

NOTES from PUBLICATIONS STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING (OXFORD, January 2009)

A list of participants is attached.

REVIEW STATED MISSIONS OF THE PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM:

1. Advancing psychology as a rigorous scientific and applied discipline internationally and lead in the international promotion and dissemination of the science of psychology and its wide applications
2. Set standards for the field as a basic and applied discipline
3. Contribute to the Union's visibility as the leader for international psychology
4. Communicate about international psychology in all its diversity
5. Communicate with national members and other entities (e.g., NGOs, foundations)
6. Although valued, contributing to public understanding, contributing to other scientific disciplines, and integration with the other disciplines received less focus. That is, the focus of the meeting was more on the Union serving psychology, per se, than outward looking. Nonetheless, outward looking publications in the right context could also serve the missions 1-4.
7. Contribute to the financial viability of the Union . [Remember: publications "sponsored" by the Union may be major revenue generators (the journal); potential revenue generators include book publications, new launch books/series – which may be supported as a commercial risk by a publisher, or may be underwritten by the Union – and open-access information which may be a cost to the Union, and not be revenue generator (although it may evolve into one at some time)].

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Vehicles of the publications and communications program:

The different vehicles below can contribute to achieving the missions above, but no one is intended to do all.

1. Journal(s) with international focus of high standards—scientific and analytic— and impact (print and also e-available via consortia for majority world). One could imagine more than one journal.
2. Books (print)
 - a. 1-3 series, two of which may be “slim” books series and separately edited as a series;
 - b. ICP Proceedings print copies for advance sale through congress and go e-book in IUPsyS Resources after 4 years—assuming sales sustained at about 500)
3. Bulletin/newsletter (on-line and e-push)
4. IUPsyS Global Resources (expanded) and merged with current IUPsyS web-based information resources
5. ICP Abstracts (as e-supplement to IJP archived electronically; print copies for advance sale through congress, only)

Vehicles to be accomplished through print and/or online presence.

Things now in print format may switch as mechanisms of circulation change over time.

A discussion of each vehicle follows.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL PSYCHOLOGY

Review IJP as at present:

Editor Claudia Dalbert should be recognized for the numerous improvements she has brought to the journal, including attracting (and editor solicited) high quality papers, introducing special sections of trans-national inputs on various topics linked to Union and Union member interests/activities, managing the editorial process to reduce the publication lag. Special recognition for continuation was the special sections of transnational input and interest.

Nonetheless, to an outsider's view it was stated at the meeting that there did not seem to be an identifiable IJP niche. This led to discussion of whether it needed a niche or was fine as is. It was decided that it should foster the Union's aims and the mission of the publications program (above). The IJP visibility and recognition is quite variable around the world from virtually unknown in the USA (Kraut) to well known in Latin America (Koller).

An unstated mission of the journal is in capacity building in the sense of encouraging majority world authors to enter the international publishing arena was noted. (Suggestions below.) Part of this mission requires global representation. And, the journal should not be a narrowly focused, specialized journal (e.g., not just a cross-cultural psychology journal, not just a cognitive science journal—while such content could be appropriate for part of the content). Narrow specialized journals already exist and the *raison d'être* of the journal as a Union publication would be lost with such narrow focus.

The Editorial Board is currently perceived as the EC of the IUPsyS, which is in practice not at all the case. The 'Inside Cover' page needs to be changed to more accurately reflect the actual influences on journal content. It is true that the EC sets broad policies and goals that guide the editor, but all decisions on content in the general operation are by the Editor and those now listed as Consulting Editors. Given that it is these persons who protect (and project) the quality of the journal, they deserve the more visible position.

New Guiding strategic statements for changing the strengthening the journal and improving its usefulness for our National Members and readers:

Aspire to international leadership in advancing psychology as a science and applications of that science.

International journal of high scientific excellence and impact

Will include as content special sections /issues, reviews and regular articles.

