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The Editor's Guide for Getting Published !!

Ismail Khalil
Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

Cadi Ayyad University

Workshop at Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech, Morocco, 2 April 2012

Ismail Khalil

Cadi Ayyad University

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Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria
2002 - now

Utrecht University

Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands
2001 - 2002

scch software competence center hagenberg

Software Competence Center Hagenberg, Linz, Austria
2000 - 2001

Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
1996-2000

University of Technology, Baghdad, Iraq
1980-1984

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Living the Web age

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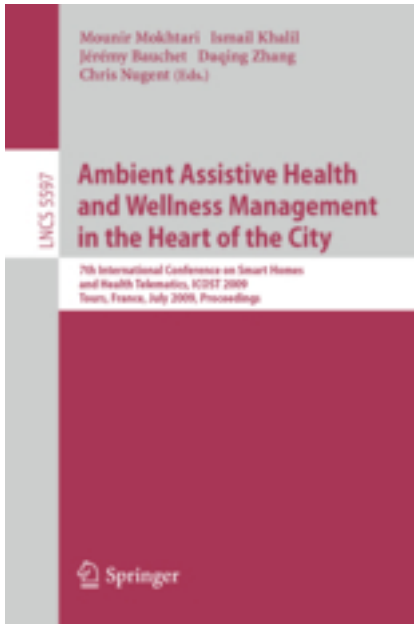
www.iiwas.org



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Living the mobile age

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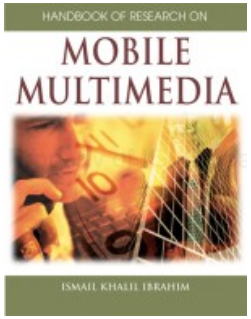

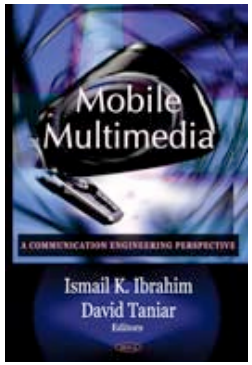

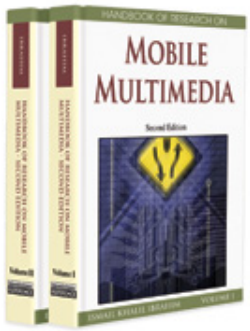

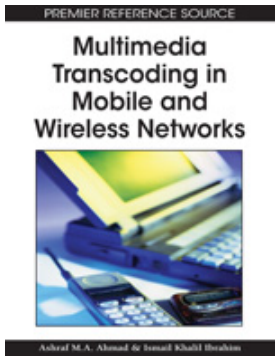

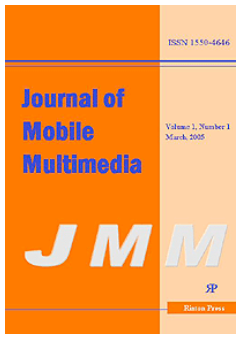

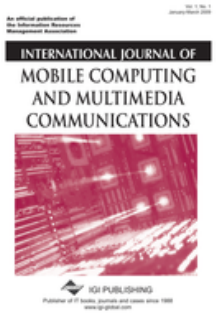

ANGMM

ATLANTIS PRESS

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Aims of the workshop

- To demystify the publishing process
  - What is the best route to getting published?
  - How to do it in the least amount of time with the most chance of success?
- To explain what happens “behind the scenes”
- To provide tips, insider knowledge and key questions to maximize your chances of getting published
- To help you avoid desk rejects
- To discuss publication quality indicators

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Why this workshop is important?

- Publishing may seem like a difficult and mysterious business, but it's not.
- Once you understand how to go about it, and what will determine your success, it becomes a deeply satisfying experience for the author and ultimately for the reader.

Outcomes

- After the workshop, you will be able to:
  - define your objectives, allowing you to focus on the task ahead with clarity and economy.
  - understand more deeply the needs of editors, reviewers and readers so that you can align your objectives with theirs.
  - put together all you have learned into a publishable paper, looking at the detail of getting the paper right, and managing the publishing process from your paper to, eventually, your relationship with the larger publishing community

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Questions?

- How can you get your paper published in a quality journal?
- What is the difference among journal papers, conference papers, book chapters, etc., and which one counts better?
- What should you do when your paper is rejected?
- What should you do when you are asked to revise and resubmit your paper?
- What do you do if you are asked to review a paper?
- How do you know that a paper of 2007 was further pursued?
- What counts better; five articles in ‘low ranked’ journals vs one in ‘top ranked’ journal?

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Getting Published !!

- Since the release of the first scientific journal in the English speaking world, *The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* in 1665, getting published is probably the ultimate goal of doing research
- Research funding has become increasingly tied to published results.
- Publicly and privately funded research comes with conditions
  - conducting the research ethically
  - completing it on time and within budget
  - disseminating the results (multiplier effects)
- University publishing portfolio influences the university share of government funds (and ranking)
  - e.g., in the UK, 25% of government research fund goes to Oxford, Cambridge, University Colleague London, and Imperial college London (out of 300 university)

Discussion

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What are the pains and gains of Getting published?

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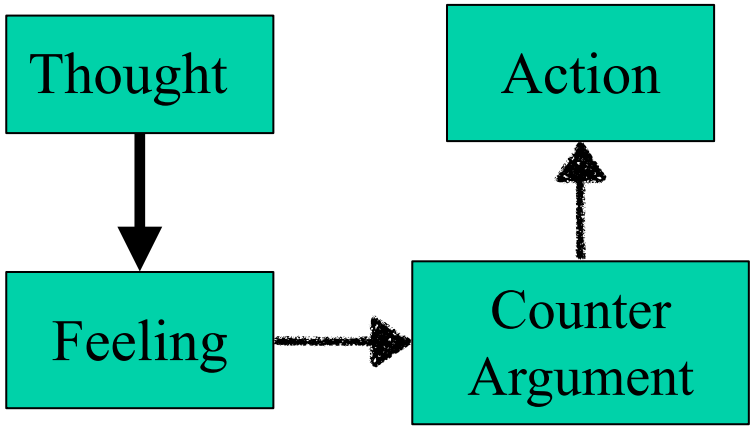
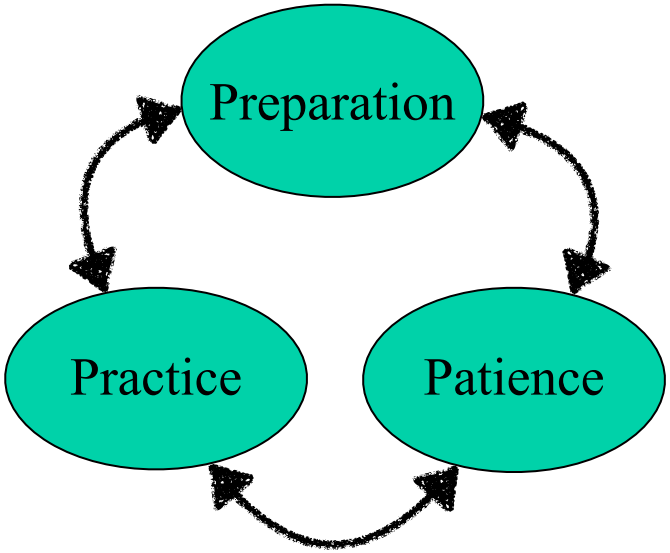
Value of getting published
Why not publish?



- English
- Fear of judgment
- Quest for perfection
- Fear of desk rejection
- Writer's block
- Ideas' theft
- .....



Value of getting published
Why publish?

- Publication as obligation
  - Promotion
  - Institutional
  - Funding
- Learning
  - Feedback
  - Clarity
  - Revisiting
  - Body of knowledge
- Motivational
  - Self-worth
  - Net-worth

Value of getting published
Why publish?

- Promotion
  - publications list is usually used as a guide to promotion
    - how to write good papers
    - how to target the right journals.
    - how to prioritize.
    - how to transfer ideas from head to paper
- Institutional
  - institutions are being held accountable for the number of papers published in quality journals
- Feedback
  - Referees are anonymous authorities, who will recommend the paper to be accepted as is, rejected or revised and resubmitted.
  - the referee is a respected researcher in the field, who is freely giving an opinion on how to improve the work.

Value of getting published
Why publish?

- Clarity
  - We usually tend to think through our ideas more carefully and structure them more logically as we write.
- Revisiting
  - Writing helps us revisit our ideas and theories and look at them again in a fresh, more impartial way
  - Usually, to get it right, you have to get it wrong first. To achieve a finished draft, you have to go through a first and second draft.
  - concurrent engineering; working it out as you go, restructuring, revising, adding, subtracting – in other words, learning.
  - During the process of writing a paper, whether empirically based or conceptual, you will have the opportunity to re-examine your method, implications, discussion, findings and all the other components of an academic paper.

Value of getting published
Why publish?

- Body of Knowledge
  - We belong to a body of knowledge.
  - The field only grows because people add to it
  - Perhaps your contribution is to revisit the body of knowledge with a new perspective or perhaps it's only to synthesize what has remained unsynthesized. At the very least, perhaps all you will do is clarify the current position, or cause a minor stir that can provoke debate.
  - You are paid to teach in that body of knowledge, paid to research about it and paid to contribute to it.
    - Writing up your findings or articulating your concepts is an obligation.

Why publish from an Islamic Perspective?

