

Citation Misconduct: Helping authors keep their papers clean

Webinar

13 November 2024



ChronosHub

Presenting today

Moderator



Romy Beard

Head of Publisher Relations
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Nick Morley

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Plagiarism (*Plagiarize* (and *plagiarism*) comes from the Latin *plagiarius* “kidnapper.” This word, derived from the Latin *plaga* (“a net used by hunters to catch game”), extended its meaning in Latin to include a person who stole the words, rather than the children, of another.) <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/>

Unacknowledged use of another's work as if it were one's own

Examples:

- Inclusion of more than a single phrase from another's work without the use of quotation marks and acknowledgement of source
- Summarising another's work by changing a few words or altering the order of presentation without acknowledgement
- Copying another's work
- Use of another's idea(s) without acknowledgement or presentation of others' work as if it were own



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Citations:

Professional practise: Citing sources is a standard scholarly practice

- Credits original authors/creators of ideas by acknowledging and showing understanding of their work (including images, tables, graphs etc.)
- Guides readers to (original) sources
- Provides supporting evidence for arguments and the role of previous work in developing new ideas
- Avoids **plagiarism** by accurately presenting someone else's ideas as theirs (not own)



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Expected Professionalism in Research/Scholarly work

- **Integrity** – adherence to professional values & standards and ethical practises
- **Objectivity** – factual accuracy – “*The Data is the Data*”
- **Honest** and clear communication including acknowledging sources of information accurately
- **Respect** – listening to others’ opinions, treating others fairly, and respect entire academic community (including immediate peers).
- **Responsibility to society** – including funders (charities, taxpayers) – report/project the complete picture, engage/inform the public
- **Reproducibility** – create solid foundation to build on



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Training

TIPS FOR AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

1 Always acknowledge the contributions of others in your work

2 Identify the citation source when paraphrasing or summarizing

3 Provide a citation when in doubt about facts or common knowledge

4 Always enclose verbatim text in quotation marks with an accompanying citation

5 Cite primary sources of information not secondary or tertiary

"Don't plagiarize. Express your own thoughts in your own words.... Note, too, that simply changing a few words here and there, or changing the order of a few words in a sentence or paragraph, is still plagiarism. Plagiarism is one of the most serious crimes in academia."¹

"You paraphrase appropriately when you represent an idea in your own words more clearly and pointedly than the source does. But readers will think that you plagiarize if they can match your words and phrasing with those of your source."²



Adapted from *Avoiding Plagiarism, Self-Plagiarism, and Other Questionable Writing Practices: A Guide to Ethical Writing* by Miguel Roig.

UG – Masters – PhD students

Lectures with examples and practise sets

Workshops with hands-on practise

Writing workshops for thesis (Honours, Masters, PhD) including how to cite

Handbooks to accompany workshops

Open meetings for all on research integrity in general



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Problems/issues

Who to cite for what?

- Different circles in fields may have different opinions about relevance of contributions. Cronyism. Who really was first?

Citation(s) received as a reward

- Citation mills, predatory journals, self-citations



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- Help editors (and referees) understand the context in which the work was conducted, answering questions about novelty and impact
- Help referees assess whether experiments have been done in an appropriate manner and are clearly articulated so future researchers can adopt the same methods
- Help readers see how scientific findings build on each other, including where results directly support past findings and where they diverge

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energetically more favorable compared with targeting larger, fully formed β -aggregates. By intervention at the precursor stage, there may be an opportunity to disrupt or prevent the subsequent aggregation process, potentially halting the progression of full-length TDP-43 aggregation-related diseases. Moreover, gaining a structural understanding of full-length TDP-43 in its partially unfolded state is essential for designing small molecule inhibitors. These inhibitors could be designed to bind specifically to the exposed hydrophobic regions or other key structural elements involved in the aggregation process, thereby stabilizing TDP-43 in its native state or preventing its transition to aggregation-prone conformations. This targeted approach holds promise for the development of therapeutics aimed at combating amyloid-related diseases by interfering with the early stages of protein aggregation.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT
Supporting Information
 The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.biochem.4c00389>.

The origin of the mathematical equation used to fit the unfolding transition data during the N \rightleftharpoons U transition
 The origin of the mathematical equation used to fit the unfolding transition data during MG \rightleftharpoons PUP \rightleftharpoons U transition (PDF)

Accession Codes
 NTD of Human TDP-43: Protein PDB ID: 5MRG. rRRM domain of Human TDP-43: Protein PDB ID: 4BS2. CTD of Human TDP-43: Protein PDB ID: 2N3X. TARDBP gene: Gene ID: 23435. TAR DNA-binding protein 43 (TDP-43): UniProtKB entry Q31148 (TARDBP_HUMAN).

