Assisting New Scholars

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JICD

- First issue – August 2010
- Quarterly publication
- One manuscript per day
- Rejection rate 80%
JICD - Demographics

- India 35%
- Brazil 22%
- Iran 10%
- Europe 10%
- China 5%
Census and sensibility

Ahead of the UN’s World Population Day next week, Danny Dorling considers how the global academy is bending to the winds of demographic change.
Numbers (in millions) accessing different levels of education, 1970-2050 (projected)

China

Population in millions

- Red: No education
- Blue: Primary
- Green: Secondary
- Purple: Tertiary

Year:
- 1970
- 1980
- 1990
- 2000
- 2010
- 2020
- 2030
- 2040
- 2050
Assisting New Scholars

Common problems:

- Plagiarism
- Self plagiarism
- `Reverse Plagiarism`
Plagiarism

“I am no plagiarist, I only moved a comma”
Plagiarism

In HKU approximately 50% of disciplinary cases are related to plagiarism and its consequences.

Basic ignorance of what plagiarism is
- In one study, 40% copied word for word without attribution – 90% said that it is plagiarism
- If `some changes` were made to the same text (still without attribution) then 40% said no/unsure

Misconceptions about self plagiarism
Data on Plagiarism

- One third of UK students think they have plagiarised
- 65% in Lithuania
- 46% in France
- 10% in Germany
Reverse Plagiarism

Purposeful Avoidance of literature in an attempt to deceive the reviewers

Pagiarism

Assisting Scholars

- Education
- Reorientation
- Plagiarismadvice.org
Helping scholars

To help scholars –
We need to understand why papers are rejected
Top 10 Reasons for Rejection
Top 10 reasons for rejection

Incomplete, inaccurate, outdated or plagiarised literature review
Top 10 reasons for rejection

Incomplete, inaccurate, outdated or plagiarised literature review:

Need to recognize that a literature review should be contextual, concise complete and free-of plagiarized material
Top 10 reasons for rejection

Sample too small or biased
Top 10 reasons for rejection

Sample too small or biased

- Commonest reason for rejection
- Not understanding the importance of power analysis
Top 10 reasons for rejection

Inaccurate or inconsistent data
Top 10 reasons for rejection

Inaccurate or inconsistent data

Assist by:

• training the scholars and teachers
• Poor manuscript = sloppy experimental work
Top 10 reasons for rejection

Insufficient data presented
Top 10 reasons for rejection

Insufficient data presented:
Commonest mistake!
Assist by:

• Not to be splitters but lumpers
Writing skills!

- Poor organisation
- Too long and verbose
- Failure to communicate clearly
- Poor grammar, syntax, spelling
- Excessively self-promotional
- Poorly written abstract
Top 10 reasons for rejection

• Mentoring the mentors
• Scientific editing
Top 10 reasons for rejection

- Inappropriate or suboptimal instrumentation
- Inappropriate of incomplete statistics
How should we help?

- Education
- Workshops
- University emphasis on research ethics and consequences
- Research integrity office/r
- Data Privacy issues
- Authorship issues
- Who owns the data?
Thank you!