Editing Research

New Book Sheds Light on Topics and Issues Relating to the Author Editing Process

September 26, 2016, Medford, New Jersey—Information Today, Inc. (ITI) announced the publication of Editing Research: The Author Editing Approach to Providing Effective Support to Writers of Research Papers, by Valerie Matarese.

Editors who work directly with academic researchers, helping to make their draft manuscripts suitable for publication in peer-reviewed scholarly journals, refer to themselves as “authors’ authors’ editors.” As a profession, author editing has been around for more than a half-century, but its role in research communication is often underappreciated and sometimes misunderstood.

Authors’ editor and former researcher Valerie Matarese documents the history of author editing and illustrates, through interviews with experienced editors, the varied ways in which these language professionals support researchers in their efforts to publish. Editing Research fills a void in the historical record of academic publishing and provides an up-to-date account of how authors’ editors facilitate research communication and contribute to good publication practice.

“The literature on author editing is surprisingly large, but it is scattered throughout hundreds of sources, such that the occasional encounter with an article rarely indicates the volume of information available,” says author Tom Lang in the book’s Foreword. “Nevertheless, Editing Research does a commendable job of summarizing the most important of these sources.”

“Wishing to raise the profile of authors’ editors and correct the misconceptions about our work, I felt the need for a book specifically about the profession of author editing,” states Matarese in the book’s Preface. “To illustrate the range of skills and approaches to editing the research literature, I purposely chose to interview editors having different educational backgrounds, working in different countries and occupational contexts, and serving researchers in different disciplines. … I hoped to portray authors’ editors in a more complete and balanced way than my own personal experiences allowed, and better respond to the needs of editors working in settings other than my own.”

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Editing Research includes these 10 chapters:

1. Aims and Challenges of Writing for Publication in Today's Global Research Environment
2. Editing in the Sciences and Other Scholarly Disciplines
3. Authors’ Editors: Partners in Communication at the Service of Researchers and Readers
4. Authors’ Editors in Action: A Qualitative Research Foray
5. View from the Academy: The Delicate Position of Editing Services Among Needs and Concerns
6. Editing Research Articles and Other Genres for Publication in Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Journals
7. Becoming and Being an Authors’ Editor
8. The Editing Setting
9. Editing Scholarly Genres for Other Media: Common Goals but Unique Issues
10. Synthesis and Projection

In addition to its in-depth coverage of author editing in the ecology of scientific publishing, Editing Research features a foreword by Tom Lang, a preface and prologue by the author, two appendices, a list of references, and an index.

Valerie Matarese is an autonomous authors’ editor. Her main activity is author editing in the biomedical sciences for researchers in Italy, where for almost 20 years she has worked in sole proprietorship. Additionally, she offers workshops in scientific writing and teaches a 40-hour graduate-level course on how to write a research article in the biomolecular sciences. She also occasionally provides copyediting, developmental editing, and science writing.

Editing Research: The Author Editing Approach to Providing Effective Support to Writers of Research Papers (244 pp/paperback/$49.50/ISBN 978-1-57387-531-8) is published by Information Today, Inc. (ITI) and is available wherever quality books and ebooks are sold. For more information, call (800) 300-9868; fax (609) 654-4309; email custserv@infotoday.com; or visit the ITI website at infotoday.com.

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