

Publishing and Professionalism: Perspectives for the Future

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Abstract

Publishing is an essential element of professionalism, promulgating new knowledge and providing individuals with an opportunity to discuss and debate issues relevant to contemporary practice. It is an important hallmark of an active and established profession. The nature of academic and scholarly publishing has evolved dramatically since the launch of the world's first science journal *Philosophical Transactions* in 1662. In the 353 years since what we publish has not arguably changed dramatically. What has changed dramatically, however, is how and when we publish information, and the manner in which we disseminate it. No greater have these changes been than in the last 40 years with the heralding of the Internet. Since the launch of the public network interface of the network in 1991, the last 25 years has seen an exponential change in the modalities of information generation and sharing. So much so that many in publishing and in our profession ask: What are the implications for professionalism of the rapidly changing and accelerating modalities of publishing? What is the future of publishing for professionalism in emergency nursing? What is the future of traditional academic publishing – is it dead?

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