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Notes
 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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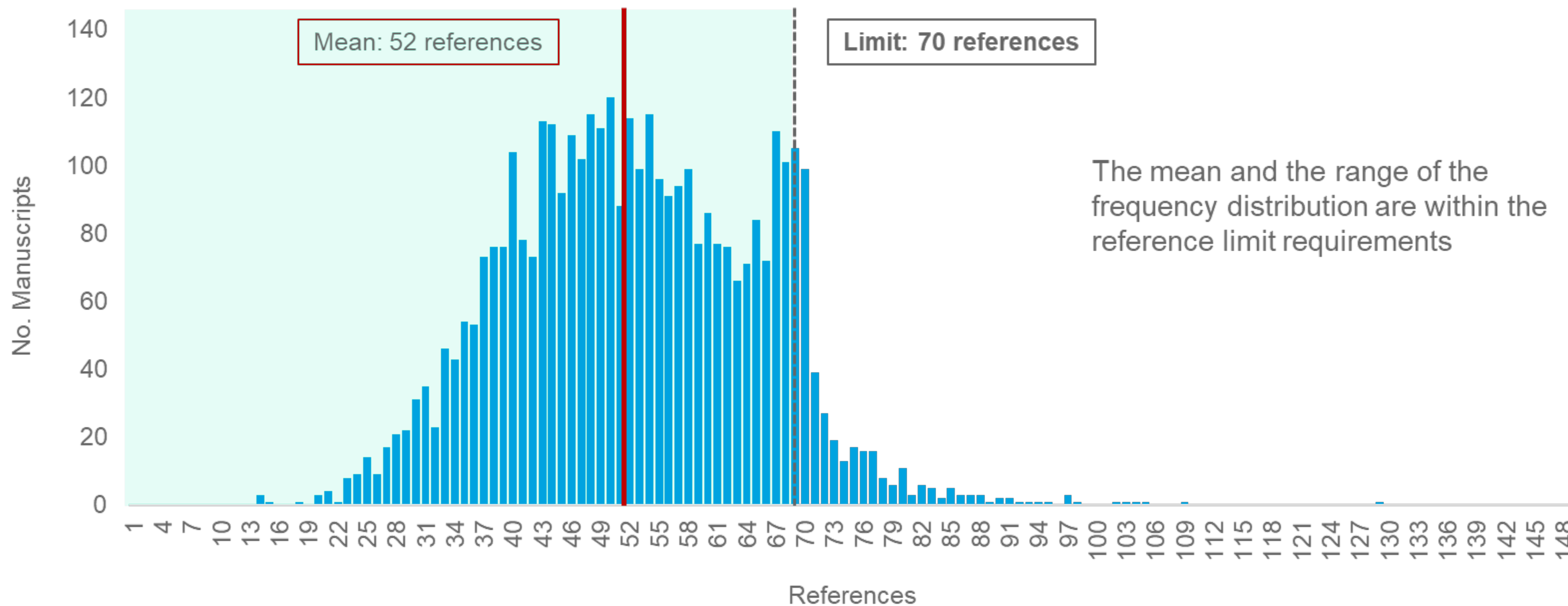
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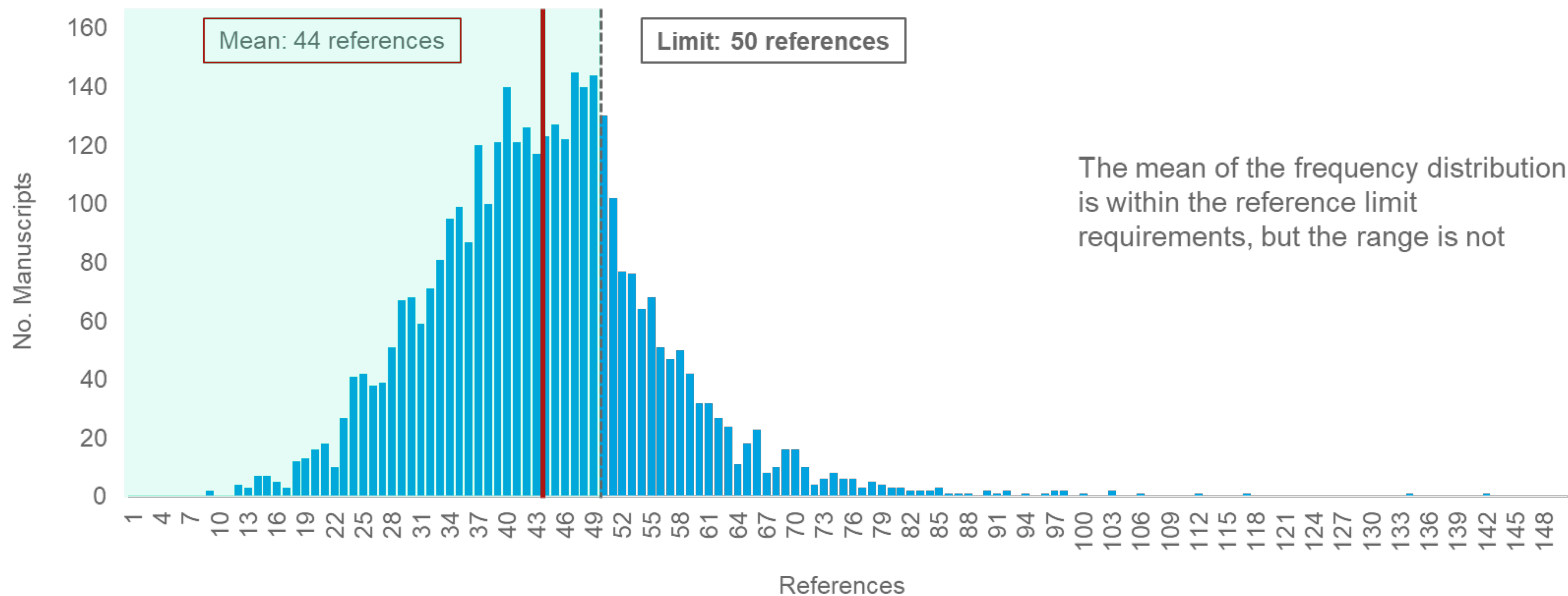
- References used to be more constrained by actual printing
- Online only publication & new tools simplify production processes