Pursued by an *active* consulting editorial team and *active* editorial board (not IUPsyS EC)

Contents must appeal to an international audience and must contribute to the advancement of psychology as a discipline internationally in the world of sciences or setting standards for the field (e.g., in education, methods, practice, ethics, ...)

Coverage:

The intended content is the following (the order does not reflect the weighting or importance):

First, it is intended that the content continue to include "regular" submitted articles which have been historically the mainstay of the IJP, but these articles must appeal to an international audience' must address issues globally' or must bring science to policy with international relevance.

Second, a new emphasis on review articles as a new thrust, possibly commissioned if need be, of substantive areas with an *international* perspective (e.g., acculturation, poverty, aging, conflicts, nature of work, family, ethics, climate change, etc. ;if it is a less obvious international issues, such as a review of 'spatial attention', it needs to include approaches, studies, etc., from the many regions of the world). The assumption is that there is likely excellent research in some areas of the world that are generally not as broadly known because of language, dissemination, etc. It was thought that predictability of content and a schedule of topics especially for reviews—which could in fact be put into sets for special issues or publications as separates—would be important in creating an profile.

A third intended content is special issues on internationally relevant substantive topics (poverty, discrimination, migration, brain drain, disaster research, etc). Special thematic issues get a good deal of attention, and can quickly draw more readers and submissions. Important special issues of a journal require extraordinary efforts; Such special issues include a combination of review essays, methodological treatments, and empirical articles. These special issues have been especially valuable to students and more junior scientists because the special issues articulate needed areas of research; in short, special issues turn out to be generative (they contain and articulate ideas and problems that need to be worked on) and have high impact. This requires a strong editorial hand, in selecting the topic, identifying the authors, and herding them.

A fourth intended area is special sections on similar kinds of topics. The current editor has favored special sections over special issues. The advantage of sections is that it allows the flow of regular articles to continue uninterrupted. The new editor will have decisions to make in choosing between special issues and special sections.

The changes in emphases here are intended to enhance both the disciplinary value of the journal and its commercial value.

Other possible contributions—which may be part of the platform section—include occasional book reviews, policy reports, etc.

The orientation of the journal was captured in the phrases "internationally relevant" and in the list of kinds of articles. Regular articles can be encouraged and invited by the editor. The journal needs a higher ratio of high impact authors. Rigor and quality are important.

We discussed the focus - and agreed that the focus needs to be broad with the caveat that the journal should strive to be the "go to" place for certain kinds of things - substantive discussions of global issues and reviews and analyses with an international breadth. It is not narrowly specific to any one area, e.g., 'cross-cultural' (comparisons across cultures), as that would be more limiting than our vision, and it would then be trying to compete with specialized journals in that area.

IJP Operating principles:

- Predictability (long range planning of articles and rotating reviews/sections)
- Inclusive, representative, and proactively diverse, as is our audience
- Transparency of editorial process
- Innovation
- Broaden scope (e.g., review contributions)
- Changes to the journal should not be radical but gradual.

Mechanisms:

- Proactive Editor, Associate Editor(s), and Editorial Board
- Excellence (peer review)
- Use the most advanced information possible from the publisher to optimize impact
- Use active mechanisms for attracting authors.
- Editor publishes editorial with more details of the editor vision (but not titled “editorial”).
- Need to distinguish between “niche” and “profile” for the journal. A profile of psychology in international context needs to be communicated.

Additional Considerations (not in special order):

The journal now requires all submissions in English because it publishes its article in English with Abstracts in English, Spanish, and French. Some suggestions drawn from the discussions that were not necessarily formally adopted but merit consideration include:

1. One suggestion was that the gate would be more open if the journal allowed manuscripts to be accepted in selected other languages and then if found worthy, require the translation into English; the basis for this proposal was that the initial translation task with a very uncertain outcome posed a high barrier in some regions. (On the other hand, it would pose a special review challenge to some editors.) This would involve a triage effort with no promise of final publication. Writing in English can be an obstacle for submitters to international journals

We all recognize the need to publish in English, but we cannot overemphasize the difficulties that writing in a foreign language can pose. Translating articles will prove very difficult, because translators often do not have the background in the area of specialization.

