Editors Core Competencies

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Chair, Campbell International Development Review Group

Talk prepared by Peter Tugwell, Jordi Pardo and Vivian Welch
Editors Core Competencies

• General Core competencies for Journal Editors.
• Core Competencies for Systematic Review Editors
Editors Core Competencies

• General Core competencies for Journal Editors.
• Core Competencies for Systematic Review Editors
• Setting terms of reference and priorities
• Building the right team
Core competencies for scientific editors of biomedical journals: consensus statement

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General Core competencies for Journal Editors

Objective

• Develop a minimum set of core competencies for scientific editors of biomedical journals
General Core competencies for Journal Editors

Methods
1. Stakeholder Group - Large and Small Journals
2. Scoping Review & Environmental Scan
3. Survey of Editors’ Perceptions and Training Needs
4. Modified Delphi Exercise
5. Consensus Meeting
6. Post-Consensus Meeting Activities
Scope of the core competencies

Included competencies deemed applicable across the entire spectrum of scientific editors of biomedical journals, however will vary across situations and journal editorial staff.
Key competencies for scientific editors

• 14 Key Competencies in 3 Categories:

A. EDITOR QUALITIES AND SKILLS (5)
B. PUBLICATION ETHICS AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY (3)
C. EDITORIAL PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES (6)

Elements

• Descriptions of more specific knowledge, skills, and characteristics that contribute to the fulfilment of the core competency
• List is not exhaustive; highlights the most pertinent aspects of that core competency
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A. EDITOR QUALITIES AND SKILLS

1. Demonstrate experience and broad knowledge of the field(s) covered by the journal
2. Synthesize information and views from a wide range of sources and make informed decisions
3. Practice lifelong learning related to their role as an editor and within their area(s) of expertise
4. Communicate clearly and effectively manage communications and relationships with authors, peer reviewers, other editors, staff (if applicable), readers, journal owners, publishers, and other relevant individuals or groups
5. Act with leadership and integrity and be accountable to authors, peer reviewers, fellow editors, readers, journal owners, publishers, and other relevant individuals and groups
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B. PUBLICATION ETHICS AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY

6. Demonstrate knowledge related to the integrity of research and publishing and apply best practices in dealing with research or publication misconduct, misbehaviour, and questionable practices

7. Identify and uphold the principles of ethical research involving humans and animals when appraising manuscripts

8. Articulate and apply their responsibilities and rights as a journal editor
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9. Identify and use trustworthy resources
10. Select journal content that reflects the goals and scope of the journal
11. Analyze journal policies, practices, and performance metrics to improve journal performance
12. Evaluate the scientific rigor and integrity of manuscripts and make editorial decisions after consideration of reviewers’ and other editors’ comments
13. Apply best practices for research and other manuscript presentation when evaluating and requesting revision of manuscripts
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• General Core competencies for all Journal Editors.

• **Core Competencies for Systematic Review Editors**
  
  • Setting terms of reference and priorities
  
  • Building the right team
Core Competencies for Campbell Collaboration Editors (2017)

Building on:
• The work of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
• The Cochrane Editorial Excellence Project
Core Competencies for Campbell Collaboration Editors (2017)

1. Principles and Values (3)
2. Core Competencies (6)
3. Development and Assessment of Core Competencies (6)
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Principles for establishing Campbell editorial competencies

(3)

1. Editors are primarily responsible for decisions about whether and when a document is ready for publication in the Campbell Library.

2. Editors are responsible for the quality of work they approve for publication in the Campbell library.

3. Editors provide independent, timely, clearly, comprehensive, consistent and constructive substantive and methodological feedback to authors who are preparing systematic reviews (SR) under the auspices of the Campbell Collaboration.
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Competencies are measurable or observable knowledge, skills, abilities and behaviours (kSABs) critical to successful job performance.

Editors will demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of *publication ethics* and behaviours consistent with these principles.

2. Knowledge and use of Campbell *systematic review methods*.

3. Knowledge of uses of systematic reviews in policy and practice, and ability to help authors formulate relevant and feasible questions for Campbell reviews.
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Core competencies for Campbell Editors (6)

4. Knowledge and use of *good scientific writing practices*

5. Knowledge of and behaviours consistent with *international standards for editors*, including sound publication decisions

6. Knowledge of and behaviours consistent with *Campbell editor’s roles*, including principles of providing effective feedback.
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2. Core Competencies (6)
3. Development and Assessment of Core Competencies
A. Systematic review methods
- Resource: Texts; Handbook; videos
- Actions: Apprentice; Editors Workshops; Lead a Cochrane/Campbell review; Advanced courses in statistics and research methods
- Assessment—Duplicate MECIR Checklists and Action Letters
B. Publication ethics and research integrity

- Resource COPE eLearning modules (https://publicationethics.org/)
- Action: Apprentice
- Assessment: Duplicate COPE flow-charts as needed
Cochrane Resources: Editorial essentials

This collection of resources is aimed at people engaged in Cochrane editorial processes. Whether you are just starting in your role or you already have experience in Cochrane editorial work, this collection will help you find the resources you need.

Editorial policies

Editorial processes
Editorial news and support, prioritization, fast track services, resources for specific editorial roles.

Methodology
One-stop-shop for learning about or refreshing your knowledge of Cochrane methodology.

Key resources
A library of reference materials, guidance and tools.