Journal limits "followed"



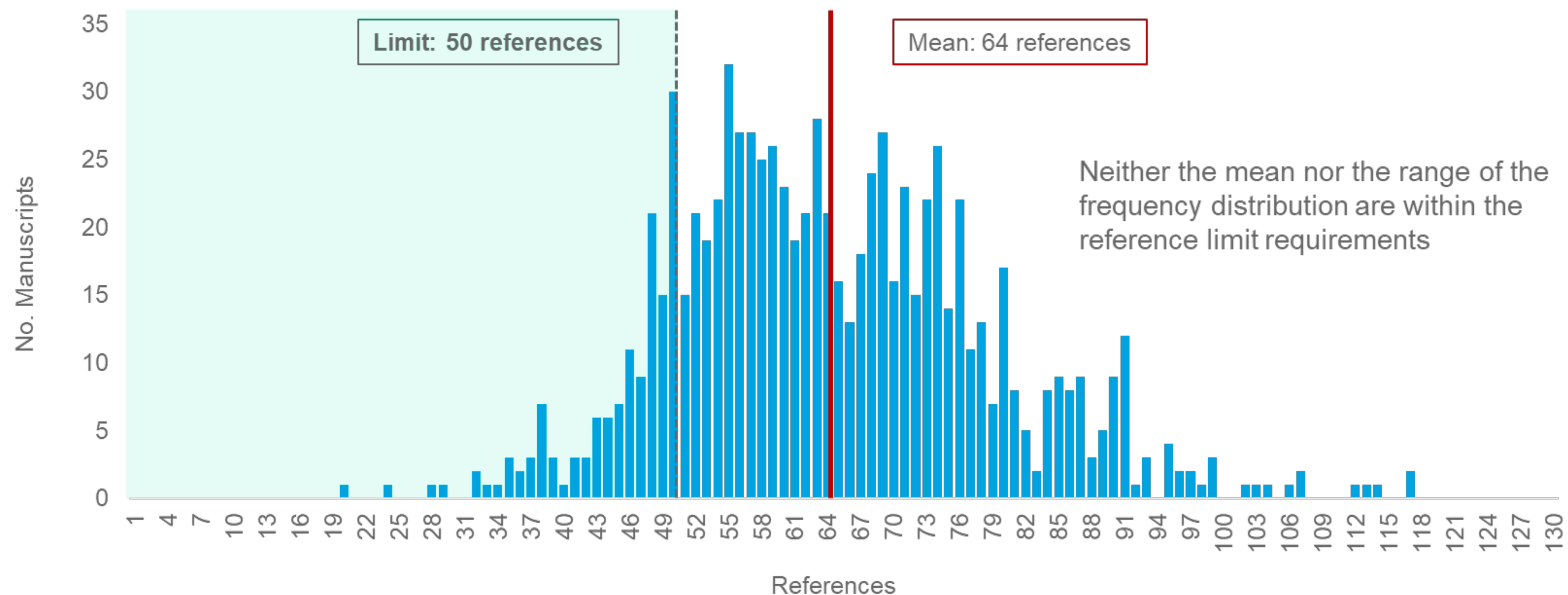
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Journal limits "considered"