An alternative is for the journal to seek to pair psychologists who are native (or excellent) writers of English with non-native authors who could help with writing in English. This works best when there are intrinsic substantive science links that can be forged between the pair. Many would be receptive and very happy to provide such help, by working one-on-one with authors as forging international links is seen as ever more desirable...

Other capacity-building activities of the Union (e.g., workshops) may contribute to this outside of the publication program.

2. With respect to a mission of capacity building by bringing new authors to the fore, the question was raised whether the publishing as a service to emerging authors also risked undermining the journal. Are there other vehicles? When IJBD tried a formal mentoring programs for new authors, it proved to be unwieldy and in the end benefited very few for a lot of effort. Capacity building for writing needs to be undertaken much earlier and perhaps jointly through the National Members.

Nonetheless, the IJP does now attract authors from around the world—although the distribution of this attraction is far from uniform and sometimes limited. (see Editor’s report.)

3. Another suggestion was that the journal should publish abstracts not in just 3 languages but in 4 ; the addition would be an Asian language, perhaps Chinese. (No assessment was made of how important the multiple language abstracts are now to our readers. Perhaps this is a first step.)

4. The journal should publish a set of “International Annual Reviews” of selected topics from international perspective. These topics should rotate over years. The optimal frequency of such reviews would be about 4-6 per year. These reviews could well have special article or special issue editor(s). The “invited or commissioned reviews” must be planned and managed.

In deciding between commissioning, inviting, and welcoming, caution is needed. It was remarked that while high impact authors are desired, senior scholars do not always make the best authors for such reviews; and to insure internationality, the reviews might well involve with not only the lead author, coauthors from other parts of the world.

5. Inviting articles or reviews is inherently a tricky process that sometimes carries with it the implicit expectation of automatic acceptance that can undermine quality. One suggestion for dealing with this is use of a two-stage process of inviting “proposals” for reviews and then choose from among the proposals.

6. One issue (question) was whether the journal is truly one open to all quality manuscripts or one of merely promulgating Western psychology to the whole world.

7. On the other hand, do not try to be everything to everybody. And in particular, no one kind of publication can do every job that needs to be done.

8. Some argued that the journal should not be primarily a lot of disparate articles, but should be a one-stop shop for what is happening in the world on specific issues.

9. Quality authors, quality papers, and some predictability about content would contribute to the profile of the journal (and to its visibility).

10. While inter-disciplinary articles *per se* might not be fodder for random articles, special sections of such article might be considered to serve the mission of advancing psychology, *per se*, as psychology continues to grow and link to other disciplines (law, behavioral economics, politics and policy, etc).

11. Reviewers for international article are likely to need training and guidance from the editor.

12. Substantial attention was given to impact factor. Some thought too much so, and that the Union has other needs and criteria. Others pointed out that many institutions have developed policies that recognize publications ONLY if in a journal with an impact factor of >1.0. This puts substantial pressure on IJP and the new editor.

13. Some argue that there is a positive correlation between rejection rate and citation rate (although the direction of the causal arrow is not known).

14. The Editor will be encouraged to use special associate editors for some features of the conceived portions of the journal. Whether these are standing Associate Editors (with or without stipends from the total available pool) is a matter for discussion and negotiation with the editor, as in commissioning versus inviting reviews. [It was noted that the group was unclear by what we meant by the word “review” with some thinking of theoretical innovations in Psychological Review, analytic summaries in Psychological Bulletin, and some synopses of best practices in the Campbell collaboration. It is not clear that any one is the single right choice, but they require different kinds of authors and process for development.]

15. The editor might well consider having an occasional target article and commentary/discussions.

16. Better linking of the journal to the electronic portal was discussed. Among the suggestions was the use of the electronic version of the journal to archive data or other article related materials. (See discussion un the electronic portal below.)

