...a single author was discovered creating fake accounts in the system and... surreptitiously reviewing his own manuscript.

Several scientists have recently been caught scamming journal peer-review systems in order to get their papers accepted. Perhaps the most egregious case involves the Journal of Vibration and Control, in which a single author was discovered creating fake accounts in the system and, on at least one occasion, surreptitiously reviewing his own manuscript.

This case, reported by the blog RetractionWatch in July 2014 and followed up by numerous other sources, including The Washington Post, eventually led to 60 retracted papers, the resignation of the author and the journal’s editor, and even the resignation of Taiwan’s education minister, who may not have been involved in the misconduct but was named a co-author on some of the affected papers.

Extreme though it may be, this is not the only recent case of its kind. In fact, RetractionWatch has posted several articles under tags such as “faked e-mails” and “self peer review.” The blog’s three authors also published an article in Nature called “The Peer Review Scam,” in which they identify some of the signs that editors should watch for: reviews are returned too quickly and are uniformly in favor of acceptance, for example.

Journal editors everywhere may be wondering: is my journal vulnerable?

Root Cause
To answer that question, we need to analyze these scams. Most commonly, they consist of the following steps. First, the unscrupulous author creates an e-mail account using a fictitious name. Any free service such as Gmail or Yahoo will do. Next, the author submits an article and recommends a reviewer, providing the e-mail address. This account will then perform an automated review of the paper, generally indicating that the paper is of high quality and should be accepted. The reviewer is never aware of this automation and will usually accept the paper.

Peter Burns, Publishing

Is Your Journal Vulnerable to a Peer-Review Scam?

cont. p 3
No Filter

A social media search for #nofilter returns a plethora of results. Everything from celebrities posting pictures on Twitter sans makeup to Instagram shots from an enviable beach vacation (the water really was that blue!) to clearly altered photos claiming to be 100% filter free. I suppose in an age where filters can be instantly applied to enhance the view, there's some merit in a throwback to natural beauty. But in the scholarly publishing landscape, the filters we use are indispensable.

We filter manuscripts through extensive peer-review processes to see which papers will be published, and when our filters fail, we're faced with potentially damaging consequences. In our feature article, “Is Your Journal Vulnerable to a Peer-Review Scam?” Peter Burns discusses some recent instances of severe author misconduct via peer-review scams. The article also gives some editorial tips for mitigating your publication’s risk factor.

Publishers aren't the only filter. As the published literature keeps growing, readers use more and more filters to determine which articles merit their attention. Our research 2.0 article, “JournalMap Reimagines Research with Location, Climate-Based Geotagging,” introduces a new scientific literature search engine that helps researchers find relevant content based on location and geographic data.

The use of a hashtag like #nofilter is itself a filter. Perhaps the irony can serve as a reminder that keeping our filters engaged is an essential part of the publishing process.

We're interested in your feedback about the newsletter and any ideas you have for future articles. Please e-mail comments, suggestions, or ideas to frontmatter@allenpress.com.
Is Your Journal Vulnerable to a Peer-Review Scam?

Feature cont.

and fake name. The editor then assigns the manuscript to the “reviewer,” who, of course, is actually the author. Finally, the author reviews his or her own article, then submits the review.

Journals can prevent this type of scam by tightening up their processes in two ways. First, seek out additional information about reviewers, especially those with non-institutional addresses. The lack of an .edu or .gov e-mail is not by itself reason for suspicion; some scholars don’t have an institutional address because they are retired, for example. But if you see a reviewer in your system with an address from a commercial service, it might be worth a quick Web search to find more contact information or published articles by that person. You might even e-mail him or her directly and ask for a CV.

The second way to prevent these scams is to scrutinize the practice of allowing authors to recommend reviewers. Some editors would never consider this policy to begin with, but for others it’s very helpful. In large part it depends on how difficult it can be to find reviewers: some fields are so specialized that experts are few and far between. A recommendation from an author could save an editor lots of time. Because of the potential for abuse, however, editors who allow author recommendations should take a couple of extra steps: use no more than one author-recommended reviewer per manuscript, for example, and always assign a second reviewer who was not recommended by the author. Editors may also consider using the recommended reviewers on a different paper, not on the paper of the author who recommended the reviewer. And keep in mind that a recommendation is just that—no obligation exists to use the suggested reviewer at all.

Preventive Action

Journal editors and publishers have a voice—and a responsibility—in deciding how secure versus convenient to make the systems. Allen Press uses two platforms for online peer review, PeerTrack, a branded version of Editorial Manager by Aries, and AllenTrack, by eJournal Press. Both Aries and eJournal Press systems are highly customizable, allowing site administrators to decide how to strike the ideal balance between impenetrable security and ease of use.

One example of compromise is the so-called deep link, which can be embedded in an e-mail invitation to review. Reviewers can click the link and go straight to the article without having to remember their login and password. As a security measure, the link becomes inactive if the e-mail is forwarded to another address. Why any reviewer would want to forward the e-mail is a good question, but the fact remains that a forward—accidental or otherwise—renders the deep link unusable.

