

Russian Scientific Publication – 2019

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Abstract. The article presents the events that took place last year in the world of Russian scientific publications. There is a slow slide towards paid access of some academic journals turned in open access in 2018. The European Union has announced plan "S" for the mass transition of scientific journals to open access. New models of the scientific publication are introducing. Reporting on publications requested by the Ministry of education and science in 2019 does not take into account the size of the readership of the article. Neither the Ministry of education and science, nor the Higher Attestation Commission (HAC) does not encourage publication in the public domain. In Russian Science Citation Index began the fight against widespread fraudulent trade in references to the article, but the HAC is not interested in this activity. A proliferation of contradictory the term "self-plagiarism" has spread. This label is widely stigmatized authors and journals for repeated publications.

Keywords: Open Access, Plan "S", Administrative Assessment of Article, Serial Publications, Online Reader, H-index, Dissernet, Self-plagiarism.

1 Introduction

In 2018–2019, many events took place in the world of Russian scientific publications. Unfortunately, some of them did not please at all.

2 Open Access

The transition towards the open access is difficult. In early 2018, encouraging news came from the Russian Academy of Sciences. After the harsh remarks of the Accounting Chamber, most of the RAS journals online became available for free and even without registration of the reader. However, this conquest was soon largely lost. At first, while maintaining read access for a year, the ability to copy text in full or in part was blocked. Then gradually journals began to return to paid access. For example, now the full texts of the flagship academic journal "Vestnik RAS" are available for free only on the official website of the journal. At the same time on the website of eLibrary.ru for downloading the full text of one article again, as in 2017, require 220 rubles. Something similar happens with other academic journals.

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The European Union is vigorously discussing "plan S", according to which in the coming years, most of the European scientific publications should be in the open online. However, Europe's move towards open access leaves much to be desired. Although the concept of open access was first declared in Europe, in the fifteen years from 2004 to 2018, the coverage of open access publications increased there only from 15% to 20%. At the same time, in Russia, about 50% of scientific articles already fall into the open access: one cyberleninka.ru covers about a quarter of Russian scientific journals with such access.

A decisive turn in the direction of open access promises the emerging transition to a new model of existence of scientific publications. Increasingly, the first version of the publication, reviewed only in the organization of its author, immediately appears in the public domain on the website of the organization. And only then the article is sent to the scientific journal for further evaluation of leading experts. Upon receiving a positive assessment, after possible correction of the text in accordance with the comments of the reviewers, the article receives a kind of quality mark: "Accepted for publication by an authoritative journal". This information is prominently displayed in the article file on the organization's website. The journal has the right to publish such an article on its pages, but may limit itself to placing on its website a link to the original placement of the article.

3 Administrative Decisions

2019 began with the announcement of other requirements for the number and composition of articles produced by an organization subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Science. The requirements were quite strict and not always consistent with the authors' ideas about the value of the publication.

As an example of the application of these requirements, consider two recently published articles by the author of these lines. The first was published in "Troitskii variant" [1]: more than 150 thousand visits, interesting discussion, a lot of letters not only from colleagues, but even from classmates and relatives. Another, similar on topics article in "Programmirovaniye" [2] passes virtually unnoticed: yearlong embargo on open access, for six months only 2 (two!) download at the price of 220 rubles in elibrary.ru. It would seem that the assessment is obvious: an impressive success in "Troitskii variant" and a complete failure in "Programmirovaniye" – readers of "Programmirovaniye" has been a hundred thousand times less.

However, from the point of view of the announced requirements of the Ministry of Education and Science, the usefulness of these publications is evaluated exactly the opposite. For the article in "Troitskii variant" neither the author nor his organization, do not receive credit points: this journal is not included In the Top List of the Higher Attestation Commission (HAC), is not indexed in the Web of Science (WoS), nor in the elibrary.ru. Even in the report on popular science publications article cannot be included: thousands of copies of the printed version and hundreds of thousands of online readers for the Ministry does not mean anything – because "Troitskii variant" does not have rigidly requested by the Ministry ISSN. On the contrary, the article in

"Programmirovaniye" is rated the highest score: "Programmirovaniye" is indexed in the Web of Science. As it became known recently, there is nothing more important in science.