17. It was suggested that not only should the ‘Inside Cover’ list more prominently those who contribute their expertises to the journal, but also all 71 national members.

All these suggestions and comments go to the what the journal functions are for the individual author, the discipline, and the Union. For example, psychologist (perhaps a busy professional) who does not write of articles, does not help our citation index but none-the-less may use the information in their work. Thus, the journal is benefiting the discipline/profession without that benefit being recognized in increased citations.

Distribution:

IJP is not widely circulated among individual subscribers. We need to figure out how to get information about the journal —and its content—directly to people’s screens, on a regular basis. [Presumably better wider use of *INFORMAWORLD*, would be relevant.

Some suggested that individual members of national organizations (e’g’, individuals in NAOP) be allowed to subscribe to it at reduced rates. Printing and postage costs put a floor under the rate for regular paper subscriptions.

But in fact is available at \$15 in some countries now according to PsyPress— although this is not well advertised. Although this information *is* provided to national members, the National Members apparently do not communicate this to their members. This needs to be better circulated to their individual members because it would likely lead to more use and more citations. Perhaps reduced rate electronic subscriptions by individuals would be an alternative. In the majority world, many libraries already get the journal free with some delay.

On the other hand, the economic viability of the journal needs to be maintained and such enhanced distribution must be done so as to not undermine library subscriptions. This links to the financial viability of both the Union and its PsyPress publishing partner.

ICP CONGRESS ABSTRACTS

Perry presented information that Congress Abstracts have been published in paper as part of IJP in a special double issue since 1992. A contract exists for 2012, but that for 2016 will be negotiated soon.

Some academicians present noted and argued that publication must be in a paper form that carries an ISSN/ISBN publication recognition. In many countries these published abstracts are recognized as contributions—*but only if in paper form*. E-only publication is not yet recognized.

Clearly paper published abstracts serve multiple functions both at the Congress and afterwards and there are multiple audiences. If there continues a demand for the paper version at the congress—and some 1500 copies were sold to the 9000 participants in Berlin— then why not sell it?

Then, the issue was whether the any published abstracts should be part of the journal. Some argued for and some against. Perry recommended that the ‘book’ of Abstracts be a 7th issue supplement to the journal— with hard copies published in the amount pre-sold to congress attendees. Otherwise it will available on-line as part of the electronic version of the journal. The supplement can still be searched and cited, but would be separate from the regular content of the journal.

Having the abstracts available electronically provides citable searchable source material on the development of psychology internationally.

As an aside, it was noted that many congress participants needed formal certificates of attendance and/or presentations. Many individuals would like a blown up copy of their abstract with the publication citation on it. It was not readily obvious how to meet this wish.

One suggestion was to consider making the abstracts more substantial communications rather than the present 100-150 words. In some disciplines 1500-2000 word abstracts are the norm and recognized as serious communications that are citable. But with 8000 abstracts for the Berlin conference, this would have required an 8000 page book, serious editing, and very much higher costs. Sales could be expected to be nil, it was noted.

BOOKS

Past Union book were reviewed briefly in terms of content, intended function, value to field, and success in sales. The history is not one that suggests continuing past practices. A new approach is needed.

One suggestion is that Union is positioned produce and market compendia on the state of thing or issues. It can serve as a “gatherer” (e.g., Tests around the world, bases for setting standards in ethics, education, research...)

Indeed, Forster suggested that the Union could help with the reissuing of the *Corsini Dictionary of Psychology* in an *international* version that is expanded with concepts and terms from around the world and produced as *the IUPsyS International Dictionary of Psychology* [One might extend this idea to the *Concise Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science*, but I think that is a Wiley print. But Forster said it may be “up for grabs”.] Doing these kinds of books well requires substantial organization of editors, sub-editors, entry-writers—in short a substantial commitment by Union *and* publisher to make these good enough to be successful. Nonetheless, some see the re-branding of such existing compendia as worthy.

Can we think of a “core go-to” type book within the Union purview? APA has its “publication manual”, for example.

