astroEDU: Peer Review for International Astronomy Education Activities

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Developing and finding astronomy education resources with high-quality is a challenge to astronomy communicators and educators around the world. Even though hundred, thousands of resources exist, as well as many resource repositories to find them, the quality of resources is highly variable as they are not updated regularly or only have limited content review. astroEDU, since 2013 has been addressing these issues and more by following a peer-review process.

Each activity submitted is reviewed by an educator and a professional astronomer, balancing both the scientific and educational value of the content. Following a peer-review process used in scholarly journals, each activity submitted is reviewed by an educator and a professional astronomer, balancing both the scientific and educational value of the content (Russo, Gomez, et al. 2014). This talk will discuss why quality matters, challenges in peer-review, how to create and adopt good resources, and more.

astroEDU has largely, until this point, published articles largely in English with most activity authors based in the United States, United Kingdom and Continental Europe. This has been during the pilot stages of the project. We are now looking to spread the peer reviewed education model beyond the boundaries of the largely English speaking world and provide activities in other languages. While, like most journals, we still only accept submissions in English, we would like to translate some of our activities for use in the countries throughout the Asia-Pacific Region.

This language integration will be facilitated by the on-going developments within the astroEDU team to upgrade and open up social interactivity throughout the platform as well as facilitating high quality peer review. The new developments within the astroEDU platform, the recent activity and submissions, our plans for involving multiple language groups and our future directions will all be outlined within our presentation.