Cracking the publishing code

From publishing papers to shaping ocean science

Insights from Elsevier Oceanography journals

Xiang Lian | Qingdao, China | September 1, 2026

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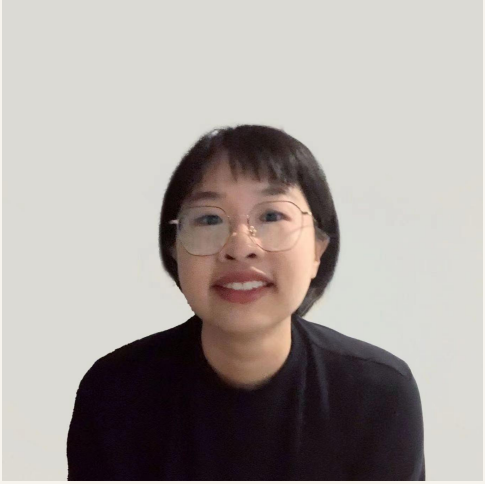
Agenda

- **Decode the System** Understanding how publishing works
- **Think Beyond Authorship** The many roles of a scientist
- **Think Like an Editor** What drives publishing decisions
- **Grow Into Leadership** From reviewer to field steward
- **Contribute. Evaluate. Lead.** Shaping the future of ocean science

Speaker



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Publisher of Oceanography journals

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360 years, one enduring question

Scale

Movable type makes knowledge reproducible

Tradition

The House of Elzevir is founded

Record

The first scholarly journals emerge

Trust

Digital, global, open and AI-enabled

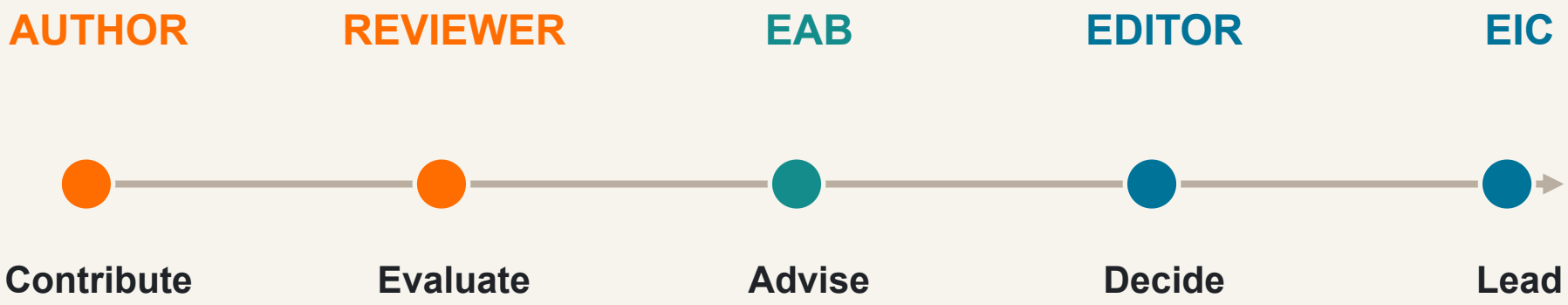
What knowledge enters the scholarly record, and why should we trust it?

Technologies change. The mission does not.

One researcher, many roles

SCIENTIST

One career. Increasing responsibility.



Each role changes how you write, judge and lead.

Each role is part of one system, not a separate career.

Publishing turns research into trusted knowledge

Publishing is not something done to researchers.

It is a system operated with researchers, for science and society.

Think like an editor

Editors are not only asking “Is this good science?”

They are asking “Is this the right paper for this journal and its readers?”

THREE AVOIDABLE MISMATCHES

Why good papers get rejected

01

WRONG JOURNAL

Audience and scope do not align

Choose for readership, not only prestige

02

WEAK CONTRIBUTION

The advance is limited or hidden

State exactly what changes because of this study

03

UNCLEAR STORY

The evidence may be good, but the message is hard to find

Make significance easy to grasp

A rejection is a decision about fit, readiness or priority, not a verdict on your value as a scientist.

Review like a colleague

RIGOROUS

Test claims against evidence

What supports the conclusion?

CONSTRUCTIVE

Show a path to improvement

What would strengthen the paper?

FAIR

Judge the work on its merits

Are bias and conflicts managed?

Reviewing is the fastest way to understand publishing from the inside.

become an editor: Editorial work is a ladder of responsibility

REVIEWER	**Advises**	Scientific assessment
EAB MEMBER	**Supports**	Reviews, advocates, spots emerging areas
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	**Decides**	Manages peer review and decisions
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF	**Leads**	Sets standards, team and long-term vision

Reviewers advise.

Editors decide.

Editors-in-Chief take stewardship of the field.

How future editors are identified

Top Tips

- **Publish good research** work in the journal and later offer to act as a **reviewer**
- When you are invited to review, provide good, **thorough & timely reviews** to the Editors
- When you have reviewed regularly, **express interest** to **serve** on the **Editorial Board**, or act as a Guest Editor of a Special Issue
- When you are an Advisory Board Member let the Editor-in-Chief or a Senior Editor know if you are **willing** to act as an **Editor** and explain what you could do to **help develop the journal**

The publishing code is not a secret.

CONTRIBUTE Publish research that matters

EVALUATE Strengthen the work of others

LEAD Help shape the field

Publish your research. Build your reputation. Shape the future of ocean science.

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Oceanography Journals Portfolio

Choose the right journal for your research

FLAGSHIP

4 journals

Marine Pollution Bulletin

IMPACT FACTOR	4.9
CITE SCORE	9.7

Ocean & Coastal Management

IMPACT FACTOR	5.9
CITE SCORE	10.3

Journal of Ocean Engineering and Science

IMPACT FACTOR	5.8
CITE SCORE	14.7

Aquaculture

IMPACT FACTOR	4.4
CITE SCORE	9.0

GROWTH

4 journals

Aquaculture Reports

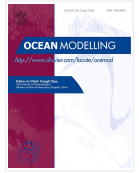
IMPACT FACTOR	3.8
CITE SCORE	6.4

Progress in Oceanography

IMPACT FACTOR	3.9
CITE SCORE	6.9

Journal of Sea Research

IMPACT FACTOR	3.8
CITE SCORE	5.8



Ocean Modelling

IMPACT FACTOR	3.1
CITE SCORE	5.2

SPECIALIST

5 journals

Fisheries Research

IMPACT FACTOR	2.6
CITE SCORE	4.5

Marine Environmental Research

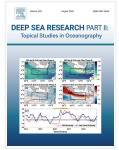
IMPACT FACTOR	3.4
CITE SCORE	4.6

Journal of Marine Systems

IMPACT FACTOR	2.2
CITE SCORE	4.7

Deep Sea Research Part I

IMPACT FACTOR	2.4
CITE SCORE	4.7



Deep Sea Research Part II

IMPACT FACTOR	3.3
CITE SCORE	5.9

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