The Union does sponsor symposia (even series of them over time, e.g., education) and regional workshops. These could be fodder for books that would reinforce each other in content and sales.

What kinds of books? Well to start, the publishers say e-books are simply out of consideration for a variety of reasons that were explained (control of product, marketing, lack of demand, ...).

It is important to note that there are those who have substantial reservations about publishing books and even the future prospects of books. This is because none of the current crop of students read anything that is not available electronically. I recognize that debates about the future of books have been raging for a while, and we do not need to revisit these issues here.

But, I do think we need to recognize that future cohorts of researchers and practitioners are not turning to books for information. They turn first (and often no further) to downloads.

Texts

It is tempting to consider texts with an international flavor, especially introductory texts. One way is translation of existing texts to local vernacular, but then you still have all the Western narrowness, inept examples for the local culture, etc. Producing a new book is too great a financial risk for the publisher.

There was some consideration of producing localized supplement modules as source books to accompany Western books in use. But there was little enthusiasm because of an uncertain market and the number of different regional supplements to be developed. It was noted

that in “localization” and contextualization efforts for North American texts had not worked well in SIP regions.

It was decided to avoid textbooks as an incredibly complex issue well beyond our capabilities, including varying national standards and expectations and needs.

Other Books / Series

In considering books, we need to be certain that there is a true vacuum to be filled. We need to focus on the Union’s ‘natural strengths.’

Three kinds of series of books were discussed:

1. Books that come out of our own activities to advance the discipline. These clearly are the natural area for the Union. These would be built around the activities of our workgroups as a product, not mere archiving. This fits with the recommendation to take work going on within the Union. There was agreement that these form an important foundation for the discipline and a set of books should flow from these efforts.

But, for the books to be timely, these work groups must work with alacrity.

For example, we have a workgroup that has been and continues to work on the issue of setting the expectations for what a psychology needs to know to be called a psychologist. The Union would like to author “guidelines”. This is the analytic work of our Workgroup on Education for Psychologists and would be the basis for a book aimed toward helping National Members and governments set educational standards. Such would foster the mobility of psychologists around the world.

Another is the licensing of psychologists.

Another is ethical principles and standards—for practice, science, and general applied psychology.

Many countries have a “buy in” for these.

Additionally, can we think of a ‘core needs’ book (like the APA publication manual) that would be a natural for the Union and meet one of our missions? Are the international handbooks to be developed? Methodology guides?

2. There are external audiences for the knowledge psychology has. What are the international psychology gaps to be filled with respect to important policy/development/management issues facing all countries? They exist for aging, urbanization, national well-being, health, mental health, etc. Worldwide approaches to solving common problems. Others would include disaster interventions and management, terrorism, etc.

The above examples are pretty broad topics but there are more narrow ones as well. For example, the use of figures/drawings in educational materials, traffic management, etc. [A list of topics for these kinds of books was developed earlier and needs to be recovered.] These kinds of books were seen as shorter volumes (called “slim-books”), very focus, very applied, but written for non-psychologists. This series would serve the functions of applying psychology to real world problems, educating the public about the value of psychology, and, if successful, giving visibility to both psychology and the Union. Tentative titles would be, for example, of the form: “Managing Traffic: Applications of Psychological Science”, possibly even “Toilet Training: Applications of Psychological Science”.

3. A third proposed set of volumes with focal topics.....again with a popular orientation on single aspects of mental states and the range of human behaviors: Grief, Love (perhaps like Fisher's recent books on it), Hope, Well-being, Memory, Anxiety, Indecision, ... These would be respectable books helping people to understand mental states in light of best current knowledge. Titles of the series might be of the form: "Grief: A psychological analysis"

These three sets of ideas suggest three possible series. Why 3 series? This is because they each involve different financial models for the publisher, involve different types of communications to different audiences that need different styles of writing and different internal structures. This also implies that the same editor could not shape each equally well—and there would be internal conflicts for the editor. Hence, the suggestion was for different editorial programs for each series/line.