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إذا مات ابن آدم انقطع عمله إلا من ثلاث :صدقة جارية، أو علم ينتفع به أو ولد صالح يدعو له.

حديث شريف

When a man is dead, his actions are brought to an end except in three cases: a permanent charity, beneficial knowledge or a good son that prays for him.

The Prophet

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The bottom line ...

- Your paper is permanent
  - published material enters a permanent and accessible knowledge archive – the 'body of knowledge'
- Your paper is improved
  - through the interventions of editors, reviewers, sub-editors and proof-readers
- Your paper is actively promoted
  - it becomes available to a far greater audience
- Your writing is trustworthy
  - material which has been published carries a QA stamp
  - Someone apart from you thinks it's good!

Source
Emerald Group Publishing
www.emeraldinsight.com

Publishing as an obligation ...

- You have to publish if:
  - you are working on a Doctoral or Master's thesis?
  - you have completed a project which concluded successfully?
  - you are wrestling with a problem with no clear solution?
  - you have an opinion or observation about business/ technical practice?
  - you have given a presentation or conference paper?

Source
Emerald Group Publishing
www.emeraldinsight.com

Emerald
Research you can use at

and ....

"Submitting an article to a refereed journal is a wonderful way of getting several distinguished scholars to engage with your work and give you detailed feedback – all for free! Often you will be asked to resubmit with revisions, and though it may be a painful process, the end result is often a better paper"

Professor Linda Woodhead, Lancaster University, UK

Categories of publications?

- Books
- Journal Articles
- Conference Papers
- Book chapters
- Technical reports
- Program documentations
- User manuel
- Patent description
- ……..

Other notions

- Manuscript
- papers
- articles
- publications
- refereed publications

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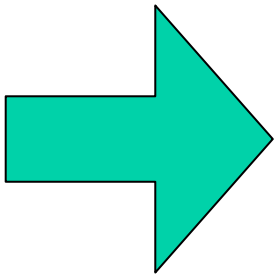
Comparison

- Books
- Journal Articles
- Conference Papers
- Book chapters
- Technical reports
- Program documentations
- User manuel
- Patent description
- ……..



- authorship
- content
- originality
- audience
- quality control
- organization and production
- access
- reputation

Journal articles

- Authorship
  - written by one or several authors
  - every scientist should strive for publishing research results in journals
  - Acceptance is guaranteed if the paper is in the scope of the journal and meets scientific quality standards
- content
  - Research paper
  - Technical paper
  - Conceptual paper
  - Literature review/General review/Survey
  - Case study
  - Viewpoint

Originality and audience

- Originality
  - Journal papers contain new results
    - new theorem, new algorithm, new application, new proof, new language, new hardware design, etc.,
  - Survey papers on emerging and topical fields
  - Refereed journals vs. non-refereed journals (e.g., computer magazines, computer companies information bulletins, bulletins of scientific societies, etc.,)
- Audience
  - small group of researchers and expert readers working in the field covered by the journal
  - Specialization is so strong and growth of new results is so enormous that there exist ≈ 600 refereed journals in CS

Editorial supply chain and journal management

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Author	Editor	Publisher/ Managing Editor	Production	Users
Quality research papers	EAB and reviewers Solicits new papers Handles review process Promotes journal to peers Attends conferences Develops new areas of coverage	The link between the publishing company and editor Helps editors succeed in their role and build a first class journal Overall responsibility for journal Promotion and marketing Attends conferences Handles production issues	QA - sub-editing and proof reading Convert to SGML for online databases Print production Despatch Added value from publisher	Access via library Hard copy Database Third party

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Publication life cycle

- An author usually submits a paper to a journal via an electronic platform, such as Manuscript Central.
  - They enter their personal information, submit an abstract, provide a title and keywords and attach their paper.
- The editor (or assistant) is notified by email that a paper has been submitted and the author receives an automatic email acknowledgement.
  - The editor does an initial read to determine if the subject matter and research approach is appropriate for the journal (approx. 1 week)
  - If the editor concludes that the paper meets the editorial objectives of the journal, then the editor, often with an assistant, identify and contact 2/3 referees and sends the paper for review. (approx. 1 week)
- Referees receive an email notifying them a paper is available for review.

Publication life cycle

- Reviewers usually have 6-8 weeks to download the paper, review it and send their comments through the system to the editor.
- The editor assess the reviewers' comments and recommendations (approx. 2 weeks) and make one of only three possible decisions:
  - accept
  - revise
  - reject.
- The editor notifies the author.

Publication life cycle

- If the paper is accepted outright
  - authors sign forms regarding copyright and warranties, and await publication in several months time.
- In the case of 'revise'
  - authors revise, resubmit the paper and sometimes revise again depending on the editor's decision.
- The journal is then assembled according to its pagination budget and mix of papers, book reviews, research notes and so on, and signed off by the editor.
- Most publishers then send their journals to a printer who produces a paper-based version and mails the final copies to subscribers.

Who has the right to control journal content?

- Free access
  - research has already been paid for by the research funder or university (and ultimately the tax payer) and therefore should be freely available to all.
- Restricted access
  - publishers claim that they manage the peer review process, invest in sales and marketing and take financial risks with new journals and therefore should protect their 'investment'.
- Embargo model
  - publishers restrict access to subscribers over journal content for a limited time, usually between 6 and 24 months, after which time academics can post their papers on their own websites or deposit them in Institutional Repositories.

Quality Indicators

- Journal articles rank highest in the evaluation of the scientific standing of a scientist
  - main criteria for accessing scientists for promotion to higher positions in academia or other research institutions

- Prestige
  - authors
  - editor
  - editorial advisory board

- Presentation
  - cover design
  - typography and layout
  - ease of reference
  - use of graphics

- content
  - practical applications
  - originality
  - clarity and readability
  - research rigour
  - contribution to the body of knowlege
  - mix of features
  - international perspectives

Journal Quality measures

- Citation Index
- Usage
- Research Impact

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Citation Index

- A citation index is an index of citations between publications, allowing the user to easily establish which later documents cite which earlier documents.

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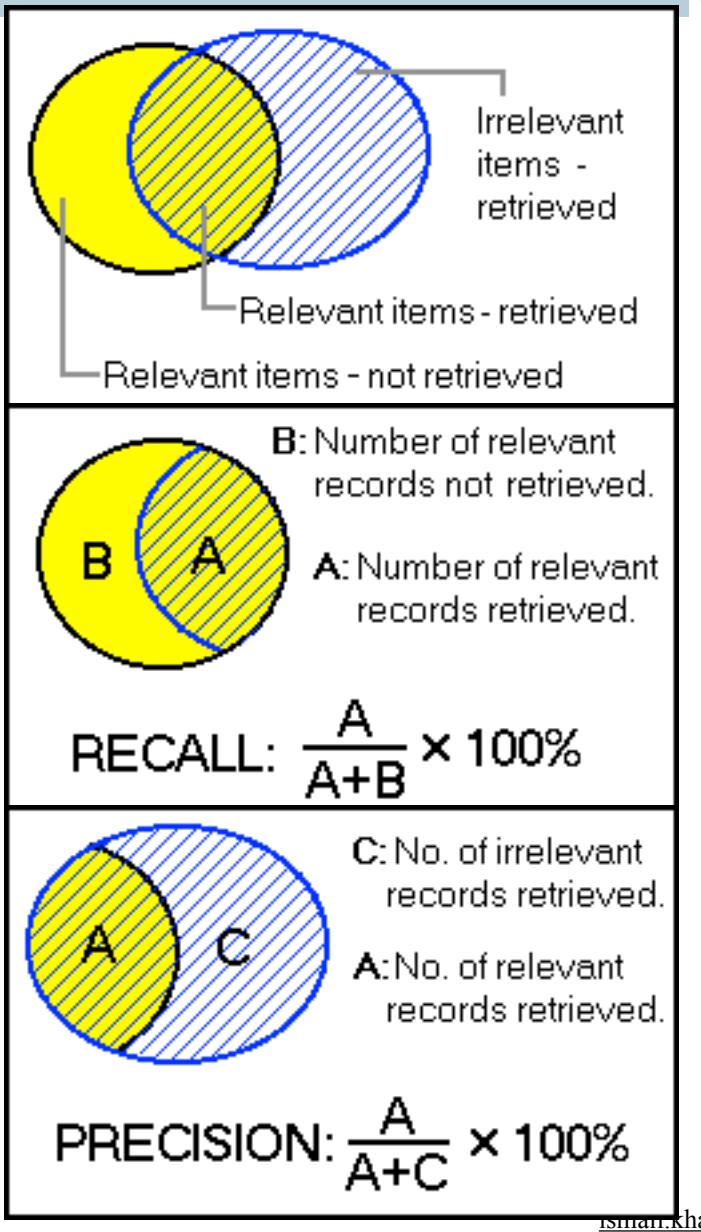
Working with the literature