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Journal limits "ignored"



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Citations in the modern day

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Current constraints reflect time required by editors and referees to review citation lists

Citations feedback: What do referees say?

Requests for new references can result from:

- Awareness bias
- Knowledge of retractions or other problems
- Knowledge of additional papers (including in the same journal) that are timely and highly relevant
- Additional support for the authors' arguments **Wanting to add citations to their own/collaborators work**

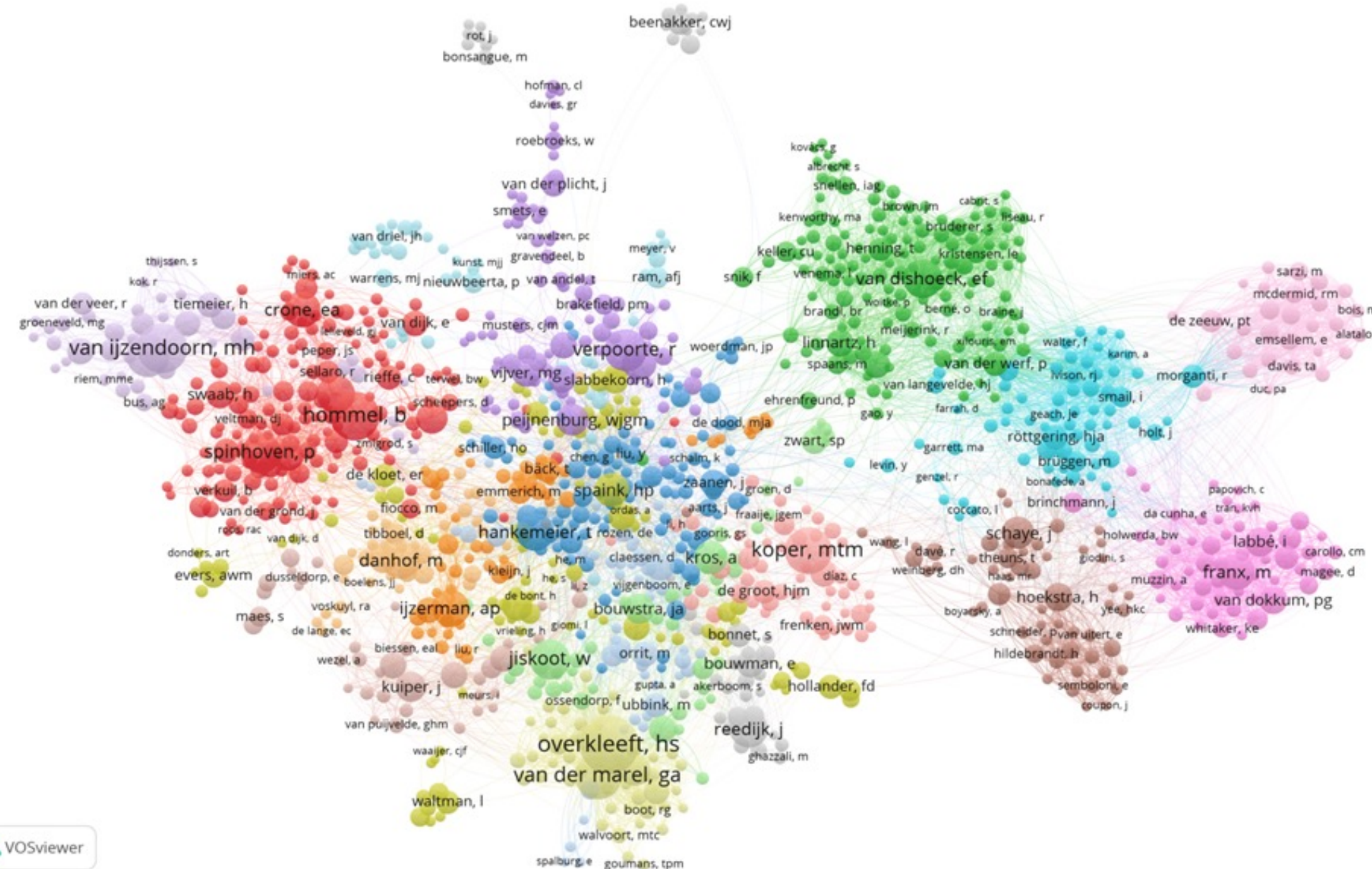
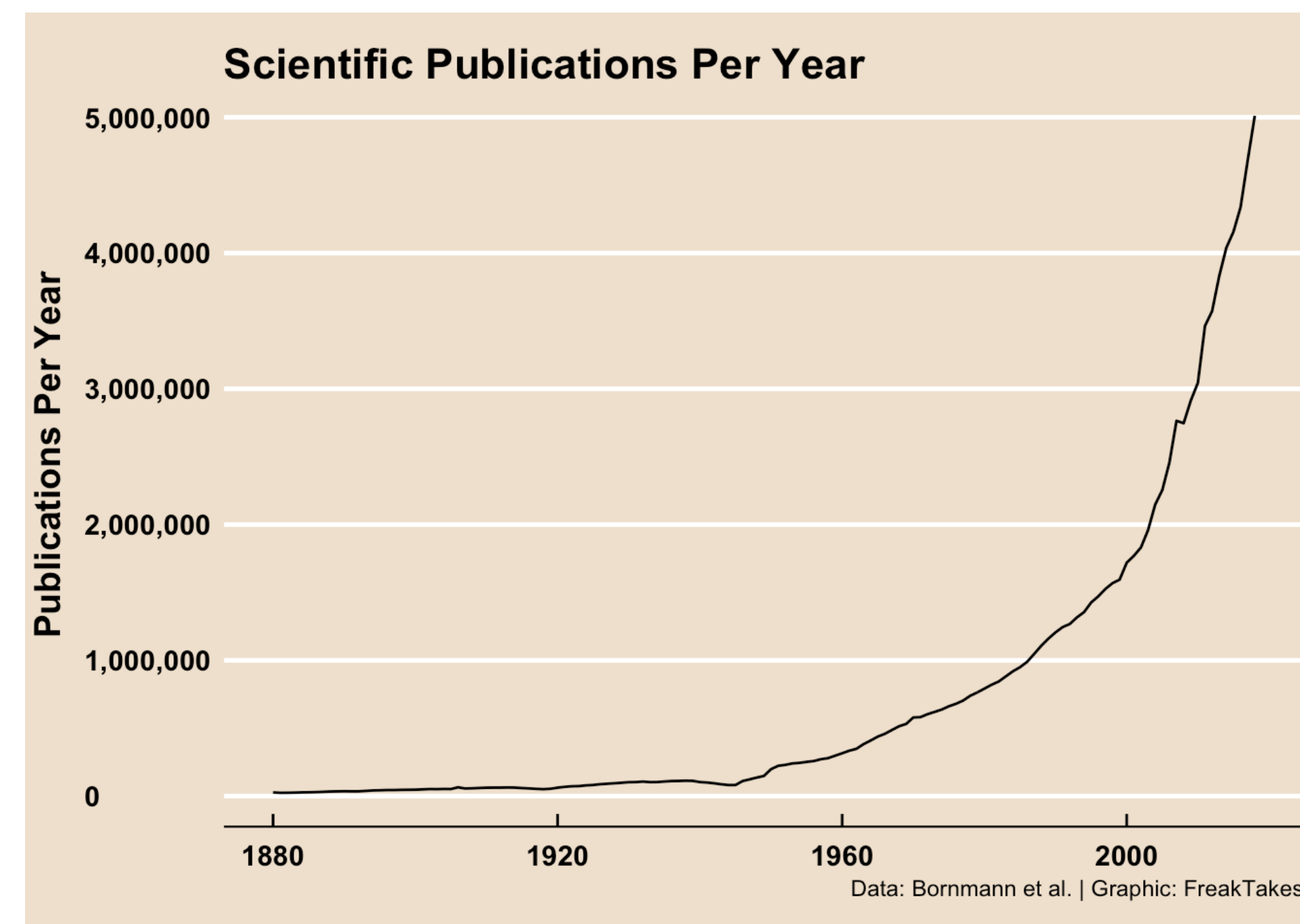


Image from <https://www.dimensions.ai/blog/>

Citations input: How should authors respond?