Structural models could be different for each and differentially complex involving some or all of: A) series editor, B) volume editor, and C) volume author(s) . Separation into series would insure that each would have its own unique identity.

Series 2 and 3 should only be considered if they meet a business case and fit our mission.

Further analysis may only be delaying. We have been discussing at least one of these series for almost 4 years! We should search and find editors and start.

Further suggestions on books:

Finally some other books were discussed as stand alone or as series.

One was Great Figures in International Psychology.

Another was "One hundred Questions" and answers...for public consumption. This is in service of aiding public understanding of what psychology really is and does, and seen by some as most important. Biology has such a book, "Why don't penguins' feet freeze?" Or, an A-Z of Psychology. [Some questioned whether this lower level approach should be part of the Union efforts.]

An idea was to use some anniversary event for the launching of some products.

ELECTRONIC PLATFORM/ON-LINE WEB PORTAL

The idea of a single web portal that serves many functions is a new thrust for the Union. The desire is to have our web presence to create an identity and reflect the ideals of the International Union of Psychological Science. The web presence will be seen as the face of the Union. Thus it deserves special attention as a critical element within our publications and communications program. It will evolve over time.

To begin our discussions, it was noted that IUPsyS and PsyPress already do have electronic platform materials out there and that the plan moving forward is to bring these two sets of materials together into a single web portal. This does not imply that all things available on the portal will be equally accessible to individuals simply visiting the portal. Decisions will need to be made about such things. Whether some materials or visits would be charged for or not may require both a marketing plan; a good place to start might be mapping of all the to-be-disseminated materials to all possible audiences to evaluate likely uses and value.

Digital materials already at hand include:

A. Digital materials relating to the journal published by Psy Press

1. the *Journal of International Psychology* volume 1-44.
2. e-prepublication of accepted articles to give earlier access
3. Can now add supplementary journal materials to this electronic journal core.
 - a. virtual special issues could be added
 - b. raw data archives for articles published in IJP

Here there was concern about policy implications of

- “requiring” deposit of raw data, sensitivity to investigator,
- “ownership” rights,
- cultural differences regarding such practice,
- ethical issues and privacy protection and rights,
- public access and use of another’s data,
- challenges for the editor of insuring that such supplementary materials are in a form that insures usefulness.

B. Digital materials at the IUPsyS website:

1. repository of archival material
2. separate restricted areas of access to the governance meeting materials by
 - a. General Assembly delegates,
 - b. EC members, and
 - c. officers.
3. reference and resource materials for public discussion of policy development by the Union on:
 - a. ethics
 - b. education
 - c. practice and applications
4. formal Policy Statements by the Union
5. there is an existing paper archive that needs to be digitized and added to the archive. Rohays notes: “Repository, staging post, compendium of information about international psychology (starting from some stuff

currently on the website, plus material currently on the Resource) – Edited by a repository editor?”

C. Digital materials that form the CD, “*Psychology: IUPsyS Global Resources*”

Considerations of what other materials we could add to the portal:

Considerations could be guided by what types of materials and products others have found valuable; guiding examples include “This week in *Psychological Science*” from APS that are public announcements of work, “*Clinicians’ Research Digest*” from APA, and Vodcasts that Taylor & Francis have developed. Union could produce, working closely with the IJP editor, summaries of important internationally relevant work appearing in IJP as ‘public announcements’ -- or even of work from other journals around the world as well. Intriguing, but this would really require its own editor/editorial team if it is to be quality representations with a regular and sustained production of such. Nonetheless, it was seen as an intriguing addition to the electronic portal for the Union.

Other materials could be the abstracts for conferences, especially those regional conferences that we sponsor or cosponsor.

A final suggestion was the publication of the Tables of Contents of our National Member’s journals—especially those that are not ISI indexed— with the intent of giving greater visibility to our National Members’ products and their individual members’ scholarship.

