

Book reviews

Writing Scientific Papers in English. An ELSE - Ciba Foundation Guide for Authors; by M. O'Connor and F.P. Woodford, Associated Scientific Publishers, Amsterdam/Oxford/New York, vii + 108 pages, Dfl. 21.00.

This volume appears as a result of the initiative of European Association of Editors of Biological Periodicals (ELSE). It is mainly intended to help scientists whose native language is not English, but it could also be studied with profit by most scientists whose native language is English. It is intended to provide a nucleus around which will be developed specific guidelines for special language groups and the several scientific disciplines. The first language supplement has already appeared; it is "Engelsk For Skandinaver" by K. Faegri, 1975, 15 pages, available free from Mrs. S. Thomassen, c/o Prof. K. Faegri, Universitet i Bergen, Postboks 12, N 5104 Bergen, Norway, on submission of a pre-addressed envelope with appropriate stamps (or postal coupons). Supplements for German, Dutch, French, Spanish, Hebrew and Japanese authors are being prepared.

The book does not deal solely with the language aspects, as the following list of chapters will show: Planning; Preparing; Writing the First Draft; Revising; Typing; Submitting the Final Version; Responding to the Editor; Correcting Proofs.

There are appendices on: Steps in Writing a Paper; Units of Measure and their Abbreviations; General Abbreviations and Symbols; Abbreviations in Biochemistry and Toxonomy; Expressions to Avoid. As an editor, I especially urge all authors to read, think about, and act upon the suggestions made in this last appendix, and I hope that they will also consult the recommended guides to English usage (e.g., *The Complete Plain Words*, E. Gowers, H.M. Stationery Office, London, 2nd Edn., 1973).

The book may be obtained through booksellers in the ordinary way, but can also be purchased directly from Associated Scientific Publishers, P.O. Box 211, Amsterdam, The Netherlands at a price of Dfl. 21.00 (post free if payment is enclosed with the order). I strongly urge all authors contributing to this journal to acquire a copy, or at least to make sure that one is available to them.

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