Cost benefit of medical writing: Costs of publishing for authors

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Where do publication costs come from?
- Writing, editing or translating manuscripts (access, quality)
- Submitting manuscripts (manuscript fees)
1. Access to high-quality editing help is limited in developing countries.
How do I find manuscript editors?

American Journal Experts
Let our experts edit your research for English language journals

D. EDGE - Letter to Science

Fastest Editing Services
Premier editing and proofreading for the global scientific community

Physical Science Editing
PhD editor, native style guaranteed
New clients get a 20% discount!

Online Editing Service
Enhance Your Writing Today With Professional Online Editors

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
How do I choose manuscript editors?

How to choose an English editor, translator or similar service provider

Mediterranean Editors and Translators is a not-for-profit professional association of language expertise to a wide range of cross-cultural projects. Although language academia, they are also required in financial, cultural, political and non-governmental or needs in Mediterranean cultures, facilitating communication in the English language and languages.

MET offers these guidelines to users of communication support services — we wish to service suppliers and choose consultants wisely and efficiently. The document is organized:

- Types of language services
- Characteristics of a professional language consultant
- FAQs about English language consultants

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AuthorAID, Costs to authors
How do I find manuscript editors?

- Online directories (Council of Science Editors, MET, translation societies)

- Recommendations from colleagues

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
2. Quality varies, as with any professional service.
- How can I judge quality and value?
- Can I afford it?
As with medical information, slick advertising or easy internet access do not necessarily mean high quality.
Many publishers and editors cannot help with the English. Some publishers urge authors to consult professional editors.
From Elsevier’s website:

“We have successfully negotiated with eight language editing companies to provide language editing services to our authors at competitive rates.”

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
These commercial editing services...

“provide language and copy editing services globally to authors who wish to publish in scientific, technical and medical peer-reviewed journals...”

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
...and would like assistance either before they submit an article for peer review or before it is accepted for publication.”


AuthorAID, Costs to authors
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How much?

US$ 0.032 per word or 8.00 per 250 words

€ 0.04 to 0.05 per word or 10.00 to 12.00 per 250 words

plus administrative fees, taxes and bank fees

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
How much on the Inet?

US$ 0.02 to 0.45 per word

US$ 70.00 to 75.00 per hour

plus administrative fees, taxes and bank fees
No standard practices
- Types of editing
- Rates
- Turnaround times
- Terms and conditions
- Invoicing, bank fees

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
How can I judge quality and value?

- Ask the supplier for reference or examples of published work.
- Order a small job to test quality of the produce and the process.
3. Journal fees

No correlation between ms processing fee and for-profit or not-for-profit publisher, OA policy (gold, hybrid/green, other) or commercial vs. society publisher.
What it costs university researchers to publish (ms processing fees) depending on whether the institution has or doesn’t have a commercial agreement with the publisher to obtain a discount.


AuthorAID, Costs to authors
How much?
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How much?

10%-15% discount on ms processing fee if institution is a “member.” (Depends on the number of manuscripts the institution expects to submit per year)
Discounts apply only to some but not all of the publisher’s journals, as negotiated with the institution. (Depends on which disciplines the institution’s authors usually publish in)
Open Choice costs US$ 3000.00 per manuscript.

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The basic fee for Springer Open Choice is $3,000 USD, which can be invoiced in Euros. The order must be placed, and payment received in full (if not ordered by an institution), prior to publication. Springer Open Choice may be ordered directly from Springer.com, we recommend that the contact author (or his/her institution) place the order. Payment can be
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Discount of 15% if the institution is a member

Discount of 15% if Endnote or Reference Manager is used

Discount of 20% if the author has reviewed a manuscript for the same journal (only a few journals)

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
Article processing fees for other publishers
US$560 to $5000, average approx. $3000
Open access not always included

Comparison of BioMed Central's Article Processing Charges with those of other publishers

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
How can the cost of English editing be reduced?
1. Learn to write well in English to become self-sufficient.

Invest in acquiring solid skills in English writing as early in your academic and research career as possible.
2. Build social networks to facilitate access to colleagues who can help you. Establish long-term relations with colleagues who write English well and can help with manuscript editing.
3. Use a volunteer editor from AuthorAID, Scientists without Borders, or a society-sponsored volunteer system.

AuthorAID is the name given to a growing number of web-based activities that provide developmental editing assistance to scientists and researchers from developing countries who wish to prepare scientific articles for publication in peer reviewed journals. Phyllis Freeman[1] and Anthony Robbins,[2] co-editors of the Journal of Public Health Policy (JPHP),[3] first suggested the name and concept in 2004 and published “Closing the ‘publishing gap’ between rich and poor” about AuthorAID on the Science and Development Network (SciDev.Net) [4] in 2005.[5]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AuthorAID

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
How can the cost of English publication be reduced?

AuthorAID, Costs to authors
1. Submit to journals with no or low manuscript processing fees.
2. Ask the journal if it will waive the manuscript processing fee for authors with no funding—some journals will do this.
3. Submit to a journal with an AuthorAID system
Thank-you very much

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