Requests for new references should be addressed by:

- Incorporation of new references, if appropriate (and they are within journal limits)
- Declining to add new references, with explanations, if the author finds them not relevant or not covering new ground
- Authors should also alert the editor if the references requested are both not relevant and seem focused on a particular group(s)

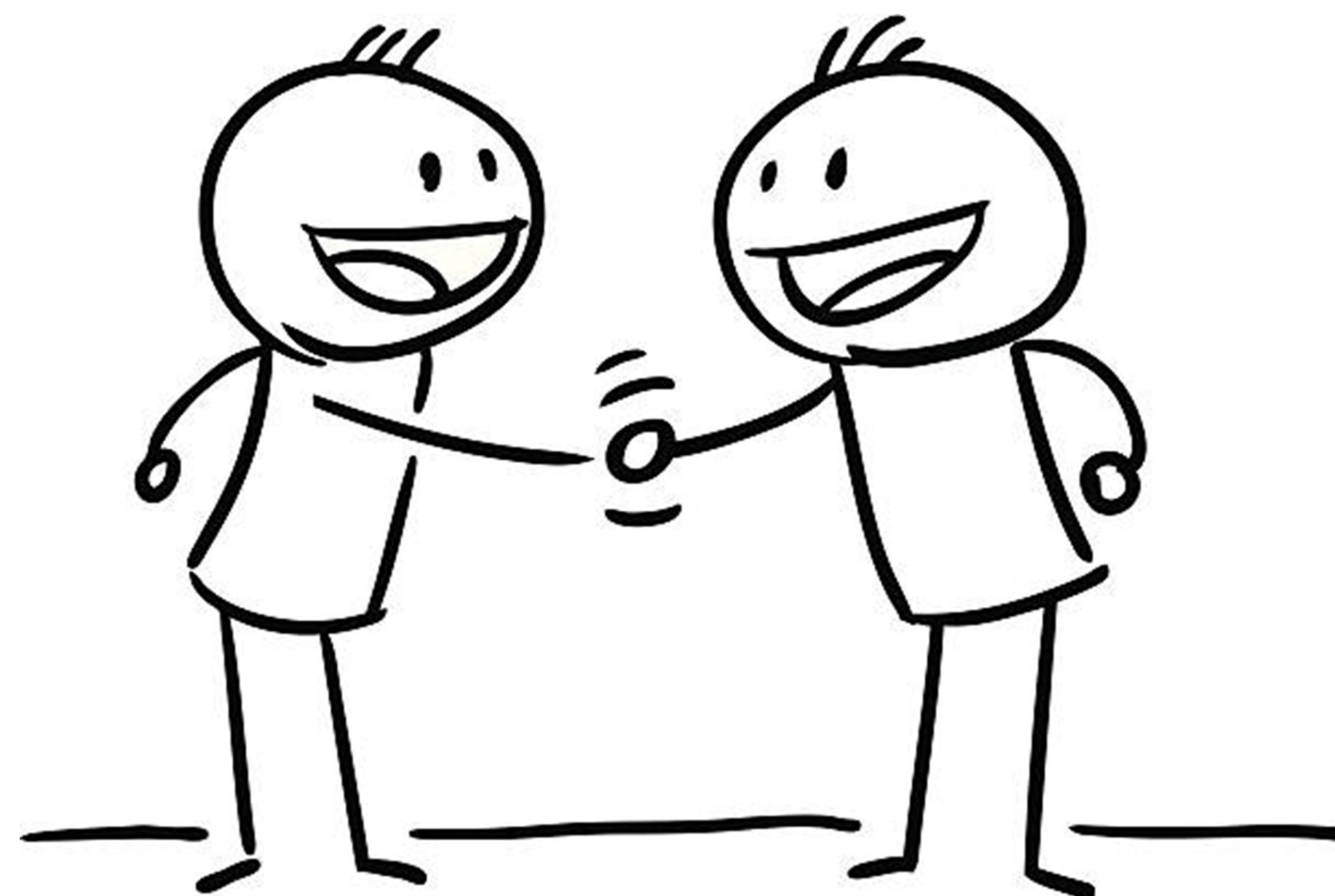


<https://www.freaktakes.com/p/what-should-new-age-research-organizations>

Citations mediation: How should editors resolve?

