Every Scientific Research Institute Needs an Authors’ Editor

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Academic publishing
context & premise

Exponential growth in research output...
Increasingly detailed instructions to authors
Stricter ethical standards and reporting guidelines
Concerns about quality and reproducibility of published research remain
Scientific writing is time-consuming and challenging

Researchers should have skilled editorial support
Spectrum of editorial services for researchers who write

- Translation
- Language editing
- Substantive editing
- Developmental editing
- Training in research writing
- Editorial advice

Remit of an authors’ editor...
Authors' editor

Editor who works for, and with, authors to make a document fit for purpose

"partners in communication at the service of science, readers and language"
Barbara G. Cox, 1974

"wordsmith, expeditor and educator who helps authors communicate scientific ideas and data effectively"
Martha M. Tacker 1977
Author Editing

Language editing
Substantive editing
(Developmental editing)
Editorial advice

pre-Submission editing
pre-Acceptance editing
pre-Publication editing

Writing process

Prewriting (planning)
Writing
Revising (Self-editing)
Revising

Submission

Acceptance

Publication

Publisher editing
Copy editing
Authors' editor

Skills and knowledge -- uniquely personal:
Language skills
Specialist disciplinary knowledge
Communication skills
Multiculturalism
Respect for publication ethics

Education and prior employment:
Studies in languages, sciences or communication
Editorial work: publishing, journalism, tech. writing
Continuing professional development

Today, often self-employed
Impact of *in-house* author editing

**For researchers:**
- Saved time
- Individualized instruction
- Good publishing practices
- More readable, usable research articles
- More convincing funding requests

**For scientific research institutes:**
- Researcher training
- Attract new faculty
- Protect reputation
- Contribute more actively, responsibly to the advancement of science
Every scientific research institute needs an authors' editor

We already know what works:

* Disciplinary focus
* Effective workload
* Infrastructure (minimal)
* Teleworking
* Skill profile

Remit of an authors’ editor!
Every Scientific Research Institute Needs an Authors’ Editor

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