integrity officer (or office) and publish their contact details prominently; • inform journals about cases of proven misconduct that affect the reliability or attribution of work that they have published; • respond to journals if they request information about issues, such as disputed authorship, misleading reporting, competing interests, or other factors, including honest errors, that could affect the reliability of published work; • initiate inquiries into allegations of research misconduct or unacceptable publication practice raised by journals; • have policies supporting responsible research conduct and systems in place for investigating suspected research misconduct¹²". For the journals, Wager et al. noted

that the journals should " • publish the contact details of their editor-in-chief who should act as the point of contact for questions relating to research and publication integrity; • inform institutions if they suspect misconduct by their researchers, and provide evidence to support these concerns; • cooperate with investigations and respond to institutions' questions about misconduct allegations; • be prepared to issue retractions or corrections (according to the COPE guidelines on retractions) when provided with findings of misconduct arising from investigations; • have policies for responding to institutions and other organizations that investigate cases of research misconduct¹²."

Finally, the possible misconduct of editors has to be mentioned. As noted by Maisonneuve, "the editors and reviewers' research misconduct are less described and not publicized in the medias¹⁰."

Legal aspect of journal publication: issue that needed to be considered

As a media, the journal has to be considered on legal aspect. It is no doubt that many journals have to rely on "money". It is an actual story of conflict of interest. Business becomes non avoidable issue. Some journals might get the money from "spot" on the back cover. The issue of "drug spot" in medical journal is the good example. This becomes the issue to be discussed in both ethical and legal issue¹³. Sometimes, a more serious condition such as a drug company pay to the journal for publishing a bias or fraud¹⁴. Candlish noted that "these aspects are examined in the context of English law¹⁴" and "the new Fraud Act (2006) appears to be wide enough in scope to cover publishing fraud as a criminal offence¹⁴." Chadly noted that "transparency must be respected in the field of advertising and supplement issues edition¹⁵."

In addition to conflict of interest issue, the issue on copyright is another interesting topic¹⁶⁻¹⁷. Hrynaskiewicz and Cockerill noted that "copyright and licensing of scientific data, internationally, are complex and present legal barriers to data sharing, integration and reuse, and therefore restrict the most efficient transfer and discovery of scientific knowledge¹⁸." The copyright issue is complex. Sometimes, the situation has to traced back to the original data such as medical records¹⁹.

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