Requests for new references should be evaluated carefully:

- Be aware that authors feel pressure to respond positively to all referee comments
- If an author declines to add new references, review the explanation. Consider whether the request is truly meaningful vs. checking a box
- If an author raises concerns about the references requested, review referee behavior and remind them of best practices or discontinue use



Nick Morley

Grounded AI

Prevalence of Citation Issues in Scientific Literature

- "Up to 25% of all citations in the general scientific literature are inaccurate" (Peoples & Østbye, BMJ, 2023).
- A meta-analysis examining 28 studies on citation accuracy in medical journals estimated major, minor and total quotation error rates of 11.9%, 11.5% and 25.4% (Jergas & Baethge, 2015).
- "Inaccurate claims and citations [were found] in every reviewed article and 6.6% of all in-line citations" (Homeier et al, 2024).

This is set to increase with growing use of AI:

- Models such as ChatGPT demonstrate high hallucination rates of citations, up to 55% (Walters and Wilder, 2023).

Citation Issues Taxonomy



Citation Issues Taxonomy



Many ways to get it wrong!

Hallucinated references, AI-generated

Examples

and acetate, are produced through the fermentation of dietary fibers by gut bacteria (Koh et al., 2016). These metabolites can traverse the BBB and exert anti-inflammatory effects by modulating microglial activation, enhancing regulatory T cell (Treg) function, and suppressing pro-inflammatory cytokine production (Erny et al., 2015 ; Furusawa et al., 2013). Moreover, dysbiosis, an imbalance in the gut microbial community, has been implicated in exacerbating neuroinflammatory conditions. Animal models have demonstrated that germ-free or antibiotic-treated mice exhibit heightened neuroinflammation and accelerated disease progression, underscoring the protective role of a balanced gut microbiota (Mizuno et al., 2017 ; Jangi et al., 2016).

Furthermore, the vagus nerve, and its fibers can sense and modulate neuroinflammation. Crosstalk suggests a strategy to a potential intervention to mitigate neuroinflammation.

▼ 22: ! Source not found

The citation **Jangi et al., 2016** could not be found.

The closest match is a paper titled [Importance of Diversity: Inclusion of Duodenal Sampling Enhances the Study of Microbial Composition During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), but this does not support the claim about dysbiosis and neuroinflammation.

gut and the brain involves the nervous system. Vagal afferent fibers enter the brain, influencing neuroinflammation (Ma et al., 2018). This neuroimmune crosstalk suggests that a balanced gut microbiota could be a viable strategy to a potential intervention to mitigate neuroinflammation, prebiotics, and dietary interventions to maintain the microbial balance and health (Ma et al., 2019).

Citation Relevance Unclear

Examples

reflectivity of the water column. Such reflections are sensitive to temperature changes as small as 0.03 degrees Celsius (Nandi et al., 2004; Sallares et al., 2009). SO is unique among oceanographic techniques and vertical section. Data is noisy and represents gathered trace wavelet functions produced on common locations. Additional (1987) as they horizontally is a cross-section of the interior. These signal to us that in each CMP we use one seismic acoustic source profile. To amplitudes and white are a team at each horizontal sampling. and in Yilmaz seismic images snapshots of