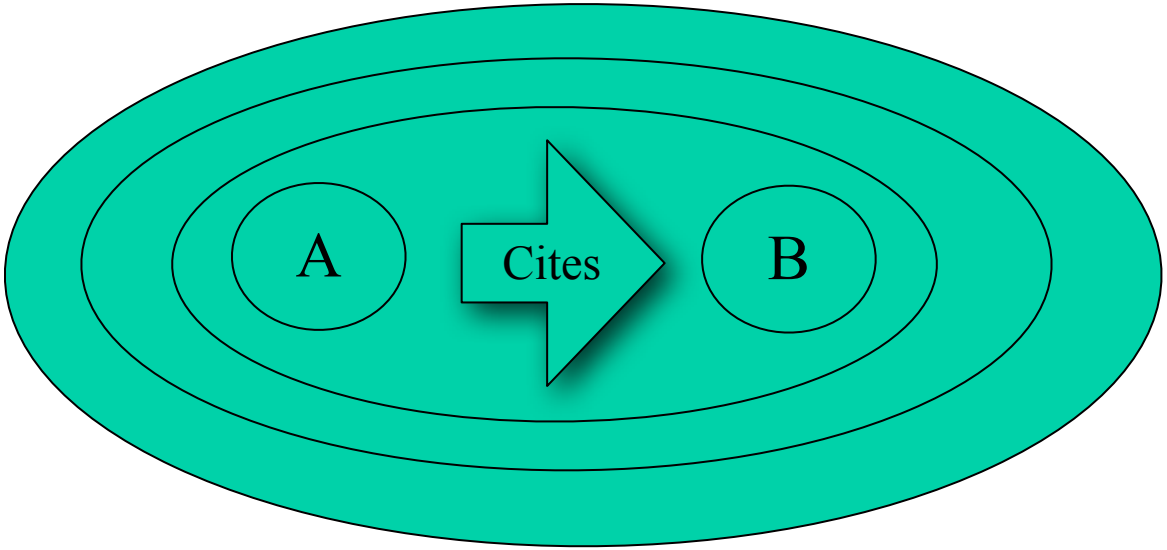
- Given a topic, find the bibliographic data of relevant publications

RECALL is how to find quality information

PRECISION is how to find relevant information



Symmetric, Transitive Closure of "A cites B"



Given A, find all B cited by A (backward search)

Given B, find all A that cite B (Forward search)

Backward and Forward Search

- Backward Search
  - Consult the reference list of relevant books and papers for more publications
- Forward Search
  - starting from a given publication in a given year, one can obtain the more recent publications citing the given publication
  - Forward research gives the most recent information
- As a rule, a systematic search of literature should proceed both forward and backward because earlier literature on a subject, most times, reveals the underlying ideas much better than recent literature and a comprehensive understanding of an area is greatly facilitated by a comprehensive understanding of the history of an area.

Citation Index

- In 1960, Eugene Garfield's Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) introduced the first citation index for papers published in academic journals, starting with the Science Citation Index (SCI), and later expanding to produce the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI).
- The first automated citation indexing was done by CiteSeer in 1997.
- Other sources for such data include Google Scholar.

Research Index (http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/)

- is a public search engine and digital library and repository for scientific and academic papers with a focus on computer and information science
- Document option
  - given the name of the author, find all publications by the author
- Citation Option
  - given a keyword (including author name), find all publications whose bibliographic data, full text, or reference list contains the keyword (or name)

Impact factor & Journal rankings

- Journals are ranked based on how many times the articles included in that journal are cited in other ISI-ranked journals.
- The ranking is published every year, in June.
- ISI uses a calculation of citation data over a three year period to produce an Impact Factor for a given year.
- The impact factor is a measure of the relative size of the citation curve in years 2 and 3.
- It is calculated by dividing the number of current citations a journal receives to articles published in the two previous years by the number of articles published in those same years
  - For example, the Impact Factor for International Marketing Review is 1.164 and relates to 2009, although the figure was released in 2010.

How impact factor is calculated?

- ISI uses the following equation to calculate the impact factor:

  A = 2009 cites to articles published only in 2007-2008 in a given journal

  B = number of articles published in 2007-2008 in a given journal

  A/B = 2009 impact factor

- Example: Journal of Management Genius (Emerald)
  - 20 citations in 2009 in other ISI journals from its 2007-2008 issues = A
  - 60 articles published = B
  - Impact factor for Journal of Management Genius in 2009 is 20/60 =0.333

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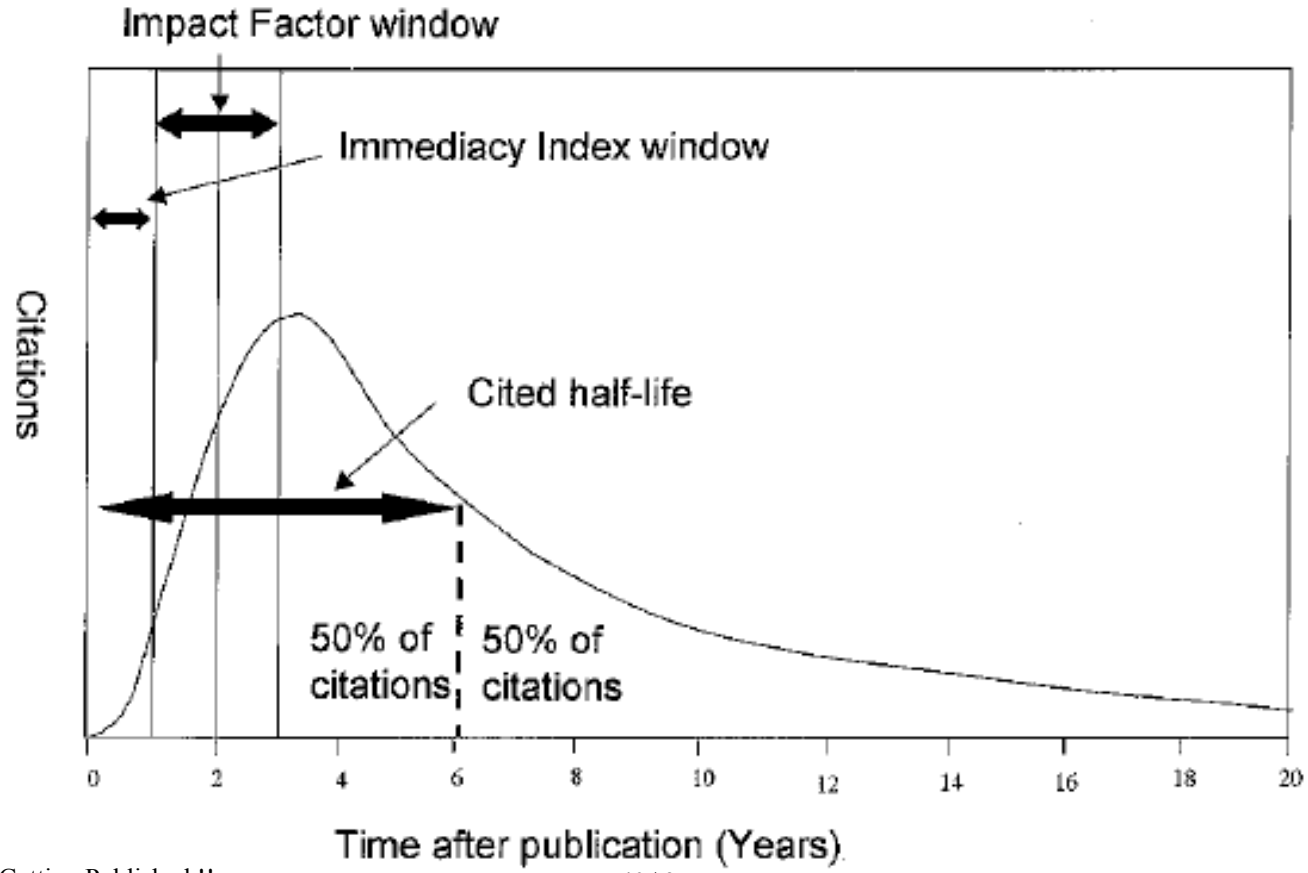
ISI journal metrics

- The impact factor is only one of three standardized measures created by ISI, which can be used to measure the way a journal receives citations to its articles over time.



The immediacy index

- The immediacy index gives a measure of the skewness of the curve, that is, the extent to which the peak of the curve lies near the origin of the graph.
- It is calculated by dividing the citations a journal receives in the current year by the number of articles it publishes in that year
  - i.e., the 1999 immediacy index is the average number of citations in 1999 to articles published in 1999.
- The number that results can be thought of as a measure of how quickly items in that journal get cited upon publication.

The cited half-life

- The cited half-life is a measure of the rate of decline of the citation curve.
- It is the number of years that the number of current citations takes to decline to 50% of its initial value.
- It is a measure of how long articles in a journal continue to be cited after publication.

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Issues

- ISI is the most well known ranking
  - It determines tenure, authorship and funding in many universities worldwide
- BUT
  - subject area dependance
  - review vs. research papers vs. letters
  - denominator dilemma
  - average number of authors per paper
  - size of citation measurement window
  - Thomson Reuters dominance
- .....

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Another but

- BUT…
  - It is heavily weighted towards North America
  - Data gathering has been questioned
  - prone to manipulation

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Contextual Journal metrics

- Journal metrics are central to most performance evaluations, but judging individual researchers based on a metric designed to rank journals can lead to widely recognized distortions.
- Bibliometricians agree that no single metric can effectively capture the entire spectrum of research performance because no single metric can address all key variables.
  - Relative Citation Rates (RCR) / Journal to Field Impact Score (JFIS)
  - The h-index
  - Article Influence (AI)
  - SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)
  - Source-Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)

RCR and SNIP

- Relative Citation Rates (RCR) / Journal to Field Impact Score (JFIS)
  - (RCR) are calculated by dividing a journal's average citations per paper by the world's citation average in that journal's subject field.
- Source-Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)
  - developed by Professor Henk Moed to correct for IF's bias towards fields with rapid and high citation rates.
  - SNIP is the ratio of a source's average citation count per paper and the "citation potential" of its subject field. Citation potential is an estimate of the average number of citations a paper can be expected to receive relative to the average for its subject field.

