



KOK Edit NEWS

The Value of Copyeditors

Sometimes authors who are new to publishing and are working with a copyeditor for the first time question the cost of editing services. Shouldn't it be a lot less expensive?

One author of a medical journal article asked me exactly that. This was my reply:

I understand your concerns about cost, but working on articles such as yours involves not only standard copyediting but also "translation" of nonstandard medical English to standard medical English, which is a highly specialized skill. It might help to think of it this way: I am a specialist among editors. If I were a physician, I would be a specialist (e.g., an orthopedic surgeon) rather than a general practitioner. If, after I edit your article, it is accepted and then published because of both its solid research and its good writing, you will have made an investment in your career.

A copyeditor is the author's advocate, helping the author say what he or she really meant to say, catching unintended puns and unclear or potentially offensive language, suggesting transitions between topics so that the text flows smoothly, cutting repetitious material, and pointing out when vital information is missing. A good copyeditor gets into the author's head, understanding how he or she thinks. Sometimes a copyeditor is even a cheerleader, praising truly wonderful text passages. In the published work, a good copyeditor is invisible, having polished the text until it shines but not having tampered with the author's voice.

If an author has something to say that's important enough to be published, then it's worthwhile paying for a good copyeditor.

Katharine O'Moore-Klopf
KOK Edit



This List's for You

Some of the more enjoyable projects
KOK Edit handled
for you in 2005:

- ✦ **747: *Creating the World's First Jumbo Jet and Other Adventures from a Life in Aviation*** (trade: memoir; Collins/Smithsonian Books)
- ✦ ***Essential Manners for Couples: From Snoring and Sex to Finances and Fighting Fair—What Works, What Doesn't, and Why*** (trade: nonfiction; HarperCollins)
- ✦ ***Every Mother Is a Daughter: The Never-Ending Quest for Success, Inner Peace, and a Really Clean Kitchen*** (trade: memoir; Ballantine)
- ✦ ***Finding Meaning with Charles: Caregiving with Love Throughout a Degenerative Disease*** (trade: memoir; author Janet Edmunson)
- ✦ ***The Healing Power of the Aura: How to Reclaim Your Spiritual Heritage and Enjoy Your Best Health Now*** (trade: spirituality; Spiritual Arts Institute)—in progress
- ✦ ***My Battle of Algiers*** (trade: memoir; HarperCollins)
- ✦ ***Skate*** (young adult fiction; Alfred A. Knopf)
- ✦ ***Study Guide for Use with Life-Span Development, 10th edition*** (supplement for college textbook; McGraw-Hill Higher Education)
- ✦ ***Study Guide for Use with Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behavior, 3rd edition*** (supplement for college textbook; McGraw-Hill Higher Education)
- ✦ Article for Professor Frank Reiser
- ✦ Articles for U.S. medical journals, for authors Jun-Dong Chang, MD; Weon-Yoo Kim, MD; Young-Hoo Kim, MD; Mario Marinelli, MD; Byung-Woo Min, MD; Akira Nagumo, MD; Toshihiro Ohdera, MD; Youn-Soo Park, MD; Shu Saito, MD; Mohammed Shafi, MD; Tak-Chuen Wong, MD; and Yixin Zhou, MD

Many thanks for your business.
KOK Edit wouldn't exist without you!

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