

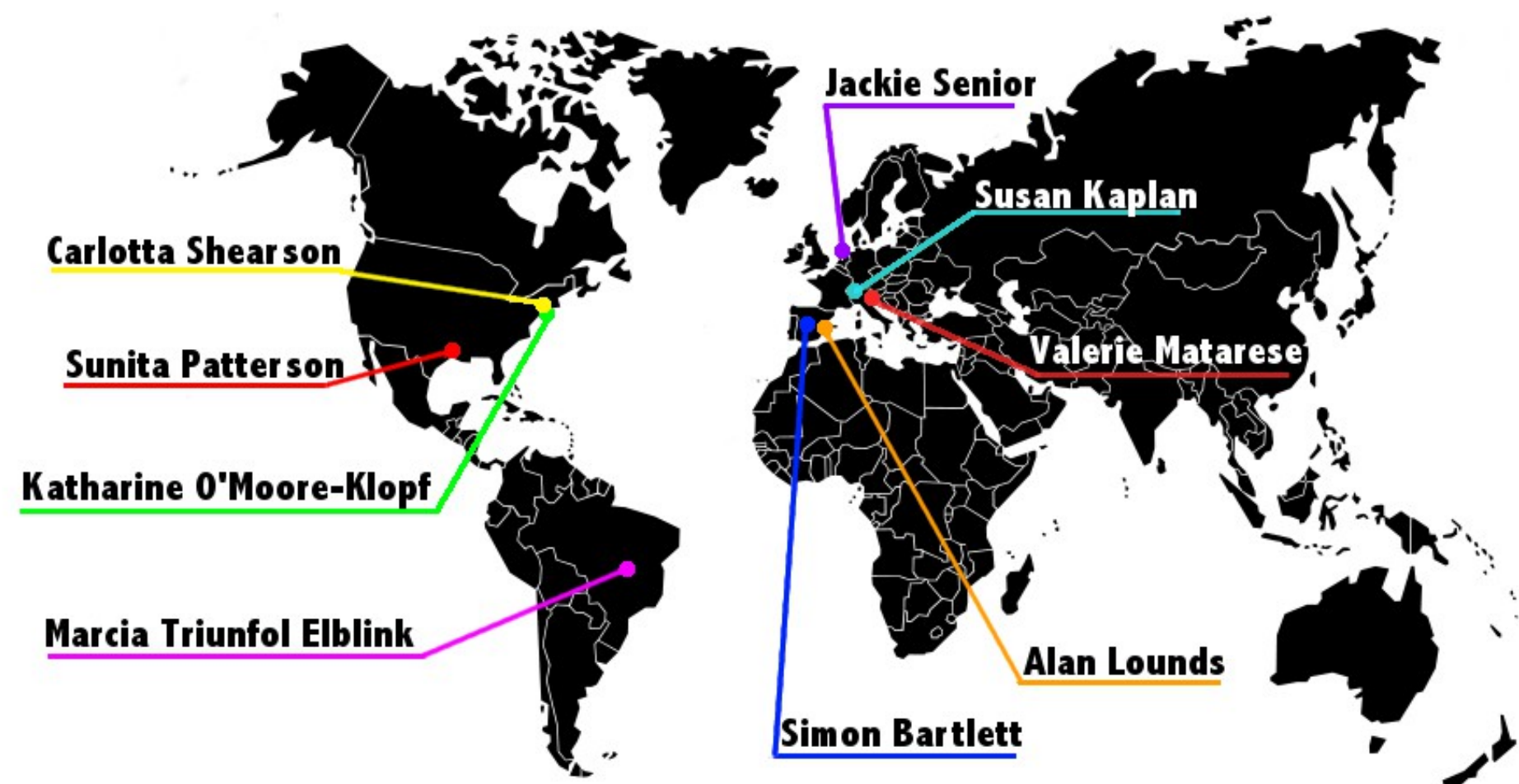
Authors' Editors

Partners in communication at the service of researchers and readers

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A little background

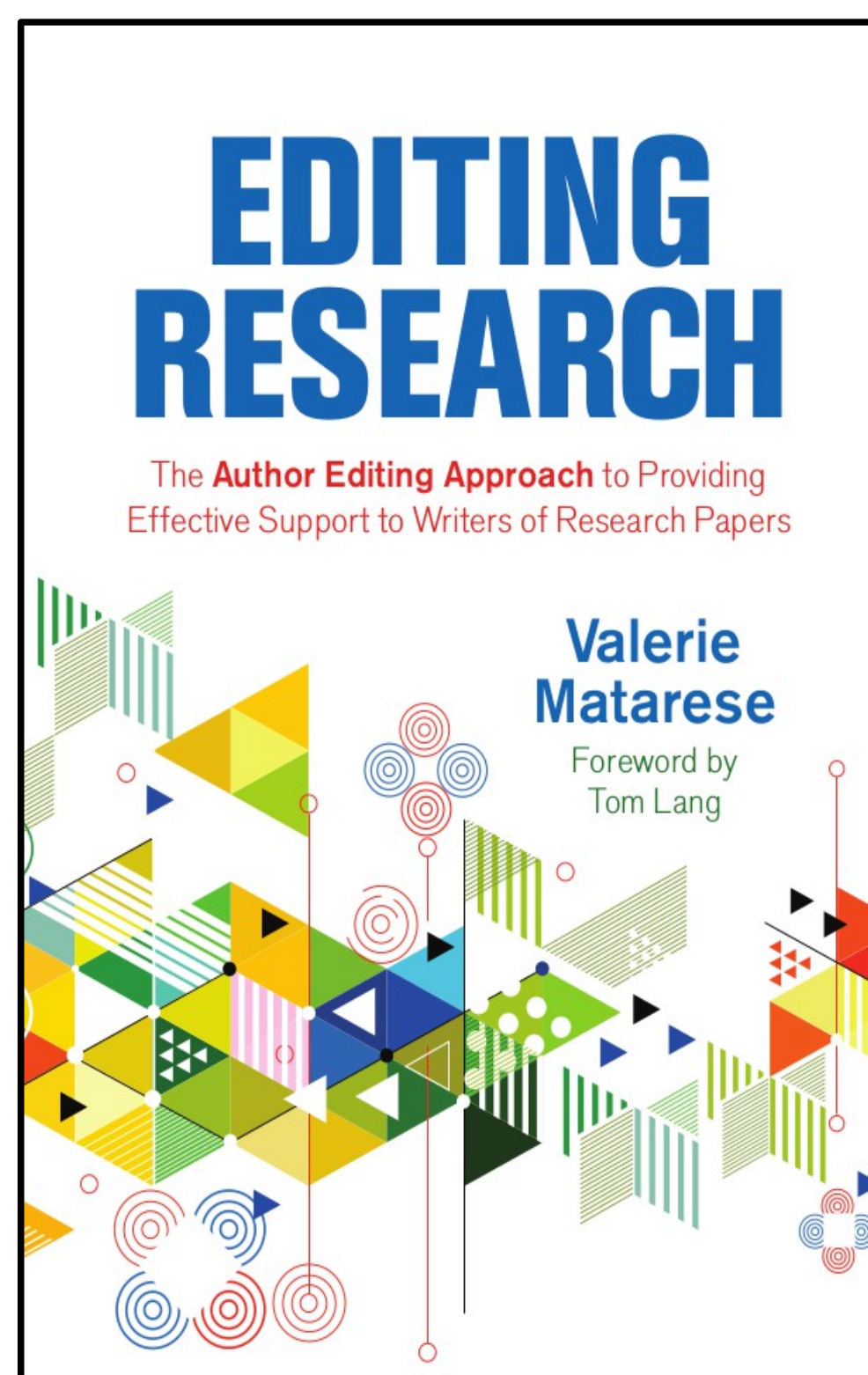
- **Authors' editors** work for, and with, authors to help make draft manuscripts fit for purpose.
- **Author editing** has roots in US medical research; first published definition 1968.
- Authors' editors have low visibility and their work is often underappreciated and misunderstood.