The h-index

- The h-index
  - A scientist has index h if h of his/her Np papers have at least h citations each, and the other (Np – h) papers have no more than h citations each.

Author 1		Author 2		Author 3	
Citations	Papers	Citations	Papers	Citations	Papers
30	P1	30	P1	300	P1
10	P2	10	P2	100	P2
8	P3	8	P3	8	P3
6	P4	6	P4	6	P4
5	P5	5	P5	5	P5
1	P6	4	P6	1	P6
0	P7	4	P7	0	P7
		4	P8		
		....	....		
		4	P16		
h=5		*h*=5		*h*=5	

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AI

- Article Influence (AI)
  - Article Influence (AI) is a derivative of the Eigenfactor, and is calculated by dividing the journal's Eigenfactor by the number of articles published in it.
  - Eigenfactor uses a "random walk" model and reflects the percentage of time you would spend reading each journal if you followed random citations through a journal citation network.

SJR

- SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)
  - (SJR) is a prestige metric inspired by Google's PageRank™, whereby the subject field, quality and reputation of the journal have a direct effect on the value of its citations.
  - SJR weights citations according to the SJR of the citing journal; a citation from a source with a relatively high SJR is worth more than a citation from a source with a relatively low SJR.

SNIP

- Source-Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)
  - developed by Professor Henk Moed to correct for IF's bias towards fields with rapid and high citation rates.
  - SNIP is the ratio of a source's average citation count per paper and the "citation potential" of its subject field.
  - Citation potential is an estimate of the average number of citations a paper can be expected to receive relative to the average for its subject field.

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Other measures of quality?

- There are other indicators to measure quality such as:
  - number of downloads (utility)
  - dissemination of journal (where it is read)
  - quality of the authors
  - number of editors from top business schools
  - relevance of content and publishing ethos
  - links to societies/associations internationality

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Why are downloads important?

- Complements citation data to provide rounded view of article utility
- Fit with accreditation bodies and funding-related bodies who look for metrics
- Broad view of readership

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Research impact

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Research you can use at

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- Journals:
  - 185+ business and management; 28 library and information science.
  - 16 engineering, mathematical and materials science journals.
  - 41 journals are Thomson Scientific ranked (formerly ISI).
  - Almost all are peer reviewed (normally double blind).
- Electronic databases:
  - Emerald Management Xtra (www.emeraldinsight.com)
  - Emerald Management First (first.emeraldinsight.com)
  - Emerald Management Reviews – e.g. Harvard Business Review, MIS Quarterly (www.emeraldinsight.com/reviews)
  - Emerald Abstracts – e.g. Computer Abstracts International Database (www.emeraldinsight.com/abstracts)
- Coverage:
  - Over 1,800 university libraries worldwide, including 97 of the FT top 100 business schools (2007 figures)
  - Potential readership of 15 million

IJPCC Usage Summary

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International Journal of Pervasive Computing and Communications

Emerald
Research you can use

Homepage: http://www.emeraldinsight.com/ijpcc.htm Content: http://www.emeraldinsight.com/1742-7371.htm

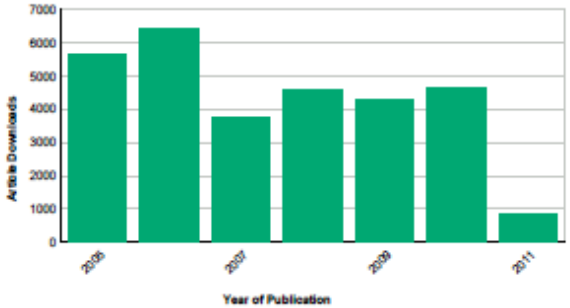
ISSN: 1742-7371 Acronym: IJPCC ID: 361

The following report details the usage of IJPCC between August 2007 and June 2011. The report is limited to usage by customers. It therefore exludes search engine crawler usage, usage by Emerald staff, LOCKSS crawler usage and free usage.

By Year:
The table below shows the number of articles downloaded each year from IJPCC and also the number of customers that have accessed the journal ('Users'):

	Downloads	Users
2007	33	11
2008	758	148
2009	3,190	400
2010	4,446	592
2011	2,669	487

By Volume:
The following chart shows the distribution of usage across IJPCC's volumes during 2011.



Top Countries by Downloads:
The table below shows the top 20 countries by the number of articles downloaded by customers in those countries:

Country	Percentage
Malaysia	26%
People's Republic of China	12%
USA	9%
India	4%
Austria	4%
Iran	4%
Australia	4%
UK	4%
Germany	3%
Finland	3%
Brazil	2%
Taiwan (Republic of China)	2%
Thailand	2%
Greece	2%
Canada	1%
South Africa	1%
Ireland	1%
Sweden	1%
Turkey	1%
New Zealand	1%

Top Countries by Customer Accessing:
The table below shows the top 20 countries by the number customers using the journal within those countries:

Country	Percentage
People's Republic of China	12%
USA	9%
UK	7%
Brazil	6%
India	6%
Germany	5%
Greece	3%
Malaysia	3%
Australia	3%
Finland	3%
Sweden	3%
Thailand	3%
Turkey	2%
Iran	2%
Taiwan (Republic of China)	2%
Canada	2%
Korea	2%
South Africa	2%
Italy	1%
Ireland	1%

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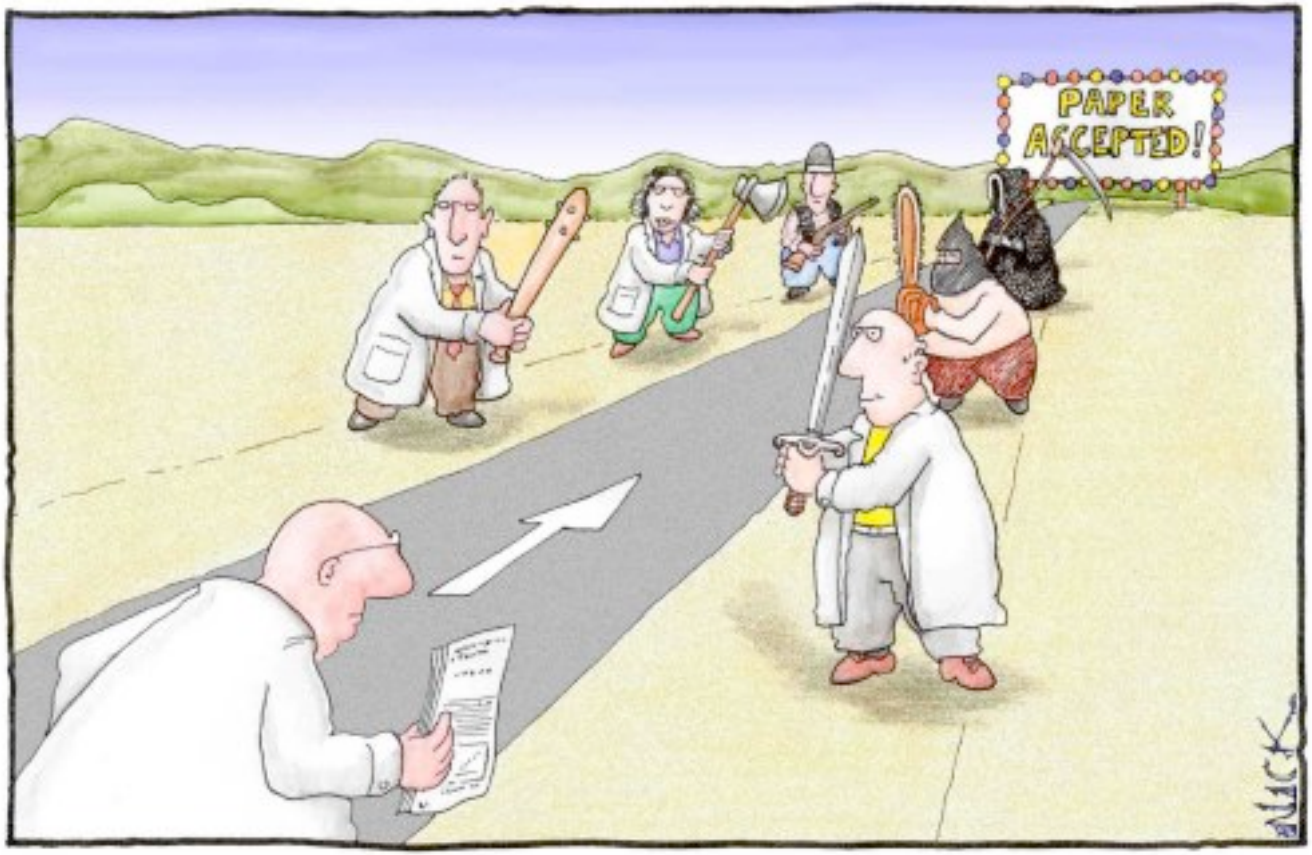
Research is all about peer review !!

