

Publication of scientific results in German speaking countries - results of a survey

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Introduction

A rapid and effective transfer of scientific information into practice is crucial to support the application of Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine. Hence, publications in scientific journals are an important link between science and practice.

Material and Methods

Using an online questionnaire, veterinary faculty members (professors and scientific assistants) from Germany, Austria and Switzerland were asked via Email to participate. They were asked how they had published their results in the past five years. Furthermore, we wanted to identify factors influencing their choice of the journal for publication.

Results

A total of 118 respondents completed the questionnaire. Nearly 60% had published ten or more papers during the last five years in peer reviewed journals. More than 50% were published in English.

Most participants considered the peer review process suitable for enhancing the quality of publications. The impact factor was seen as a solid indicator for the quality of a paper and an important factor for the choice of a journal for publication of own results. Respondents prefer to publish their results in English language and in journals with a high impact factor.

Statement	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree
	%				
Fast transfer of information into practice is important	58.8	27.2	10.5	3.5	0
Scientific results are accessible for veterinarians	12.3	39.5	35.1	13.1	0
Transfer of knowledge happens in reasonable time	11.5	36.3	41.5	8.0	2.7
Peer-review enhances the quality of publications	63.1	26.1	9.0	1.8	0
The Impact_factor of a journal solidly indicates the quality of a paper	14.0	31.7	37.7	14.0	2.6
The Impact factor is important regarding the selection of a journal for me	43.0	33.3	19.3	0.9	3.5
Publishing in a journal without IF does not provide reputation	47.5	32.4	18.3	1.8	0
Publishing in English is important in a scientific community	76.3	21.9	1.8	0	0
Publishing in German does not provide reputation	15.9	40.7	24.8	17.7	0.9

Conclusions

Since many of the reputable journals publish in English, it is possible that results from German research do not reach German veterinarians at all or with delay. This may be as well true for other non-English speaking countries. One solution could be a regularly updated practice oriented compilation of international relevant scientific findings in different languages.

References

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