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Open peer review and interactive open access publishing: the effectiveness of transparency and self-regulation in scientific quality assurance

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Summary

The traditional forms of closed peer review and publication are insufficient for quality assurance in today's highly diverse and rapidly evolving world of science. They need to be complemented by interactive, transparent, and well-documented forms of review, publication, and discussion, which are open to the scientific community and to the public (open peer review).

Open access is instrumental for improving scientific quality assurance. It enables collaborative peer review; it gives reviewers more information to work with; and it facilitates the development of improved metrics to assess the impact and quality of scientific publications.

The advantages of open access and open peer review can be efficiently and flexibly combined with the strengths of traditional publishing and peer review. Among the initiatives pursuing this approach and proving its viability, are the interactive open access journal Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics (ACP, www.atmos-chem-phys.net) and a growing number of sister journals published by the European Geosciences Union (EGU, www.egu.eu) and the scientific service provider Copernicus (www.copernicus.org).

These journals are practicing a two-stage publication process with public peer review and interactive discussion, which effectively resolves the dilemma between rapid scientific exchange and thorough quality assurance. The same or similar concepts have recently also been adopted in other disciplines, including the life sciences and economics. The principles and achievements of interactive open access publishing (top quality & impact, high efficiency, low cost) will be outlined and discussed.

Pöschl, U., Interactive journal concept for improved scientific publishing and quality assurance, Learned Publishing, 17, 105-113, 2004.

www.atmospheric-chemistry-and-physics.net/general_information/public_relations_and_background_information.html

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