Cadi Ayyad University

A corner stone of modern science



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

Source
Emerald Group Publishing
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Emerald
Research you can use at

Editor's Guide

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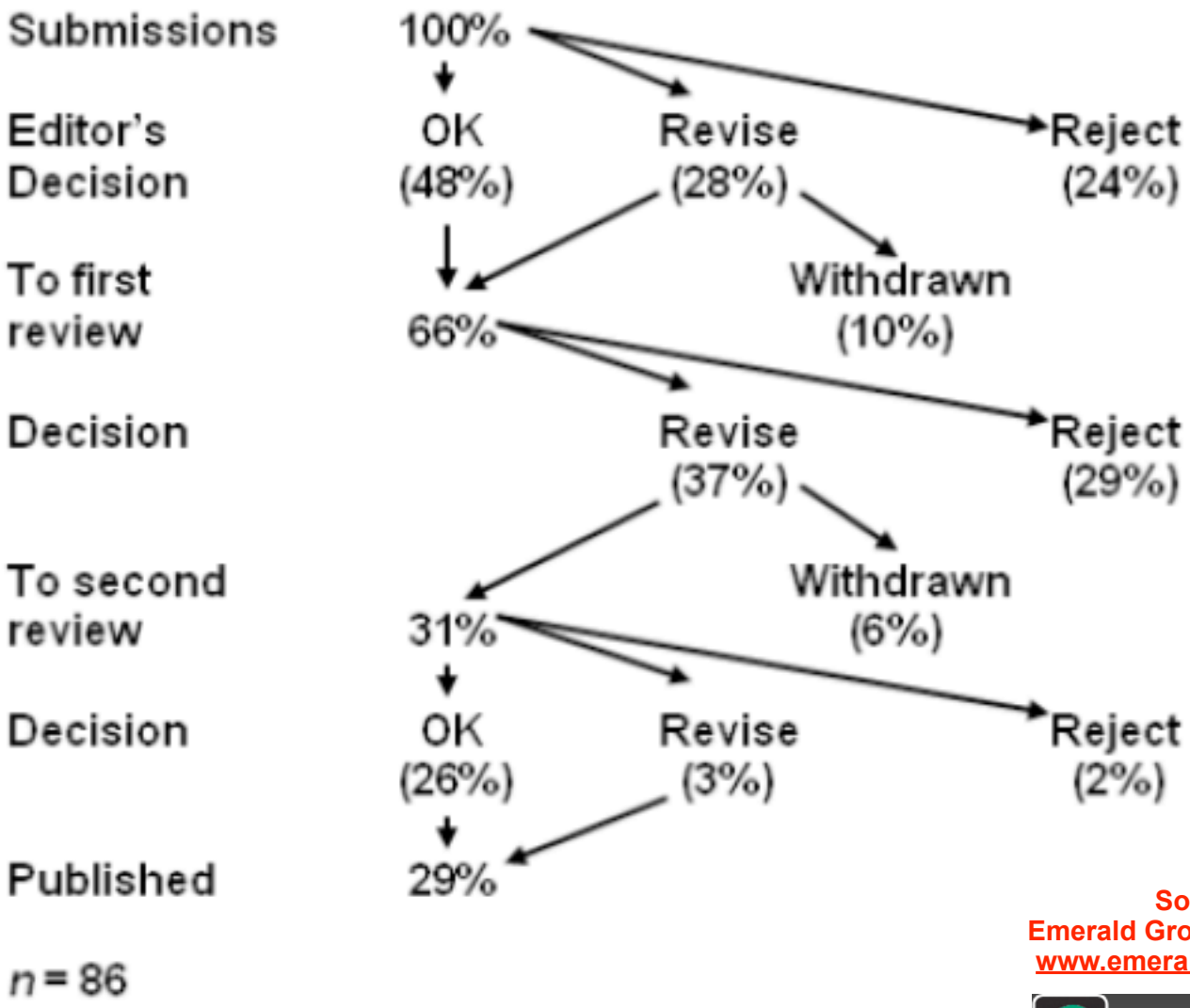
Blind peer review

- In academia, we have single or double blind review.

- Single Blind Review
  - editors and referees know the identity of the authors, but authors don't know the referees.
