Abstract:
This symposium will discuss and debate the best means of enhancing scholarly perspectives about the publication of articles and book reviews in academic journals in a globalized, internet-driven age. In the past few years, editors and editorial boards of academic journals specialising the history of medicine and science have been facing a variety of new challenges, which have include an increasing need to validate their existence to new audiences, management and publishing practice, and the visibility and extra-academic role of their publications. Till now, it has not been possible for editors of such journals, based across a number of international universities and research institutes, to have an organized discussion of these issues, mainly to ensure an exchange of ideas and the development of structures that are helpful to all concerned. This symposium will be relevant to the main theme of the Congress and provide an unique and unprecedented venue for such deliberations, relying on the rich experience of speakers from different countries, universities and funding bodies. Speakers will describe their experiences, problematise some of the challenges currently facing the sector, pose some general questions about how to improve collaborations, internationalisation and access, and analyse the advantages and disadvantages of multi-lingualism and Open Access. The organizers will give priority to editors, members of editorial boards of scholarly journals, editors of academic university presses and members of publishing committees of scientific societies who specialize in the history of science, the history of medicine and the history of health sciences of any region in the world and of any period. We propose to better understand concerns, new governmental and private sectors expectations and concerns, authors', reviewers' and editors' requirements, publishers' and funders' goals in relation to subscription, marketing and knowledge dissemination, experiences with national and international legal provisions, and, not least, pressures imposed by impact factor measurements, indexing and database requirements, the imposition of multiple ranking exercises, and, not least, the benefits and limitations of digital initiatives and social media-based promotional activities (through outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, institutional blogs etc.). In sum, the symposium will provide a productive and informative environment that allows us to come up with better ideas for effective and ethical publishing in the history of medicine and history of science in an inter-connected world that is increasingly marked by the increasing significance online resources, education and training.

Keywords: Journals – Academic publishing – Editors and editorial boards – Open Access – Internationalism and multi-lingualism.
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