

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SCHOLARLY EDITORS' FORUM

Incentives for Scholarly Journal Editors in South Africa

Wieland Gevers

The 'Bull Committee' previously investigated:

-practical ways of motivating editors..... ?
-potential stakeholders(to) contribute towards sustainability and optimum benefit of ..incentives?
-the current situation regarding provision of incentives.....?
-funding poolsto support the above.....?

‘Intellectual’ incentives

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA
ASSAf

- **Service to discipline**
- **Personal fulfilment**
- **Continuing ‘learning’**
- **Networking**
- **Editorial autonomy**
- **Accreditation by DoHET**
- **Indexing by SCIE, Scopus**

Some Practical Support Practices:

- (i) Reimbursement for direct and indirect expenses**
- (ii) Direct remuneration by way of an honorarium or stipend**
- (iii) Indirect remuneration or recognition**
- (iv) Staff support**
- (v) Infrastructural support**
- (vi) Travel and conference attendance**

Systemic Proposal: General adoption of online manuscript management

- **Author – Reviewer – Editor interface**
- **Manuscript preparation & submission**
- **Correspondence**
- **Revision & finalisation**
- **Access by copy editor(s)**

Systemic Proposal: Move to a national publication facility(ies): phase 1

- **Provision of affordable, ‘economies-of-scale’ copy editing service(s)**
- **Electronic platform(s) and print publication where justified**
- **‘Economies-of-scale’ distribution**

National publication facility/ies: phase 2

- **Expanded copy editing service(s)**
- **More/larger electronic platform(s) and print publication where still justified (fewer ++)**
- **Better, cheaper distribution**
- **Possible translation & language-support services?**
- **Online scientific/scholarly writing service (ASSAf) and possible mentoring services for aspiring authors?**
- **Possible marketing and advertising support?**

Key options:

Online manuscript management

- Use existing commercial services?
- Develop a national or regional platform?

National publication facility

- Integrate with foregoing platforms?
- Reconcile with SciELO initiative?
- Recreate a 'Bureau for Scientific Publications'?

Immediate steps...



- Upgrade recognition of editor role : competitive appointment; CV 'asset'; [approach HESA and NRF for help]....
- Enhance recognition of peer reviewer role: system for ranking effort; public listing; CV 'asset'....[Approach HESA and NRF]
- Provide support as mainstream scholarly role.....indispensable development agent
- Establish system of national awards....

UNIVERSITY PRESSES

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF SOUTH AFRICA
ASSAf

- Curious focus on books, so far....
- Curious demand for 'break-even' or 'for overall profit business models.....
- No consortia of presses yet, but libraries have succeeded (now unravelling)...
- All of this may change as new 'pay-to-publish' journal models predominate in future/soon.....
- USA model very strong....

Evolving or existing commercial models



- **Sabinet e-Publications service : large cohort of SA journals, subscribe (mostly bundled for institutional licence) or pay-to-view = commercial model; no indexing, little quality assurance, low visibility worldwide (mostly SA)**
- **Inclusion in multinational portfolios: ‘purchase = foreign control’; covers publication costs, adds professional and marketing expertise, often ‘bundled’ licence sold worldwide for visibility; newer offers for Open Access pay-to-publish model, including discounted institutional ‘memberships’; ? not solution to full range of high-quality SA journals**

Invitation to discuss...



- **ASSAf investigation incomplete...Forum to suggest how to take further ?**
- **Major changes likely in international system - UK, EU, USA...Gold and Green Route roles contested+++...Forum to keep track ?**
- **Fundamental importance of local scholarly journal, book system: ASSAf/Forum Interactions with HESA, NRF, etc ?**

THANK YOU!