Making online RCR-related information available to anyone who demands it

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Information Platform
1. The types of RCR related websites
2. The demand for RCR information
3. Making RCR information available
1. The types of RCR related websites

Types of RCR-related Information

- News, reports, events, misconduct cases
- Relevant laws, regulations and guidelines
- Codes of research (publication) conduct
- Institutional policies and procedures
- Educational materials, online courses
- Best practices, research findings, opinions
- Other (people, where to seek help, etc.)
RCR-related websites and webpages

Websites mainly dedicated to research integrity:

- International (ENRIO, E & I Portal)
- National (UKRIO, NRIN, ORI, etc)
- Professional (COPE, ICMJE, RetractionWatch)
- Other (WCRI websites, Anti-plagiarism, etc.)

Relevant webpages on the websites of:

- Government/funding agencies
- Universities and research institutions
- Academies, learned societies
- Publishers, journals
- Others (int’l organizations, businesses, etc.)
2. The demand of RCR information

(1) User groups with general interests — Ordinary scientists, students, and the public
(2) User groups with special interests — Administrators, educators, researchers, etc.

Characteristics of information users:

— Different demands related to their work
— Seeking information or just visiting relevant institutional websites
— Information literacy/info. services available
— Foreign language proficiency
— Other (relevant budget, etc.)
Information for special-interest users

Information important for some stakeholders:

(1) Relevant global news, events, hot-topics
(2) Various guidelines in foreign languages
(3) Research findings (access restraints)
(4) Successful experiences in another country
(5) Instructional courses and materials
(6) Details of cross-border misconduct cases
(7) Questions to be answered or clarified
(8) Contact information of people in RCR field

The information is not always readily available
Samples of important information

(1) The laws which authorize the investigation of research misconduct in other countries?

(2) The reasons why some research misconduct offenders had to face criminal charges? (prompt)

(3) If/How the universities in other countries screen theses/dissertations for plagiarism?

(4) Is there an effective way to curb contract cheating in other countries?

(5) The alert to special/potential research misconduct
The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) has become aware of systematic, inappropriate attempts to manipulate the peer review processes of several journals across different publishers. These manipulations appear to have been orchestrated by a number of third party agencies offering services to authors. This statement is issued on behalf of COPE after consultation with a variety of publishers to underscore the seriousness with which we take these issues and our determination to address them.

While there are a number of well-established reputable agencies offering manuscript-preparation services to authors, investigations at several journals suggests that some agencies are selling services, ranging from authorship of pre-written manuscripts to providing fabricated contact details for peer reviewers during the submission process and then supplying reviews from these fabricated addresses. Some of these peer reviewer accounts have the names of seemingly real researchers but with email addresses that differ from those from their institutions or associated with their previous publications, others appear to be completely fictitious.

We are unclear how far authors of the submitted manuscripts are aware that the reviewer names and email addresses provided by these agencies are fraudulent. However, given the seriousness and potential scale of the investigation findings, we believe that the scientific integrity of manuscripts submitted via these agencies is significantly undermined.
3. Making RCR information available

Some comprehensive websites:

— **By whom.** Institution, organization, business, individual, etc.

— **Contents.** Suitable to mission, objectives, serve target users, and responsive to demands

— **How.** To Integrate relevant information from various sources, and to develop/present educational materials

— **Mechanisms.** Financial support (moderate), qualified editors, (volunteer) advisers, a network of relevant websites (more than just links)
Consensus of some website hosts

— The effectiveness of a public-benefit website is definite.

— It is important to define core users, and provide information on their demand, if possible.

— The integration of relevant information is justified and cost-effective, especially when serving special user groups (e.g. policy makers).

— The website can be maintained by a small working team, and the costs can be moderate.

— The cooperation in the development of the websites is desirable and beneficial to users.

— The website can be a platform enabling collaboration, if designed with such a function.
The challenges for making a (the) website sustainable and effective

- The information processing costs might be increased, if involving experts or advisers.
- How to define the boundary of relevant information, and to make it more accessible?
- How to promote the website, and respond to users’ questions and information demand?
- To satisfy the users’ needs, while respect copyright and licensing of information by making special arrangement (collectively).
- The cooperation of the developing teams of similar regional/national websites.
The issues need to be addressed

— To establish a mechanism to gain support from an expert team, if conditions allow.

— To use analytical tools to assess the website, and to make continuous improvement.

— To make clear about copyright/translation authorization issues, to facilitate information dissemination.

— The sharing of critical information among the development teams of similar websites

— To coordinate the efforts to serve the needs of local users and overseas partners.
Summary

The demand of RCR information from certain special users need to be catered, as they can make contribution in promoting research integrity.

Sometime their information demand cannot be satisfied by ordinary websites/info. services.

Certain websites can serve special users better, if they: (1) serve those special user groups; (2) combine online information with offline activities; (3) involve expert/advisers; (4) coordinate the efforts of relevant developers/experts around the world.
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(The website has been relaunched)

http://research-ethics.net/
Thanks for your attention

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International Research Collaboration Information Platform

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