Project design

- **Qualitative research** Interviews with exemplary authors' editors (purposive sample – *not representative*)
- **Bibliographic research** Document the history and development of author editing to present day
- **Realist review** Synthesize new knowledge from the research findings:
 - ▶ Explain how author editing works in particular contexts and settings
 - ▶ Guide decisions about engaging authors' editors in research communication.

Book themes



Authors' editors:

- Have important role in research communication
- Help produce better research articles, reduce research waste
- Contribute to researcher training

Research highlights

What do authors' editors do (and not do) when editing a research article?

Copy editing Sometimes done, in limited amounts, not a priority. Examples: Standardize spelling to American or British; format according to journal's I2A

Language editing Always done. A fundamental activity. Examples:

- Fix grammar, remove tautology
- Adjust formality, reduce verbosity
- For EAL^s authors, correct:
 - ▶ Intralanguage errors (language learner's errors), e.g. over-generalization of grammar rules
 - ▶ Interlanguage errors: negative transfer from L1 (**Table**)

Incorrect L2 term	L1 term (language)	Intended term
False friends		
Sanitary surveillance	<i>Veille sanitaire</i> (French)	Disease surveillance
Pathology	Παθολογία (Greek)	Internal medicine
Process	<i>Proces</i> (Polish)	Trial
Hesitate*	<i>Esitare</i> (Italian)	To result in
Coinage (unintentional)		
Casistics	<i>Casistica</i> (Italian)	Case series
Morbidity	<i>Morbilità</i> (Italian)	Morbidity
Nocive	<i>Nocivo</i> (Spanish, Italian)	Noxious
Erroneous translation of L1 word with multiple meanings		
Data were aggregated in monthly prefixes	<i>Kengetal</i> (Dutch)	Data were aggregated in monthly indexes
Treatment concept	<i>Behandlungskonzept</i> (German)	Treatment plan
Population development	<i>Populační rozvoj</i> (Czech)	Population growth
Literal translation		
Object glass	<i>Object glas</i> (Dutch)	Microscope slide
Alternating alvus	<i>Alvo alternante</i> (Italian)	Alternating bouts of constipation and diarrhea
Promoter gene	<i>Promotore genico</i> (Italian)	Gene promoter

^s EAL, English as an additional language

* Also false cognate. Compare Latin *exitus* and *haesitare*

Substantive editing The heart of author editing. Activities depend on skills, knowledge, time, budget. Editor identifies areas to improve and decides whether to correct, *with author query*, or prompt author to change. Examples:

- Check genre adherence (e.g. length of sections; division of content among sections; level of detail): work with authors to improve
- Shorten, meet word limits
- Detect errors, discrepancies, and ambiguities
- Identify text that needs glossing (explanation of technical or unusual term)
- Check substantiation, citation and attribution: improve or prompt authors
- Pre-review: check reporting guideline adherence, anticipate reviewers' criticisms

Added value Activities depend on relationship with author. Examples:

- Plagiarism check: highlight and discuss problem with author
- Didactic editing: annotate changes with explanations, links to resources
 - ▶ *Language*: explain grammar, demonstrate hedging, point out false friends
 - ▶ *Substantive*: explain scientific notation and nomenclature, refer to reporting guidelines, advise on data presentation, educate about ethical reporting
- Assistance after peer review
 - ▶ Help interpret editorial decision; help contact journal editor with questions
 - ▶ Edit revised manuscript (check for coherence throughout text)
 - ▶ Edit rebuttal for tone, completeness, effectiveness

Ethical limits to author editing Authors' editors DO NOT:

- ❑ Rewrite plagiarized texts
- ❑ Cover up breaches in research ethics
- ❑ Assume authorial duties: calculate statistics, plot data, select references, draw up conclusions

Learn more The book *Editing Research* will be published by Information Today, Inc. (August 2016)