



Tom Ireland MRSB

Publishing

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CAREERS IN SCIENCE PUBLISHING

Tom Ireland

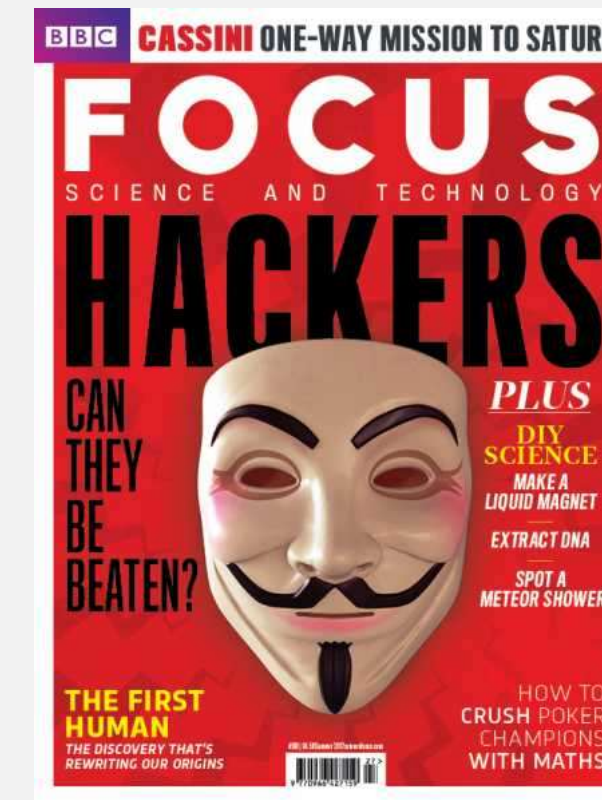
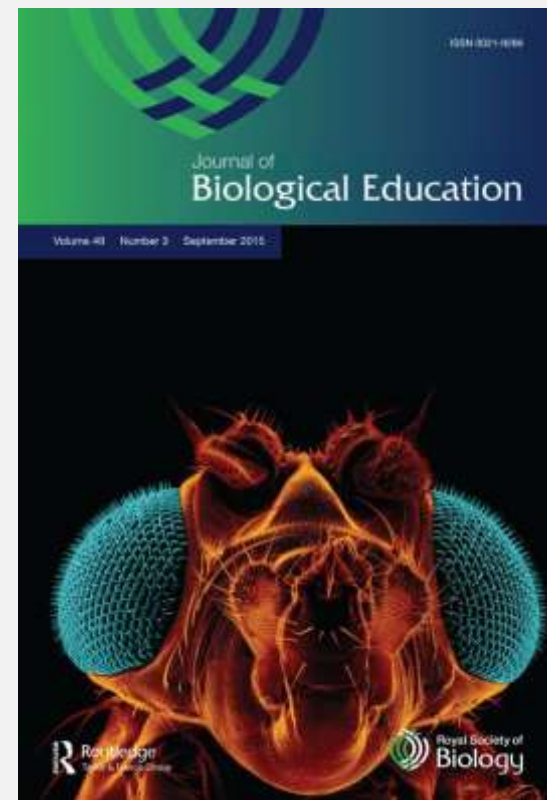
Managing editor, Royal Society of
Biology

What careers are available?

What is working in publishing
like?

What are employers looking
for?

- *The Biologist*
- *The Journal of Biological Education (JBE)*
- RSB biology textbooks due 2019
- Freelance science journalist



SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS



- Vast global industry – valued at ~\$25bn a year. 2.5 million scientific papers published each year
- The big five: Springer-Nature, Wiley-Blackwell, Taylor & Francis, Sage, and Elsevier
- Analysis and databases e.g Clarivate
- 1000s of other small journal publishers, including Learned Societies

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS



- **Editorial Jobs**

'Editorial Assistant' > Senior/ Associate/Specialist Editor

Peer-review, decision-making, editing, design, artwork, proofreading, printing

- **Marketing**

- **Sales**

- **Technology**

- **Corporate functions/ business development**

MEDICAL & TECHNICAL WRITING



- Medical Comms agencies produce materials for medical professionals about healthcare innovations and pharmaceutical treatments
- Production of manuals, guidance, reports, marketing materials & other literature for professionals or patients
- Employers of both graduates and more experienced researchers with specific topic knowledge

SCIENCE JOURNALISM



- Reporting, writing or editing science stories for the popular press via magazines, newspapers, websites, TV/radio, and more recently, online videos
- Many specialist publications: professional magazines (i.e. *Nursing Today*, *Chemist and Druggist*, *Vet Times*) membership magazines (i.e. *The Biologist*)
- Overlap with large journals
- High job satisfaction but highly competitive and an uncertain future for print and quality journalism

EMPLOYERS WANT...



- Science degree (2:1+), broad knowledge and interest in science
- PhD or MSc for roles involving more specialist technical writing
- Excellent written English
- Demonstrable interest in writing/ reviewing/ publishing
- Attention to detail
- The ability to work on many different projects at the same and quickly
- Diplomacy and integrity

CAREER DEVELOPMENT



- Publishing can be a good stepping stone to working in copywriting, journalism and other editorial roles
- Opportunities to move into other roles within publishing companies or comms agencies i.e. business development, events, marketing, PR, IT, management
- Working for a learned society offers you the chance to work within a genuinely science-focused organisation, moving into areas like science policy, science communication, public outreach, science funding

THINGS TO CONSIDER...



- Some roles are creative and fun, others are less flexible and involve administration, database management etc.
- Journal publishing is an industry in flux: online, open access, pre-prints, and more generally, the profit-model
- Journalism and book publishing can be fun and rewarding but they are extremely competitive sectors
- It is different to science! Can be fast-paced, with changing deadlines, projects and priorities
- Beware of predatory publishers and start-ups who may not have a sustainable or legal business model

EMPLOYERS



- Learned societies (RSC, IOP)
- Journal & book publishers
- Scientific Information / Indexing Services (i.e Clarivate)
- University press and communications teams
- Medical & science communications agencies
- Freelance

THE END

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SCIENCE PUBLISHING