Publishers can also configure how passwords are displayed in e-mails and how much of the site is accessible to individuals based on their “roles” in the system, for example, authors, reviewers, editors, associate editors, and staff administrators. Another convenient feature is single sign-on for authors who register with ORCID, the unique author identification scheme that is growing in popularity.

Both systems also include the option of e-commerce functionality. Few journals employ these features because they are most useful during the peer-review process and many fees—such as page charges or proof corrections charges—are incurred after review. But for a journal with submission fees or flat-rate production fees, these features can be useful.

Concerns about integrating financial data with a peer-review system are understandable, but the payment process itself is contained within PayPal, which is owned by eBay and processes more than 11 million payments per day using more than 100 currencies.
The security of their peer-review systems should contact their vendor to discuss options.

### JournalMap Reimagines Research with Location, Climate-Based Geotagging

JournalMap, a joint project between the USDA-ARS Jornada Experiment Range in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and the Idaho Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, strives to make the process of finding meaningful research easier for scientists. These two groups initially partnered to form the Landscape Toolbox, a project that began by examining and integrating rangeland management tools, techniques, methods, data sources, and models into workflows. JournalMap, an interactive site that allows users to search for geotagged locations reported in studies, is a component of the Landscape Toolbox.

“Visualizing the location of research can open new possibilities for discovering and applying scientific knowledge,” says an overview on JournalMap’s website. “JournalMap makes it possible to search for published literature thematically and geographically to support research (and) meta-analyses, identify bias, and limit redundancy.”

While many search technologies focus on topic, keyword, or author searching, the JournalMap team found that research on ecosystems may be limited by these more basic types of filters. Because of the ties to specific places, geotagging allows researchers to find quick access to ever-changing environments while they are in the field.

In addition to using standard citation filters like author and publication, users on JournalMap’s website can search participating publications using location filters and environmental filters such as climate, landform, soils, and landcover. JournalMap believes these refined searches will help researchers better understand similar areas around the world.

“In many parts of the world, there has been little formal study of the structure and dynamics of local environments,” JournalMap’s website states. “However, research that has been conducted on landscapes that share similar soils and climates can, in many cases, be relevant to these understudied regions.”

Many of the articles indexed on JournalMap come directly from authors who upload and geotag their own research. However, publishers may choose to participate by geotagging entire volumes of their journals. JournalMap currently indexes over 1,200 journals with more than 21,000 articles. Collections are also available on the site. These collections allow users to see the geographic extent of a certain topic or place. Users may also share articles and add articles to an existing topic.

Articles are geotagged and displayed on an interactive map. The website boasts one of the largest bibliographies of greater sage-grouse, a species of bird. An interactive map shows all areas where information has been published on the greater sage-grouse. To drill down to further detail, a user can see that 138 studies have been published on the greater sage-grouse in the Wyoming area. When a researcher clicks on a specific area, he or she can see that this number divides even further to find very area-specific geotagging.

Specific journal titles and their reporting locations can also be searched. As of February 2015, a search for the topic of *Rangeland Ecology & Management* shows 502 results. A total of 454 articles have
reporting locations, and more than half of articles reporting a location also have coordinates.

As of January 2015, researchers can use an Application Program Interface (API) feature to search for articles, authors, collections, and locations. To activate this feature, JournalMap requests that users obtain an API key. Researchers can use their API key to create a map of articles to drop into a website based on specific authors or keyword searches. Other visualizations – such as a treemap – are also available for users with an API key.

While JournalMap has made progress since its inception, the team is looking to continue harvesting information that is already in published studies. A Development Roadmap on the site indicates the short-term and long-term objectives for content and website enhancements.

Short-term content objectives include adding author/user article contributions and continuing article geotagging. Short-term website objectives include new article notifications, better feedback and error reporting, and support for line and polygon geometries.

Long-term goals include larger scale geotagging from publishers and societies, as well as real-time updating once new articles are available. Long-term plans also include integration with other online databases.

Throughout this development, the goal is to increase geotagged reporting, its prevalence, and its standards in bibliographic metadata. JournalMap hopes that working with publishers and societies will increase the number of geotagged journal articles. The team boasts an algorithm “for semi-automated processing of large volumes of articles” that will ensure precise geotagging and quick input for organizations with many titles.

Publishers can work with JournalMap for geotagging of bulk articles, landing pages for their journals and collections, analytics reporting, and developing location reporting. The team is also continuing its work with authors and researchers to spread the word, add additional features, and contribute geotagged articles.

For more information about JournalMap, visit their website at www.journalmap.org.

Danielle Jurski, Marketing
Allen Press Experiences Notable Growth of Pinnacle Online Publishing Service

Allen Press, Inc., has announced that over the past twelve months, the number of journals hosted on its Pinnacle Online Publishing platform has increased by 42%. The platform will now host 184 publications on 117 publisher websites. This growth also includes 23 publishers previously hosting their content on the Metapress platform, which will be decommissioned in early 2015.

