Editorial

The Sins of Omission

Christian Schmidt¹ and Mark A Brown²-⁴*

Abstract

Writing in the field of oncology, be it in clinical and experimental oncology, clearly separating source material from exegesis (in theology) or discussion (in oncology). We wish to, again, reiterate the importance of a verifiable line of evidence (source material) and accompanying discussion throughout the entire life cycle of scholarly record.

Regardless of whether most scholarly papers are written using a technique termed "hedging" [3,4], selective referencing of earlier work is reported to contribute to improper spending of taxpayer's money [5]. Whether this bias in selecting earlier work was the result of "willful neglect" (ref [6] offers a definition of this term) cannot be determined here, and we assume, charitably, that the reported incidences were the result of honest mistakes.

The undeniable fact that there is now a record in the scholarly canon arguing strongly that improper referencing of source material, be it in the form of selective referencing or, by implication, placing trust on scholarly papers that over-extend the significance of primary data presented in the study, let alone the possibility of selective publication of raw material, we use this opportunity for making the case to publish raw data sets (see ref [7] as an example for an existing line of reasoning that shall not be repeated here).

Discussion

Considering the history of writing, one cannot fail to notice text-based religions. By choosing a phrase out of the common text employed by Judaism and Christianity, maintenance of the "textual status quo" to secure the "stability for a religious tradition" in Deuteronomy Chapter 4, Verse 2 (abbreviated as Deut. 4:2) can be likened as a good example for a well-defined point of reference (see [1] and references therein as a guide to further sources). If one is permitted to extend the above-introduced term "stability" to the concept of scholarly rigor, the old and venerable tradition of transmitting texts in religions may illustrate the significance of maintaining the integrity of information over a considerable period of time. All this, of course, is true if one is permitted to take the above-referenced "textual status quo" (see ref [2] as a guide to further reading on the textual transmission). We shall, however, not engage in this debate and use the command of Deut 4:2 as an example of maintained "textual status quo" over a reasonably long period of time. Using this convenient example of a well preserved point of reference, one is encouraged to maintain the point(s) of reference(s), be it the religious text in religions or primary data in clinical and experimental oncology.

References

5. Sawin VI, Robinson KA (2015) Biased and inadequate citation of prior research in reports of cardiovascular trials is a continuing source of waste in research. J Clin Epidemiol 15

Author Affiliation

*Corresponding author: Mark A Brown, Department of Clinical Sciences, Colorado State University, 801 Oval Drive, Campus Code 1052, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1052, USA, Tel : (970) 491-5782; E-mail: m.brown@colostate.edu

Received: June 22, 2015 Accepted: June 24, 2015 Published: June 27, 2015

Top