Discussions led back to the conceptual issues of what parts of the publication mission do we want the electronic portal to fulfill/achieve? Would access to some materials be sold, for example? For example, the CD, “*Psychology: IUPsyS Global Resources*”, currently is part of the Union’s income stream generation. So what parts of the current “*Psychology: IUPsyS Global Resources*” would be freely available online. After all, there is cost (an editor) required to maintain “*Psychology: IUPsyS Global Resources*” in the past and going forward. The “*Psychology: IUPsyS Global Resources*” editor currently manages other persons who act as compilers/authors for many of the separate components of the “*Resources*”. This model could also be expanded for more of the portal.

The electronic portal needs and regularized editor or site manager, especially so to maintain and expand Global Resources.

PsyPress to develop “marketing plan” for public information on the web portal. “Come to IUPsyS to find out EVERYTHING about international psychology” is the guideline. Ambitious.

BULLETIN / NEWSLETTER

The intended audience needs to be defined. There is a need to communicate better with our National Members. There is also a need to communicate with organizations to which we formally adhere and to those to which we might apply for resources to accomplish the service missions of the Union (e.g., capacity building at the individual, national, and regional levels, advancing guidelines for the discipline, etc.). NGOs (e.g., UN, WHO) were another possible audience. There was judged less need to try to address with a newsletter individual psychologists around the world.

We currently do have a newsletter, “Keeping You Posted”, that comes out 1-2 times per year with information addressed primarily to National Members.

STM publishes a model newsletter

Pandy distinguished between (a) memo-letters from the Offices of the Union, and (b) a bulletin/newsletter from the Union. He argued that there may be a place for both, and that the memo/letters are better used for eliciting action from national Members.

The bulletin/newsletter would be put on the web as part of the portal, and successive issues archived there. But it would also go to the organizational audiences with specific electronic push to their addresses.

Discussion of the content of the bulletin (yet to be named, but likely something that puts our name front and center, “International Union of Psychological Science Bulletin”).

Suggestions included:

1. news of the Union activities
2. news of the discipline
3. news analysis
4. news of novel applications of psychological science to important scientific or public issues.
5. news from or about National Member organizations

If we are to have a formal newsletter to project an image, then it must have an editor and be produced on a predictable regular schedule—perhaps 2-4 times per year, 2-4 pages. Length for the Bulletin per se needs to be truncated for on-line reading, but would carry links to elaborations or other relevant information as needed. Style is for educated audience who may not necessarily be psychologists. This may be within the responsibilities of the new Executive Officer of the Union. PsyPress is willing to build it into the portal framework and foster delivery through a list or a listserv.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONGRESS

The proceedings of the Union congress engendered substantial discussion. This in part because the economic value of the proceedings are limited, the scientific value to the discipline are not known (but likely limited given the modest circulation), yet are “mandated” by the Union statutes, and a burden to authors and editors. PsyPress pointed out that, in general, most commercial publishers avoid congress proceedings as non-economic, unwieldy, uneven in quality, and usually late. They can only be sustained if prepublication order/sales at a discount are maintained into the future.

The Union currently publishes its Congress Proceeding as a set of two volumes. Sales of the sets pre/post congress have across years been declining and in 2008 were about 350 presold, and expect about 100 post congress sales. Economically, this is barely a break-even proposition and demand substantial efforts from authors, editors, and production staff. We are committed to continuing with the publication of the Congress Proceedings, by contract both between the Union and the Capetown 2012 organizers and between the Union and PsyPress.

PsyPress encouraged the Union to consider carefully, and by 2010, what will be the plan going forward to 2016.

The big unanswered questions were what would participants want to have from the Congress, what would the pay for, and what would libraries and other pay for (as that reflects true value) ?

Closing comment from recorder:

We did not all agree on all things. There were points of divergence and places where consensus was neither achieved nor sought; some materials herein reflect points of our brainstorming for possible approaches. These all nonetheless inform the Committee on Publications and Communications and the Union Executive as a whole.

Respectfully submitted

Bruce Overmier

Chair, Standing Committee on Publications and Communications

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