Pinnacle is a template-based content hosting solution built on the robust Atypon Literatum software. A number of new features have been added recently, including metered access, special collections, and faceted search. The Pinnacle Users Blog is another tool that assists publishers in maximizing features on their Pinnacle websites.

In addition to hosting services, Pinnacle also includes XML-tagging, content loading, site editing, and end-user customer support. By using Pinnacle, publishers can deliver a variety of content types, including journal articles, books, abstracts, and multimedia files on their own independently branded, mobile-optimized website.

“Publishers choose Pinnacle because it pairs the same robust technology in use by large commercial and society publishers with top-notch customer service offered by our electronic services support team. Many society and association publishers have limited staff resources available for production-related tasks, so our online hosting solution is a perfect fit and allows them to maintain a hands-off approach at an affordable price,” said Melanie Dolechek, Director of Publishing and Marketing at Allen Press. “We are looking to continue this growth pattern into 2015 as more publishers realize the value of providing their content to readers in a way that maximizes discoverability by search engines and encourages usage on mobile devices.”

Study of Subscription Prices for Scholarly Society Journals: 2015 Update

Allen Press has released its annual study on scholarly journal pricing, Study of Subscription Prices for Scholarly Society Journals: 2015 Update. The study has evolved as a result of the current economic climate and the changing nature of scholarly publishing.

Over the past few years, the conversation about subscription and access has become much more complex than just pricing. Consortia, Big Deals, open access trends, and cancellation practices are now part of the dialogue surrounding journal publishing.

In 2014, Allen Press conducted a Society Publisher Views on Journal Pricing Survey that included sections on pricing, access, and journal information. Detailed results from this survey will be discussed throughout this study.

The free publication is now available on the Allen Press website at http://allenpress.com/resources/education/jps. A printed copy can be requested through the website.
Allen Press Captures Printing Impressions Gold for Three by Three Illustrations Directory

Allen Press received top honors in Printing Impressions' 2014 Gold Ink awards. Gold was awarded for the *Three by Three Illustrations Directory*, a collection of contemporary portraits and figurative, lifestyle, landscape, and conceptual illustrations in the Books – Directories category.

The company also won a Bronze award in the Scientific and Medical Journals category for *The Mineralogical Record*. Pewter was also awarded in the same category for *Mineral Collections of the Crystal Gazers and Friends*, a supplement to *The Mineralogical Record*.

Gold Ink awards are given based on superior craftsmanship and quality. Entries, numbering in the thousands each year, are from printers around the world. In 2013, Allen Press swept the Scientific and Medical Journals category.

For its 2014 achievements, Allen Press was honored at the Gold Ink Awards and Hall of Fame Gala on September 29 at the Hyatt Regency at McCormick Place in Chicago, Ill. The winning pieces were featured in a recent issue of *Printing Impressions* magazine and on www.GoldInk.com.

“We are always honored to be a recipient in the Gold Ink Awards,” CEO Gerald Lillian said. “This is the first time Allen Press has won under the Books category, which is a true testament to the breadth and capabilities of our organization and staff. Additionally, we continue to be privileged to print *The Mineralogical Record*, a beautiful publication that routinely wins many industry awards.”

In July, Allen Press was also the recipient of an Award of Recognition in the Magazines category of the Printing Industries of America's Premier Print Awards. The company received this award for *The Crystal Gazers and Friends* supplement. Allen Press was honored for this award at the Premier Print Awards Gala on September 28.

In March of 2014, the company received 11 awards in the Printing & Imaging Association of MidAmerica's Graphic Excellence Competition (GraphEx). To see these awards or awards from previous years, visit our website at http://allenpress.com/company/awards.

Allen Press Recognized as Top 400 Printer in 2014

Allen Press was ranked in the top half of the *Printing Impressions* 400 (PI 400) in the December 2014 edition of *Printing Impressions* magazine. The PI 400 provides the industry’s annual ranking of leading printing companies in the United States and Canada. The listings are based on sales figures reported to *Printing Impressions* in 2014.

“Being consistently recognized as a Top 400 Printer by *Printing Impressions* is an honor,” said Gerald Lillian, CEO at Allen Press. “Ranking in the top half of this list reflects how hard our team is working. Allen Press has been producing publications for societies, associations, and special-interest publishers as a family-owned business for 80 years. We can't thank our customers enough for their loyalty and commitment to providing their content in print.”

The North American Publishing Company, which owns *Printing Impressions*, also hosts the Gold Ink Awards. These awards recognize outstanding production work by printing companies. In 2014, Allen Press won Gold in the Books – Directories category as well as Bronze and Pewter in the Scientific and Medical Journals category.

For more information about *Printing Impressions* or the PI 400 list, visit their website at www.piworld.com.
Special offer for *FrontMatter* readers: 15% OFF REGISTRATION  Use Discount Code: FRNTMTR15

To register online, go to http://allenpress.com/events/seminar/registration.