  - This is common in grant proposals, book evaluation and in some sciences.

- Double Blind Review
  - authors and referees don't know each other's identities.
  - This is supposed to reduce bias.
  - But the editor could still be biased because of the author's status.

Process of acceptance for a journal



Source
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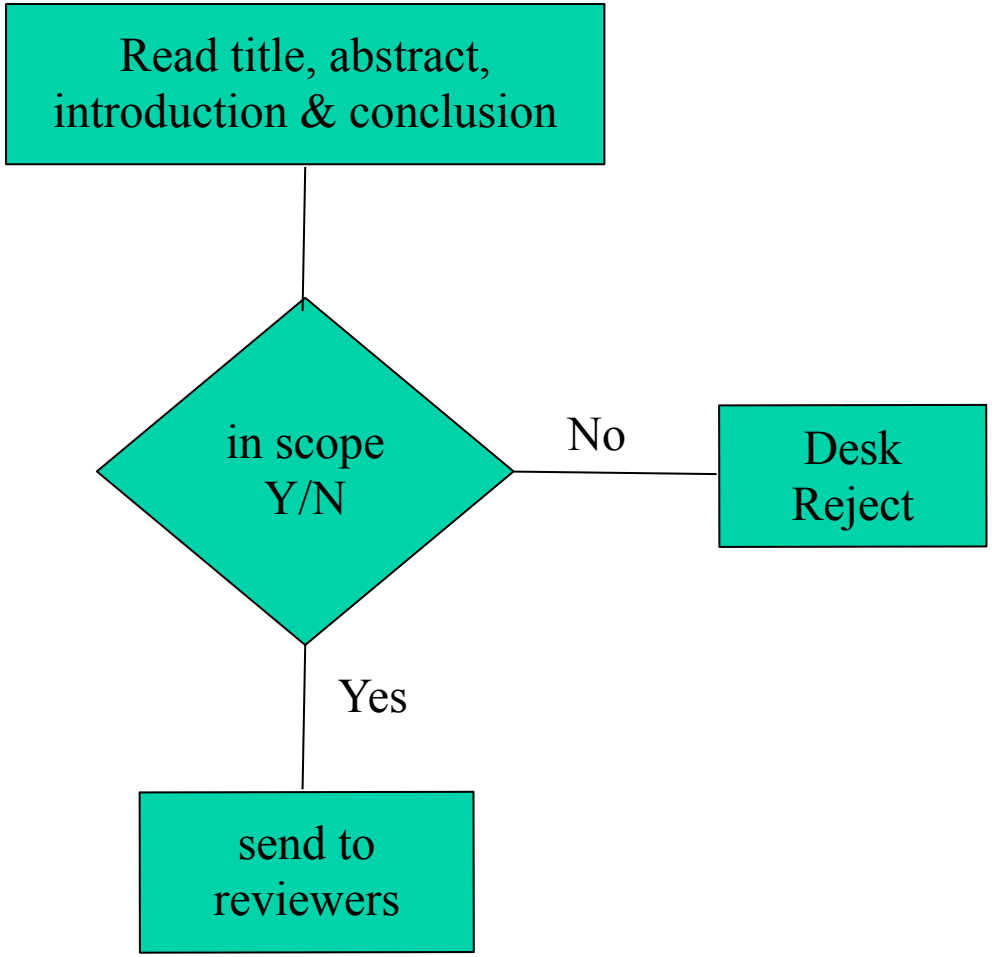
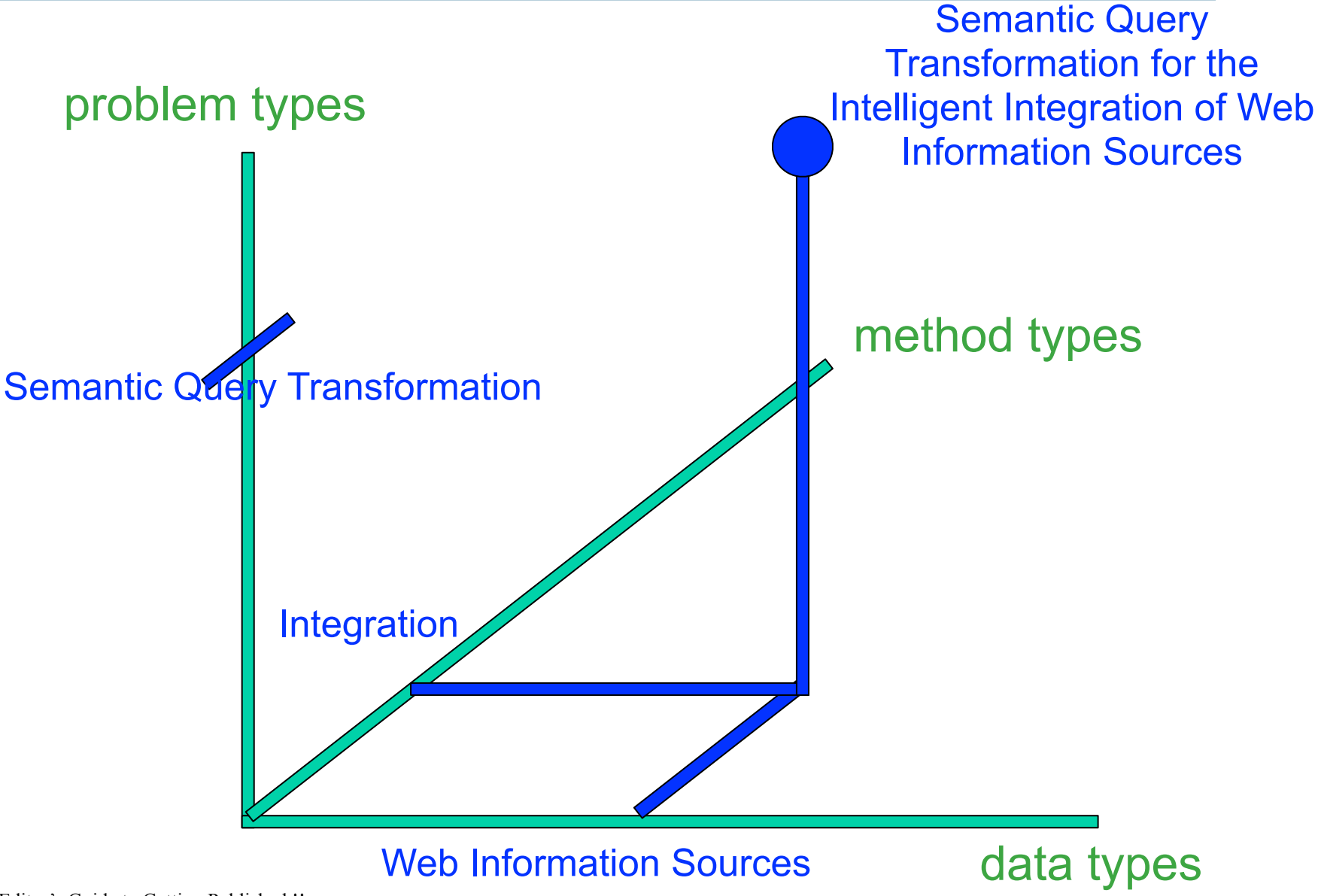
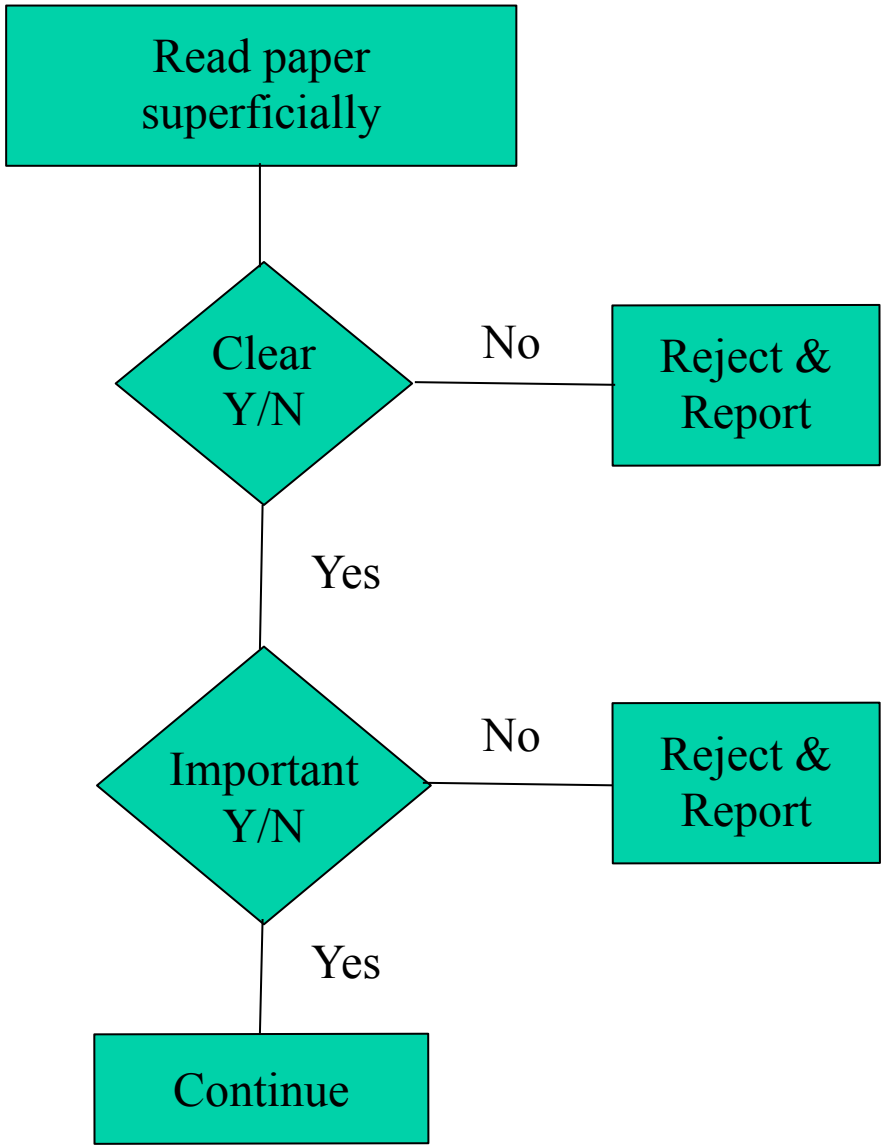
Editor-in-Chief



