

Journals in Flux

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Committee on Electronic Information and Communication (CEIC)

- Standing committee of the Executive Committee (EC) of the International Mathematical Union (IMU)
- Established by IMU General Assembly in 1998
- Advises the EC on matters concerning information and communication
- Facilitate the development of a World Digital Mathematics Library
- Call to All Mathematicians to Make Publications Electronically Available (2001 & update)

CEIC — Current Members

- Thierry Bouche, Institut Fourier, France
- Olga Caprotti, Chalmers University, Sweden
- James Davenport, University of Bath, UK
- Carol Hutchins, Courant Institute, USA
- László Lovász, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary
- Peter Olver, University of Minnesota, USA (Chair)
- Ravi Vakil, Stanford University, USA

Best Current Practices for Journals (2010)

- Quality control
- Improving content and presentation
- Dissemination
- Archiving

Fundamental principles:

- Transparency
- Integrity
- Professionalism

Best Current Practices for Journals

- Authors
- Referees
- Editors
- Publishers

Rights and Responsibilities

Authors:

- Careful, unbiased, timely peer review
- Access to all reports
- Research integrity and scholarship
- Well written, mathematically correct article
- Acknowledge contributions of others, including referees
- Unique submission
- Multiple authors should communicate & contribute

Rights and Responsibilities

Referees:

- Expert advisors to editors
- Maintain standards
- Obligation to participate in peer review
- Anonymity
- Timeliness
- Confidentiality
- Integrity
- Positive guidance to author
- Responsibility for correctness lies with authors

Rights and Responsibilities

Editors:

- Journal vision and scope
- Procedures publicly available
- Implement peer review process
- Review on purely scientific grounds
- Quick reject possible
- Fair handling of appeals
- Be alert to unethical practices
- Active involvement

Rights and Responsibilities

Publishers:

- Detailed information publicly available
- Papers widely accessible @ affordable
- Modes (traditional, electronic, open access, pay-to-publish, ...)
- Timeliness
- Clearly communicate copyright policies
- Typesetting, copyediting, publishing online/print
- Track and publicize unethical practices

The Role of Journals in the Internet Era

- Enhancement
- Dissemination
- Archiving
- Validation

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Journal and Paper Rankings

- Rating journals vs. rating papers
- Impact Factor
- Australia, Norway, Brazil, ...
- Peer Review
- Math Reviews
- **Michelin Guides** to papers on the web
- Virtual Journals

The Dark Side

- Metric manipulation and misuse
- Inattentive editors
- Predatory journals and conferences
- Open access, pay-to-publish, rewards, ...
- Plagiarism

Publicity!

“If we are not properly engaged, the future will be decided for us and, almost certainly, will not be to our liking.”

— PJO, Journals in Flux, *Notices AMS*, September, 2011.