

Meeting the Scientific Information Needs of the Food Community Through Free Educational Guidance into Effective Literature Searching, Systematic Reviews, and Publishing in Journals

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Abstract

This session explores the topic of effective literature searching and the importance of trustworthy information for successful research and innovation. It will communicate the free resources IFIS has developed to help researchers and students, in its capacity as an educational charity and not-for-profit publisher.

In the session, we outline the importance of indexing and curation for effective literature searching and literature reviews, including statistics around the growth in published literature in food and related sciences.

It explains the major issue of predatory journals, including the growth in the number of journals, levels of awareness, and risks to the integrity of scientific research.

We will share insights that underpin best practice guidance for literature searching, including feedback from individuals, research into researcher behaviour, and the risks of poor search practices.

The session will share information about the guides we have developed, with feedback from advisory boards of eminent researchers and librarians.

- Best practice guide for effective literature searching - finding some literature on a question is usually easy; finding the right literature, and all of the most relevant literature for a solid literature review, is harder. We have developed resources to help, including explanatory notes and practical step-by-step guidance.
- Guide to publishing in journals - developed to help authors navigate the process of selecting appropriate journals, and understand the factors which might influence the decision of where to submit. In addition to predatory journals, it covers topics such as open access, what to expect from the peer review process, Impact Factors and other metrics, and more.
- Good review practice: a researcher guide to systematic review methodology. - aims to increase quality management efforts among the food science community through information and introducing common and best practices of methods across different food-related disciplines. Inspired by direct feedback from journal editors regarding poor quality of submitted SR articles. Additional IFIS research into quality standards and issues facing food science reviewers revealed that the number of SRs on food science and technology topics has seen >10-fold increase since 2011, and food-related reviews are often multi-disciplinary where different sets of requirements may apply to systematically review each topic.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY RHIANNA GAMBLE

Rhianna is Head of Marketing and Engagement at IFIS Publishing, based in Reading, United Kingdom. Rhianna joined IFIS in 2014 and is responsible for marketing, customer relations and training. She is Vice-Chair for the British Section of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), and a member of the Executive Council and the Marketing and Communications working group of the Research4Life programme, which facilitates free and low-cost access to scientific information for research organisations in low- and middle-income countries. Rhianna has a BA in English Literature from Durham University, and an MA in Publishing from Oxford Brookes University where she specialised in academic journals. She previously worked for Elsevier, marketing scientific journals and conferences.