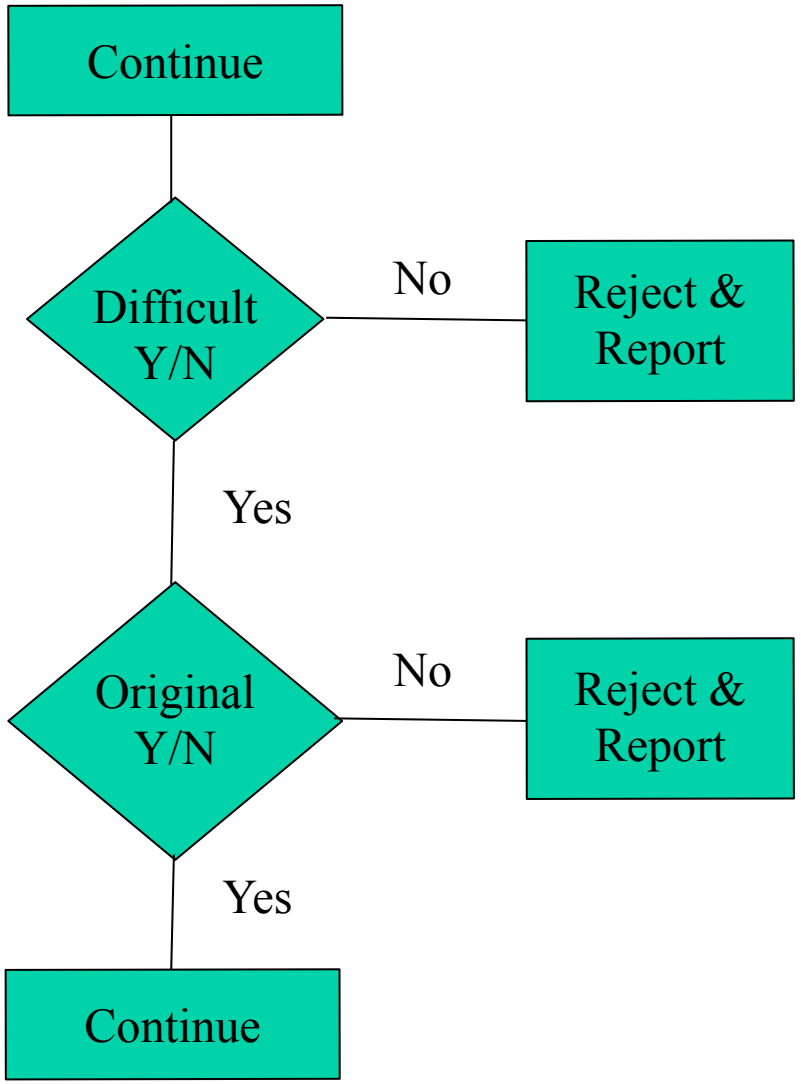
3-D space for CS research areas



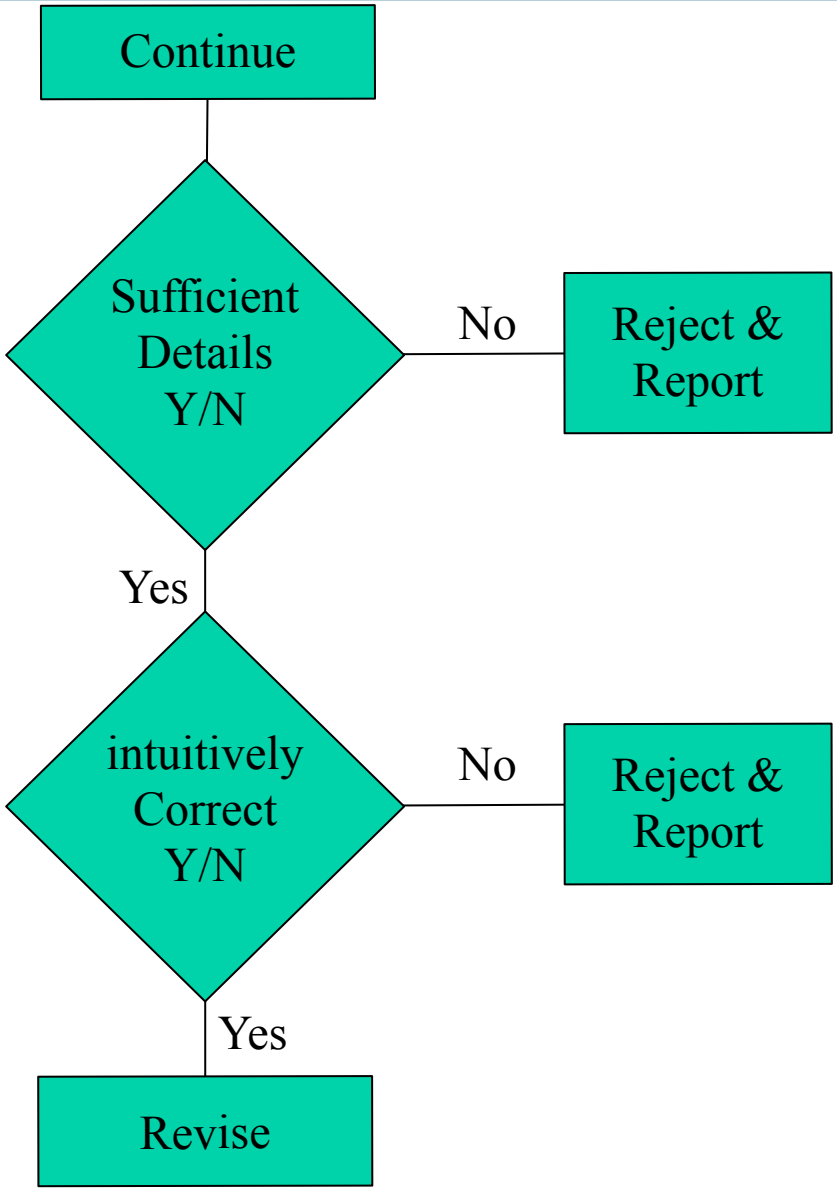
Anonymous peer review



Anonymous peer review



Anonymous peer review



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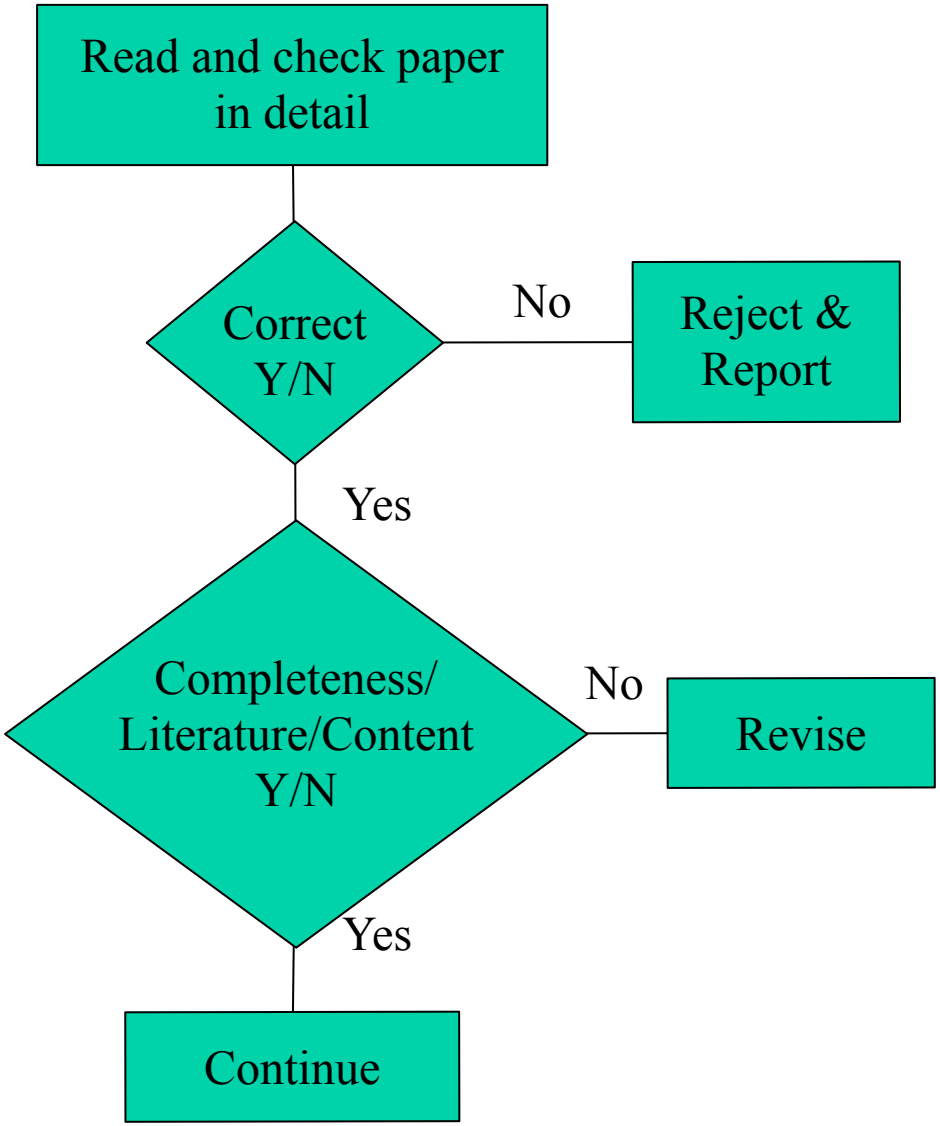
Anonymous peer review



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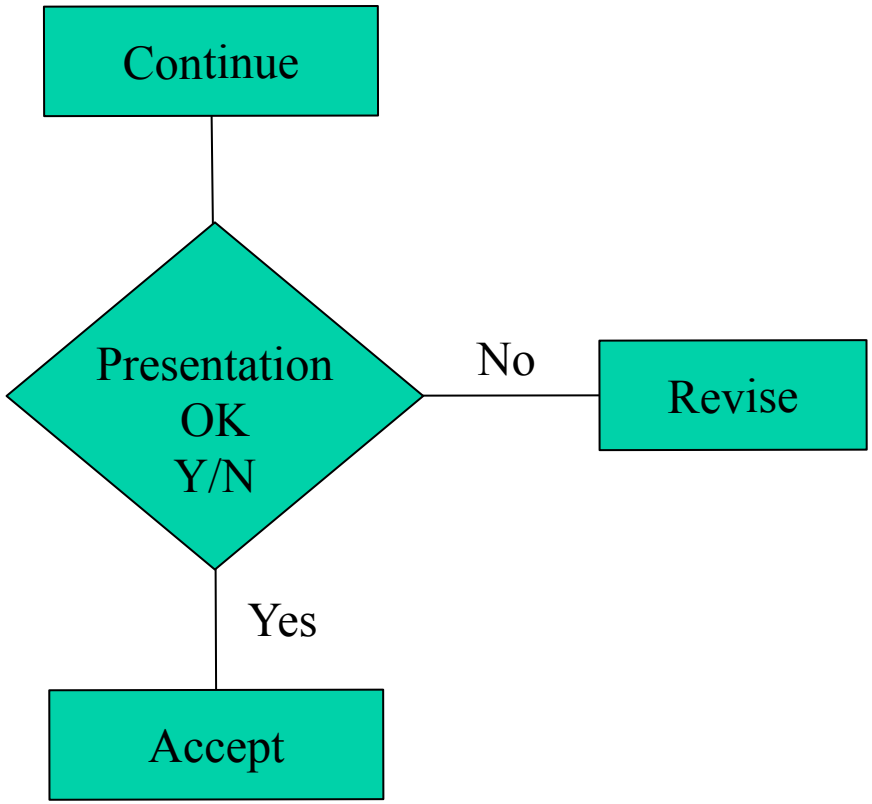
Anonymous peer review



If your paper is rejected …

- Ask why, and listen carefully!
  - Most editors will give detailed comments about a rejected paper. Take a deep breath, and listen to what is being said
- Try again!
  - Fix the paper, then submit elsewhere. Target your paper as closely as possible, and remember you might get the same reviewer again
- Don't give up!
  - At least 50% of papers in computer science don't get published. Everybody has been rejected at least once
- Keep trying

Possible reasons for rejections

- Lack of fit ('why was it sent to this journal'?)
- Problem with quality (inappropriate methodology, not reasonably rigorous, excessively long)
- Insufficient contribution (does not advance the field, a minor extension of existing work, there is no 'gap in our understanding')
- Did you understand the "journal conversation"?

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Typical criticisms (journal dependent)

- Paper motivation is weak
  - is there really a gap in our understanding?
  - does the gap actually need filling?
- Theory development is weak
  - theory by assertion, or reinvention of existing theory
- Empirical work is weak
  - methodology not plausible, tests don't rule out alternative hypotheses
- 'So what'?
  - nothing wrong with the paper – but nothing very insightful either

Being asked to revise and resubmit !!

- A request for revision is good news!
  - It really is
  - You are now in the publishing cycle.
  - Nearly every published paper is revised at least once
- Don't panic!
  - Even if the comments are sharp or discouraging, they aren't personal

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How to revise your paper?

- Acknowledge the editor and set a revision deadline
- Clarify understanding if in doubt
  - 'This is what I understand the comments to mean…'
- Consult with colleagues or co-authors and tend to the points as requested
- Meet the revision deadline
- Attach a covering letter which identifies, point by point, how revision requests have been met (or if not, why not)

Questions that make or break a paper !!

