Scholarly Book Authoring Workshop

Academic Quality, Peer Review and Author Responsibilities

Ogugua Charles Aworh, FNIFST, FIAFoST, FAAS

Emeritus Professor of Food Technology

Book Review Board

- Knowledge generation and dissemination are of critical importance in a knowledge-driven world. Regrettably, Africa continues to lag behind in knowledge production and dissemination globally. This underscores the importance of this BookHub Workshop on Scholarly Book Authoring.
- Academic quality, peer review, and author responsibilities are vital components of academic publishing that provide credibility, reliability and trust; promote accuracy and clarity; and ensure that ethical standards are complied with, amongst others.

Global Best Practices in Academic Publishing

- Commercial publishers that dominate academic publishing have built a reputation of excellence over many decades, even though, recent unprecedented retractions have called some of that to question.
- Their hallmark and main selling point remain the high quality of their publications and, by and large, they are still the leaders in global best practices in academic publishing.
- They are commercial enterprises that are out to make profit, with article processing charges (APCs) an important feature of their operations. Open access is not the priority of commercial publishers.

- They command prestige in academic circles on account of the quality of their publications, the wide reach, great visibility, and high impact.

- Critical to the reputation of excellence of the leading commercial academic publishers are the academic standing, qualifications, experience and track record of the editorial teams; the selection of reviewers and the rigour of the peer review process; the quality of the contributing authors- all working together to produce quality publications.

- Commercial publishers keep refining their publishing platforms to make them more efficient and better meet the needs of authors, editors and reviewers. Good examples are Springer Nature's Article Processing Platform (SNAPP) and Elsevier Electronic Manuscript Submission System (EMSS) where manuscript submission, technical check, editorial assignment, peer-review, correction and response to reviewers by authors, acceptance, editing, and publishing are all done on line.

- The objective of any intervention to promote scholarly writing and publishing, such as this one by BookHub, should be to attain such level of excellence in order to build credibility and acceptance.

PEER REVIEW

- Peer review of manuscripts submitted for publication by experts in the field is an indispensable component of academic publishing, critical to building confidence in the process.
- Peer review assesses the quality, adequacy, importance, relevance, contribution to scholarship, originality, validity, accuracy, presentation, and ethical integrity of the manuscript.

Peer review are commonly of two types:

- Single-blind in which reviewers know the authors' identities but authors do not know the reviewers
- Double-blind in which neither authors nor reviewers know the identities of each other.

Peer review should be rigorous; not just to "fulfil all righteousness"

Reviewer 1 (Highlights)

An important and well written and constructed review paper. This paper appears to be a review of the latest evidence on industrialisation of traditional foods. This should be explained more clearly in the paper with the intention of the research more clearly explained.

I do think that there is more to achieving this than just access to pilot plant facilities. Even with access to pilot plants, industry needs to be engaged to be able to develop and market these products.

Policies to advance modernisation of traditional foods could also accelerate this transformation in the context of food and nutrition security strategies. This should be elaborated further on in the paper.

It would be ideal to share any examples of where countries have been successful in achieving this or traditional foods that have been able to be modernised and what lessons could be learnt and followed in other markets. I think of Mageu in South Africa, a traditionally, fermented maize drink available in on-the-go packaging format for busy lifestyles with a variety of flavours (even energy drink range) appealing to younger, urban consumers.

https://rclfoods.com/number-1-mageu-the-culture-of-a-south-african-icon/

Author Responsibility

Authors bear the ultimate responsibility for their work. Their responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Originality, honesty and accurate presentation of their work; avoiding plagiarism
- Proper acknowledgement of contributions of others; proper referencing
- Correct authorship reflecting only individuals that contributed to the work
- Seek ethical approval from relevant authorities where appropriate
- Uphold confidentiality where appropriate
- Respond fully to reviewers' comments
- Disclose conflict of interests
- Avoid multiple submissions

Use of AI in Scholarly Writing

AI has many applications in scholarly writing and manuscript preparation including:

- Organising ideas and research design
- Developing research questions and outline
- Writing and structuring the manuscript
- Improving clarity and style
- Checking citations
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Analyzing data
- Creating tables, graphs and other visuals

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



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