

KOK Edit News

What 26 Years in Publishing—15 as a Freelance Copyeditor—Have Taught Me

The publishing industry, which includes both books and peer-reviewed journals, has undergone tremendous changes since I first began working in it in 1984. Back then, manuscripts were all still edited on paper, not on computer screens; authors saw both galley proofs and page proofs of their typeset manuscripts; and the only methods for contacting authors were phone calls, faxes, and letters delivered by postal services or express air couriers. But some things haven't changed over the years:

- If an editor treats authors respectfully, authors will return the favor.
- Authors accept edits more willingly from an editor who explains the reasoning behind changes than from one who doesn't.
- Clients and authors always appreciate clear, straightforward, timely communication with an editor.
- Misunderstandings can occur when there are language barriers, so both author and editor must assume good intentions on the part of the other as they work at communicating.
- It's important to respect boundaries. Authors are the subject-matter experts; the editor is the expert on grammar, syntax, overall flow, and the need for additional details.
- No matter how experienced, an editor can always learn new things. I learn something new from each manuscript I edit and each client and author I work with.

Books and journals may eventually stop appearing in paper form and be available only onscreen, but success in publishing will always require attention to the human beings involved.

Katharine O'Moore-Klopf, ELS ([board-certified editor in the life sciences](#))

KOK Edit

Many thanks for your trust in my editing.
KOK Edit wouldn't exist without you!



This List Is for You

Some of the many projects KOK Edit handled for you in 2009:

- **Adult Multiprofessional Critical Care Review, 2009 ed.** (professional; [Society of Critical Care Medicine](#))
- **Electromechanical Principles of Wind Energy** (professional; [TSTC Publishing](#))
- **Money 911: Your Most Pressing Money Questions Answered, Your Money Emergencies Solved** (trade: nonfiction; [HarperBusiness](#))
- **Journey of a Konkani Family** (trade: nonfiction—in progress; for author Mulki Bhat)
- Article for [American Sociological Review](#)
- Articles for [The Permanente Journal](#)
- Catalogues for the [French Publishers' Agency](#)
- Articles submitted to U.S. medical journals, for [authors](#) Ki-Cheor Bae, MD; Eren Cansü, MD; Jun-Dong Chang, MD, PhD; Heng-Chia "Hubert" Chiu, PhD; Chul-Hyun Cho, MD; Pengfei Han, MS; Suk-Ku Han, MD, PhD; Ji Hyo Hwang, MD; Imran Ilyas, MCh (Orth), FRCS; Pengde Kang, MD, PhD; Jin Hyoung Kim, PhD; Yong Cheol Lee, MD; Kuo Hung "Bernard" Lin, MBBS, MRCS, MMed (Ortho); Xiaomei Ma, MD; Rajesh N. Maniar, MS, MCh; Fu-Xing Pei, MD, PhD; Somesh Singh, MS (Ortho); Kwang Soon Song, MD; Mengning Yan, MD, PhD; Bizeng Zhao, MD; and Yixin Zhou, MD, PhD