In 2019, the Ministry of Education and Science had harassed serial non-periodic editions. However, the non-periodic editions are the future. The periodicity of publications, required in 2019 by the Ministry, was explained long ago, only by the restrictions of uniform loading of printing capacities and post. Now, when the circulation of printed versions of scientific journals has fallen to hundreds of copies, these restrictions no longer work. Obvious weaknesses of periodicity come to the fore: the publication portfolio is full—we have to reject strong articles, the portfolio is poor – we publish weak ones. Non-periodic editions, on the contrary, publish all worthy of articles accepted by the editorial Board, and only worthy of the article. A few years ago, the HAC finally recognized that non-periodic editions worthy of entering the Top List. But the Ministry of Education and Science is not in a hurry to listen to the above arguments.

The Russian official has demonstrated the complete indifference in relation to the most mass reader – online reader. HAC, on the one hand, over and over again multiplies strict requirements for the composition and timing of placement online countless attributes of the defense. On the other hand, HAC recognizes article as a mandatory publication, when the full text of article at the time of the defense was not in the public domain, i.e., was not available to the General reader. In the format of the 2019 report, organizations for the Ministry of Education and Science neither open access nor the Internet are mentioned at all. In contrast, authors are systematically encouraged to publish in journals indexed in the Web of Science; however, most of these journals are not on open access.

4 The Costs of Publication Reporting

Several years on prominent places popular pages the Internet flaunted banners with proposals to authors articles about building their indicators citation, index Hirsch. For the appearance in some journal of a bibliographic reference to his article, the author was offered to pay the crooks 500 rubles. It is difficult to determine how popular this service was, although the abundance of banners suggests that such commerce flourished. In the end, the scale of fake links began to annoy eLibrary.ru, and there decided to make a control purchase of fake links. Paying for links was made after presentation to the customer number of the journal where the reference was published. Thereby it was revealed more than 50 journals, not caring about his reputation, does not control the correctness of reference lists of published articles. All these journals were firmly excluded from the elibrary.ru [3].

However, the reaction of the HAC to these events is interesting. Some of the excluded journals were included In the Top List of the HAC, and thereby a certain contradiction was appeared. In the requirements for the journal, applying for inclusion in the Top List, it is written that the journal must be indexed in elibrary.ru. However, now, after elibrary.ru's purge, for the excluded journals, this requirement has ceased

to be met. The HAC finds an unexpected way out of the contradiction. Instead of excluding (at least for a time) compromised journals from its List, contrary to common sense, it excludes from its rules the requirement to index the journal in elibrary.ru. HAC stated in this connection that the elibrary.ru compromised itself by pursuing a policy of arbitrary exclusion of editions included in the HAC Top List.

The Ministry of Education and Science issues threatening orders. Employees rush at any cost to seek to the administrative rating of their organization. For example, one of these enthusiasts has recently published 626 of his works in garbage publications (160-in journals, 466-in collections of articles) [5]. This is, of course, a record. However such him Russian authors with tens of meaningless garbage publications there are already more ten thousands of [5].

Let no one think that the situation is saved by the emphasis made in the policy documents on publications from the Web of Science (WoS). In 2018, professor I. N. Medvedev published 170 articles in the WoS-indexed journal "Research Journal of Pharmaceutical, Biological and Chemical Sciences", publishing up to forty articles in one issue of the journal [6]. In 2019, this journal was excluded from WoS, however I. N. Medvedev finds one more WOS-journal sympathetic to it. Thereby, in 2019 the account of the WoS-articles published by it again went on tens.

Increased attention to the publication activity of the scientist led also to other costs. Until recently the author, who published his two or three identical or similar publications in different editions, was quite calmly perceived simply as wanting to expand their readership. However, now everywhere proliferated ethical codes, where such actions are branded with the crazy newfangled term "self-plagiarism". Both authors and journals that allow such multiple publications are subjected to all sorts of persecution.

5 Conclusion

On the field of scientific publications emerged several powerful players: Ministry of Education and Science, the Higher Attestation Commission, Russian Academy of Sciences, elibrary.ru, dissernet.org. Each of them claims to be a legislator of ethical norms. However, it turned out that their ideas about the ethics of publications are now very different. Time will tell whether these very dissimilar structures will be able to agree and come to a common understanding of the content and ethics of scientific publication.

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