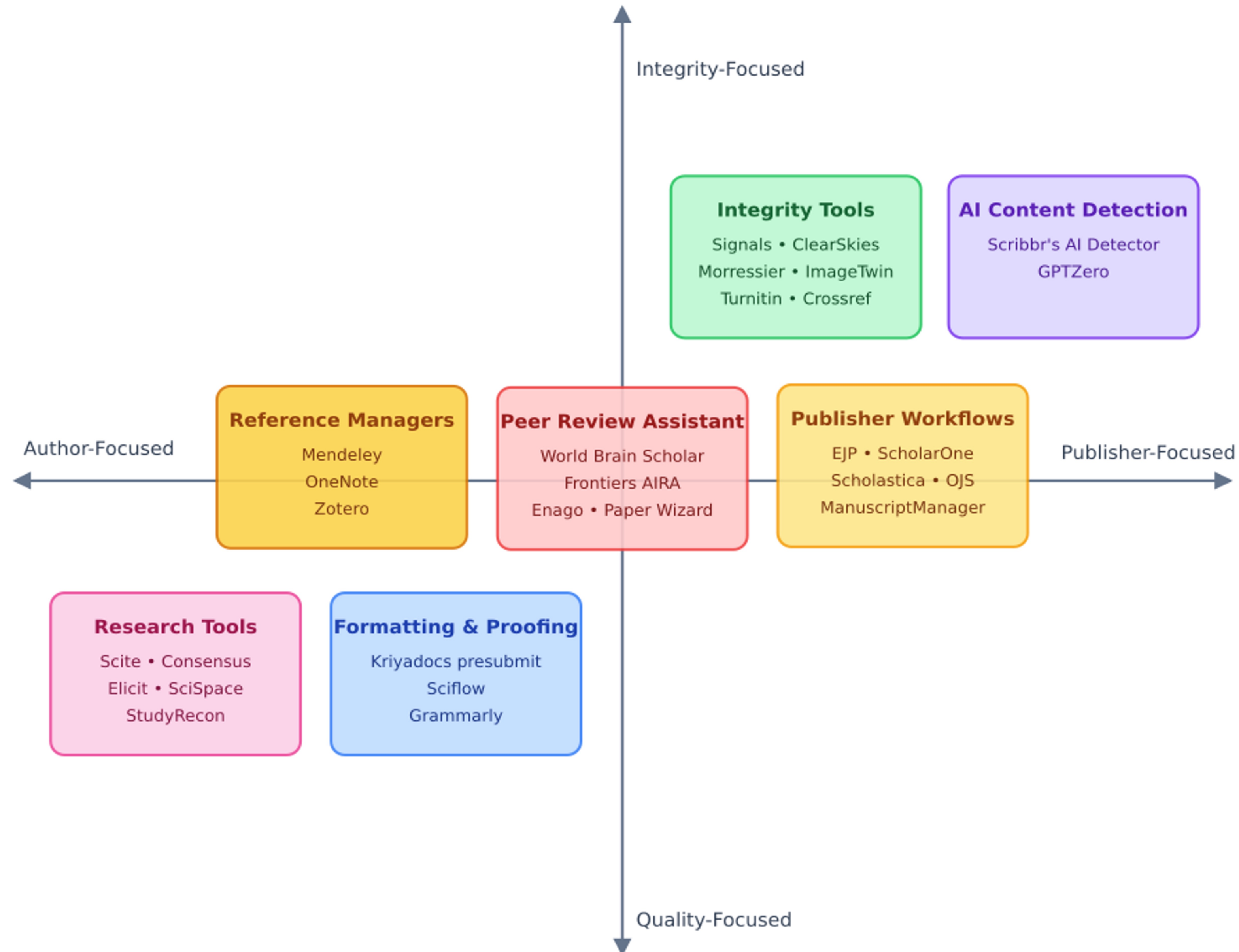
▼ 57: ? Citation Relevance Unclear

Match found: Sallares, Biescas, Buffett, Carbonell, Danobeitia, & Pelegri (2009). Relative contribution of temperature and salinity to ocean acoustic reflectivity. *Geophysical Research Letters*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1029/2009gl040187>

The citation **does not explicitly support** the claim regarding the sensitivity of reflections to temperature changes as small as 0.03 degrees Celsius. The paper discusses the relative contribution of temperature and salinity to ocean acoustic reflectivity, highlighting that a significant portion of reflectivity is due to temperature contrasts. However, it **does not specify the sensitivity to temperature changes of 0.03 degrees Celsius**. Further analysis of the full text may be required to determine if such sensitivity

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Discussion and Q&A



Author Experience: A Beginner's Guide

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Author Experience - A Beginner's Guide

GUIDE

What is author experience and why should publishers care about it?

And where do you start if you want to make a change in the experience you provide for your authors?

If you need a bit of inspiration, download our guide which was born out of many discussions with publishers, workshops, advisory board meetings and webinars and our publisher survey. You'll find quotes from some of the people we have engaged with on this topic, as well as a collection of resources at the end.



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The screenshot shows the ChronosHub website header with navigation links: About Us, Services, News, Stories, Events, Contact, Free Demo, and Get started. Below the header is a 'Subscribe' section with the text 'Subscribe to our newsletter, event list or both right here!'. The main content area features a 'Newsletter Sign Up' form with the following fields: Full Name*, Email*, Organization, and Job title. A 'Sign up' button is located at the bottom of the form. To the right of the form, there is a short paragraph: 'Are you a researcher, publisher, funder, or otherwise involved in the research publishing landscape? Sign up for our newsletter to stay informed on the latest developments in research publishing, open access complexities, customer case stories, future webinars, events, and more. We only send out our newsletter once a month and promise to never send you anything else.'

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