A Career in Scholarly Publishing

Dr Jennifer Griffiths
Editorial Development Manager, North America
Chemistry publishers

Society publishers

- Established 1841
  38 international chemistry journals

- Established 1876
  45 international chemistry journals

Commercial publishers

- Established 1880
  61 international chemistry journals

- Established 1921
  34 international chemistry journals
Articles by publisher

Articles published (all)

Articles published (North America)

ACS
ELSEVIER
OTHER
RSC
WILEY
Author Survey

Refereeing standards
Refereeing speed
Editors
Production speed
Physical quality
Publication services
Impact factor
Reputation

Data from 36,188 Authors
0= unimportant
10= very important

Source: Elsevier Author Feedback Programme
What does an Editor do?

- Key role in publication process
- Manages peer review
- Mediates between referees and authors
- Makes the final decision about publication
- Ensures fairness and quality standards
- Facilitates publication
Dr. Jennifer Griffiths

Editorial Development Manager, North America

Increase the number and quality of submissions and publications and promote readership in North America
Why go into scholarly publishing

• 2012 ca. $23.5 billion (~50% generated in the US)
• STM Publishers employ ~110,000 people (~40,000 in the US)
• STM journals > 28,000
• Physical Sciences > 7200 (Scopus)
• 2013 ca. 2.4 million articles published
  1. Medicine (754,155)
  2. Engineering (536,943)
  3. Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (316,136)
  4. Computer Science (299,441)
  5. Physics and Astronomy (297,196)
  6. Materials Science (245,207)
  7. Chemistry (216,329)

Why go into scholarly publishing

- Integral part of the international research community
- Responsible for the dissemination, usage and preservation of the scientific literature
- Opportunities for:
  - Strategic thinking
  - Leadership
  - Networking
  - Management
  - Business acumen
  - Innovation
  - Travel
Executive Editor

• Strategy to develop the profile of the journal (submissions, publications, usage, citations, profile, community)

• Leading the journal teams (Journals Development, Editorial Production, Editorial and Advisory Boards)

• Be the face of the journal
  • Attendance at national and international conferences

• Be responsible for the journal content

• Editorial and Advisory Board management

• Some budgetary responsibilities
Books Commissioning Editor

Responsible for:

• Commissioning titles for series and the overarching books portfolio
• Negotiating contracts with authors and editors
• Developing the profile of book series
• Being the face of the Book series
• Attendance at national and international conferences
• Editorial and Advisory Board management
• Working with Sales & Marketing to highlight areas for promotion and USPs for sales
Editorial Development Manager

Increase the number and quality of submissions and publications and promote readership in North America

- Strategic planning for the region
- Represent RSC at conferences and site visits
- Develop strong relationships with the community
- Commission articles for our journals
- Publicize RSC journals, books, and magazines
Skills

• Strategic thinking
• Innovation
• Leadership
• Negotiation and influencing
• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
• The ability to work well as part of a team
• Masters degree or PhD (preferred)
To do

- Network! Where to find publishing professionals:
  - Small conferences – look at attendee roster
  - Large conferences – receptions, booths
  - Publishing conferences/events (PSP, SSP, STM)
  - Visiting your institution
  - Cold emails – No need to sell yourself. Introduce yourself briefly, politely ask if you can ask more questions
To do

• Express interest to your advisor and other professors – especially if they are editors or editorial board members
• Learn about issues in scientific publishing
  • Scholarly Kitchen Blog
• Take a publishing course
• Take a writing/business course
• Organize something – seminars, departmental events, student organizations
When you apply

• Add to your CV:
  • Writing
  • Communication skills
  • Innovation
• Tailor application (and proof-read!)
• Prepare for the interview:
  • Understand role you are applying for
  • Research company and know their products
  • Prepare for questions
Thank you

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Scholarly publishing associations


Professional Scholarly Publishing (PSP) http://www.pspcentral.org/

Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP) http://www.sspnet.org/