



Editorial

www.diagnosticpathology.eu: Reflections of 2017 – Perspectives on 2018

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Abstract

The peer reviewed open access journal www.diagnosticpathology.eu remains still the only financially autonomous, solely science and medicine obliged journal. It is embedded in a medical communication network of different service nodes.

The nodes include the unique Virtual International Pathology Institute (VIPI, www.diagnomx.eu/vipi), an automated image measuring system (EAMUS), a lexicon of air borne hazards such as natural and synthetic mineral fibers, fine granulate and air pollutants (Natural and Synthetic Mineral Fibers affecting Man), an anatomy training course, and a collection of sixty rare and common lung diseases. It offers access to the articles of the first solely electronically distributed journal of pathology (Electronic Journal of Pathology and Histology)

In 2017 we focused on the implementation of a new open journal system (OJS) release. We had to correct several inborn errors prior to the final usage. Therefore, the announced collection of virtual slides in concordance with the original publications remained still in its start phase. The journal's 'outfit' has been adjusted to the modern styles in use.

The number of submitted articles declined remarkably, and the journal experienced hard competition in 2017. The main reasons are a missing Scientific Citation Index (SCI) and its listing in journal databanks such as PubMed. Entropy calculations of the journal's scientific impact and value are in the range of well known pathology journals such as the conventional paper printed 'The Pathology Journal'.

The implemented specific publication tools 'publish beside the microscope' and the submission of contributions for 'interactive publication' have been successfully tested but only rarely been used. We still expect attractive and scientifically high standard publications in 2018.

Keywords: www.diagnosticpathology.eu, [open source journal](#), [communication network](#), [virtual slide](#), [automated measurement](#), [predatory journal](#)

Editorial

Open access publications in science are now in trend. The number of journals and publishers who offer electronic information distribution with the associated open access business model has increased remarkably. It accounts for several thousands per year. The publishers' gross earning of

some well doing individual open access journals reaches approximately ten times more in comparison to paper printed journals. In addition, open access publications cost less.

These facts probably attract serious and less serious publishers to enter the market of open access scientific publication. The business model is promising and easy to understand: The publisher's earning is related to the authors, who are asked to pay, and no longer to the reader, who have access to the articles for free.

The business model addresses the authors' interest to distribute their scientific results, and is directly associated with personal professional career and reputation. The authors rarely pay the publication fee by themselves. Financing research grants as well as University / Research Institutions commonly provide funds for publication. Thus, 'public money' of TAX payers guarantees the life of open access journals.

A reliable control of electronically conducted financial issues and ethics is difficult. Electronically distributed data can easily be manipulated, modified, or erased. Consecutively, several predatory journals have been implemented which try to suck out their share. Ethical committees, such as COPE work hard in fighting against this modern rubbery. Their success, however, remains questionable.

Electronic environments possess specific characteristics and follow their own principles. The profit oriented scenery will probably not change as long as financial issues are dominating the essential communication in science, and as long as only a few big players control the market.

Our journal www.diagnosticpathology.eu is run by volunteers only. Certainly, we also are in need of some money. However, financial issues are not in our focus. We try to develop and implement new ideas of electronic communication in science, especially in tissue – based diagnosis in order to promote research and understanding of natural laws.

Our new ideas include trials of automated review and language judgement in the near future. In fact, our first experiments of automated reviews range back to the Electronic Journal of Pathology and Histology, when we crudely implemented the PARIS project (Pathology Automated Review Information System). This experience will assist us to apply the latest developments in information technology to create a non-biased and solely research oriented review system.

The implementation of such separately developed algorithms is possible without major difficulties, because our journal www.diagnosticpathology.eu is embedded in a network of several asynchronous connected servers. Consecutively, the journal will evolve to much more than a conventional open access journal.

For example, the first Virtual International Pathology Institute (VIPI, www.diagnomx.eu/vipi) and the atlas of 'Natural and Synthetic Mineral Fibers affecting Man' have been embedded. The journal itself provides new publication and communication tools, for example to publish a case 'beside the microscope' within less than one hour, (How do I diagnose...?), to interact with and add own data to already published articles (Interactive publication). An additional example is the publication of slide presentations during the annual conference of the European Society of Pathology (ESP), Amsterdam, 2017. All slides have been marked by a bar (QR) code, could be followed by the audience during the authors' speech and are contemporary published in our journal www.diagnosticpathology.eu. This again is a new feature, which is not available in other journals to our knowledge.

Not all fruits mature at the same date. Limitations arose in the transfer of virtual slides and available reference systems. Unfortunately, several technical constraints had and have to be solved when the use of free available tools is preferred. Frequently the question has to be answered: do you want to do it by yourself? or: should you wait until the open access community provides a reliable solution?

Freedom in research and ideas is basically in contradiction to money resources which will build boundaries at the same moment when they are released.

Most of our competitors focus on the authors. They provide assistance in 'how to write an article?', 'How to present the research?' language checks, and other tools which should attract authors. Naturally, the use of these tools has to be paid by the authors.

The idea that authors should concentrate on their research and should not be burdened with communication issues might basically be correct. To charge for these services opens a new business model which cannot be blamed too. However, where are the regulations? What will happen, if the 'polishing' of an article falsifies its original message? Who will be responsible if this happens? And, who will be able notice it?

The direction of the strategy is clear: More and more articles should be attracted in order to increase the publications. A final measurement of the impact of a publication or of the reimbursement of the invested money is still missing. The common in use measures (ECI, impact factor (IF), etc.) are not in the position to present a reliable forecast. An international control body seems not to be a useful institution too, because the basic problem will only be shifted to a different era.

We propose the application of principal legalities in nature to overcome this problem. The concept of entropy and entropy flow might be one approach as discussed in one article of our journal www.diagnosticpathology.eu in 2017.

Some of our ideas have already been discussed in our editorial 2016. The implementation of boundaries and / or limitations is a prerequisite in communication because successful communication limits the freedom of an apprehended partner. This statement does not contradict the practice of globalisation. It only assures that intelligent structures are allowed to be implemented and to grow within the system. We will hold reliable tools in our hand, and we will be able to assure every author a fair and non-biased appraisal of his work, if we introduce basic natural strategies in our electronic communication environment.

Certainly, the present business models have to be modified if research in natural sciences should be reliably communicated. This would be of advantage to all involved partners, authors, readers, reviewers, and also to the publishers who will be released from the obvious ethical problems.

Christmas time is close. It reminds us of the power of a young child despite its birth under miserable conditions. Nobody, neither its father nor its mother would have expected its immense influence on human behaviour and cultural development. Christmas and any birth strongly call for a peaceful, merciful, future oriented and educated world.

Having the idea of Christmas in mind, we especially thank Dr. Stephan Borkenfeld, Dr. Manfred Dietel, MD, Dr. Amina Djenouni, MD, Dr. Reda Fayek, PhD, Dr. Etienne Martin, MD, Dr. Mihaela Moscu, MD, Dr. Robert Ogilvie, PhD, Dr. Ronald S. Weinstein, MD for all their efforts and assistance to further develop our journal.

Searching for innovative ideas and projects we welcome all interested colleagues to contact, support and collaborate with us via our technical director Stephan Borkenfeld (s.borkenfeld@web.de).

We wish all our readers, reviewers, and interested colleagues a Merry, Peaceful Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Enjoyable New Year.

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