



Scientific publishing needs to evolve to thrive

Alberto Montanari

University of Bologna, DICAM, Bologna, Italy (alberto.montanari@unibo.it)

In recent years, there has been a substantial increase of the number of publications in hydrology. In 2013 alone, five major journals received a total of about 5000 submissions, and almost 2000 articles were published. This surge in submissions is related to a culture change in academic institutions worldwide. There is a greater emphasis on bibliometric indices related to international journal publications as the main indicator of research performance. However, the number of reviewers is increasing at a much slower pace. Therefore, if the current trends do not change and the system does not evolve, the publication process will rapidly become unsustainable.

Actually, the evolution of the peer review system is already taking place. By looking back to the submission and publication of scientific papers, one notes that tremendous changes occurred in the last 20 years. Papers are reviewed and published in a radically different way. One can safely predict that future changes will be even more dramatic and therefore the interesting questions come as what will drive the evolution of scientific publishing? What will be the configuration of the peer review process? In this talk I will discuss possible future scenarios and strategies that may best support the evolution of scientific research.