- Readability
  - Does it communicate? Is it clear? Is there a logical progression without unnecessary duplication?
- Contribution
  - Why was it written? What's new? Where does it fit into the 'conversation'?
- Credibility
  - Are the conclusions valid? Is the methodology robust? Is it honest? Don't hide limitations of research - you'll be found out.
- Applicability
  - How do findings apply to the world of practice? Does it pinpoint the way forward for future research?
- Internationality
  - Does the paper have a global perspective?

What editors/reviewers look for?

- Originality – what's new about subject, treatment or results?
- Relevance to and extension of existing knowledge
- Research methodology – are conclusions valid and objective?
- Clarity, structure and quality of writing – does it communicate well?
- Sound, logical progression of argument
- Theoretical and practical implications (the 'so what?' factors!)
- Recency and relevance of references
- Internationality/Global focus
- Adherence to the editorial scope and objectives of the journal
- A good title, keywords and a well written abstract

Some essentials of a research paper

- Purpose of the paper/Introduction
- Research methodology used – the 'whys and hows'
- Literature review – critical examination of what has gone before
- References should be:
  - complete
  - consistent with the style used in the journal
  - included in the list (anything not cited can be listed as further reading)
- Argument and findings
- Conclusion should – restate the purpose, encapsulate the main findings and include the most interesting bits

Purpose

"if we don't know where we are going, any road will do"

- Look at your paper from the eyes of others
  - What is this paper about?
  - Why does it matter?
- In computer science, this means to prove **interesting** results, suggest **intriguing** open problems and try to solve existing ones, and develop **useful** techniques and algorithms.'
- Simplicity, elegance, and applicability
- Common reviewers comments
  - 'Lacks a sense of purpose';
  - 'Author does not explain why he is writing this paper';
  - 'Not clear where paper is going or why'.

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Scope

- How far do you go in pursuing your research questions?

- Questions to ask?
  - How far did I decide to look?
  - What influenced that decision?
  - What related issues did I not examine and why?
  - Will I go on to examine those?
  - Where can I guide the reader who wants to examine the related issues?
  - To what extent can I generalize my conclusions?

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Limitations

- Time and money will limit the study, as will other constraints such as data availability

- Questions to ask:
  - What constraints did I impose and why?
  - Which were imposed on the work and why?
  - Which were unexpected?
  - How do they affect the validity of the study?
  - How can future researchers, or I, vary them?

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Exercise

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"if you can't describe your view of the world, your religion or your philosophy in less than a minute, it's probably not worth saying"

Anonymous

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Why do you want to write the paper?

- What do you want to say?

- Why should anyone care?
  - It adds conceptually to the current body of knowledge through new thinking.
  - It adds empirically to the current body of knowledge through new evidence.
  - It exposes a weakness in the current body of knowledge.
  - It demonstrates a new way of applying the body of knowledge.

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Tips

- Write down, in two or three sentences, the purpose of your planned paper.
- Start with the phrase: ‘The purpose of this paper is to...’.
- Consider verbs such as ‘show’, ‘demonstrate’, ‘present’, ‘synthesize’, ‘explore’, ‘review’, ‘discuss’ and ‘identify’.
- Make sure you are explicit about what you are trying to do.
-
- Then note how you are going to deliver the purpose: ‘... by illustrating with case examples ...’; ‘... by describing the results of an experiment conducted ... ‘; ‘... by reviewing the current literature on ...’

Implications

- The worth of your work to others
- If you have contributed to the body of knowledge through new conceptual thinking,
  - what will it matter?
  - How have you contributed?
  - Why should anyone care?
  - How will they be able to use what you have discovered?
- If you have applied current thinking to a new area,
  - what can anyone do about it?
  - How will your work change anything in thought or practice?
  - What, specifically, do further researchers or practitioners need to do next?

Tips

- Questions to ask
  - What wider principles emerged from your research?
  - How can people in your field use it?
  - Can people in other fields use it?
  - How can other researchers take your work forward?
  - How can your research be applied in practice?

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Implications checklist

- Purpose
  - What is it and why does it matter?
- Findings
  - Why, for whom and how do they matter?
- Literature
  - What did it say and how does it matter to your research?
- Methodology
  - How did it affect the findings?
- Analysis
  - How did the techniques affect your findings?
- Options
  - What are the implications of potential answers to problem?
- Conclusion
  - How far are you prepared to go and why?

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What makes a good abstract?

- 250 words or less (no more than 100 in any one section)
  - Purpose – Reasons for research/aims of paper
  - Design – Methodology/how it was done/scope of study
  - Findings – Discussion/results
  - Research limitations/implications – Exclusions, next steps
  - Practical implications – Applications to practice/ The 'so what?' factor
  - Social implications – Wider benefits to society/impact of society/policy
  - Originality/value – Who should benefit from this and what's new about it?

Source
Emerald Group Publishing
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Target

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"Many papers are rejected simply because they don't fulfill journal requirements. They don't even go into the review process."

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Which journal to submit to?

- Choosing a journal to publish in is an investment decision.
- A good choice can enhance the impact of your work and your reputation
- Thomson Reuters ISI is the most well known ranking, but others exist:
  - Citations are a good, but not complete, guide to quality
  - Usage is a better measure of utility
  - Other factors to consider are:
    - relevant readership, recent articles, most communicative, societies and internationality, likelihood of acceptance, circulation, time from submission to publication

Rule of the Thumb

Be political (e.g. national vs international) and strategic (e.g. five articles in ‘low ranked’ journals vs one in ‘top ranked’ journal)

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How to target? - Tips

- Identify a few possible target journals but be realistic
- Follow the Author Guidelines
  - scope, type of paper, word length, references style, etc
- Find where to send your paper
  - editor, regional editor, subject area editor
  - Check a copy of the journal/series or publisher's web site
- Send an outline or abstract and ask if this looks suitable and interesting (or how it could be made so)
- Confirm how an editor would like a submission
  - e.g. e-mail; hard copy or online submission system
- Read at least one issue of the publication
- Include a cover letter
  - opportunity to speak directly to the editor, convince them of the importance of your manuscript to the journal

A message in a bottle !!

Dear Sir

I am a student at University of .....
I want to publish my articles with you. Please send me details.

Regards

…

Sir,

Pls find as attachment the paper titled"Adaptive Time Synchronization for Homogeneous Wireless Senor Networks".

I hope for a positive response from your side soon.

.....

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Example guidelines

International Journal of Pervasive Computing and Communications

ISSN: 1742-7371

Content: Table of Contents | Latest Issue RSS RSS

Information: Journal information | Editorial Team | **Author Guidelines**

Other: Journal News (inc. calls for papers) | Sample articles | Events | Recommend this journal

Search in this title:

Search

Author Guidelines

Submit to the journal

Submissions to the *International Journal of Pervasive Computing and Communications* are made using ScholarOne Manuscripts. Please see Submissions Process (below) for details on how to create an account and submit a paper using ScholarOne Manuscripts.

All authors should be shown. Author details must be uploaded in a separate file and the author should not be identified anywhere else in the article.

Editorial objectives

The objective of the *International Journal of Pervasive Computing and Communications* is to provide a high profile, leading edge forum for academics, industrial professionals, educators and policy makers working in the field to contribute, to disseminate innovative and important new work on pervasive computing and communications, eventually to achieve a world saturated with computing and communications, yet gracefully integrated with human users.

The reviewing process

The journal operates a peer review process, ensuring anonymity for the referees.

All papers meeting the criteria for submission (below) will be subject to a fair and unbiased peer review.

The Editors reserve the right to request that revisions be made to papers prior to publication, or to reject papers on the following grounds:

- The paper is not sound
- The paper has not been revised satisfactorily
- The paper does not meet the aims and scopes of the journal

Every journal published will have detailed notes and guidelines

Source
Emerald Group Publishing
www.emeraldinsight.com

Emerald Research you can use at

How to peer review your paper?

- Let someone else see it
  - show a draft to friends/colleagues and ask for their comments, advice and honest criticism
  - we are always too close to our own work to see its failing

- Always proof-check thoroughly – no incorrect spellings, no incomplete references.
-
- Spell checkers are not fool-proof
  - University of Leads!!
  - "A knew research methodology introduced in 2007…"

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Beyond Publication

- Improving electronic dissemination
  - Use a short descriptive title containing main keyword
    - don't mislead
  - Write a clear and descriptive abstract containing the main keywords and following any instructions as to content and length
  - Provide relevant and known keywords
    - not obscure new jargon
  - Make your references complete and correct
  - vital for reference linking and citation indices
  - Ensure your paper is word perfect
  - All of this will make your paper more discoverable which means more dissemination and possibly more citation

Beyond Publication

- Promote your work
  - Why?
    - Influence policy
    - Raise your profile
    - Attract collaborators and funding
    - New opportunities e.g. in consulting, the media
  - How?
    - Use your network: listservs, a press release
    - Link to the article in your email signature
    - Contact the authors in your reference list
    - Ask the publisher to provide you with book or journal leaflets

Wisdom of the Ages

- Must propose something substantial.
- Must have extensive performance evaluation or implementation.
- Don't write framework papers
- Need to format it professionally like top journal papers.
  - Use of LaTeX preferred.
- Need to have good references
  - “Good papers cite good papers. Bad papers cite bad papers”
- Don't include too many ad-hoc diagrams
- Don't use public email, like yahoo, gmail.
  - use office email addresses
- Don't write papers overnight or on the weekend and hope to get accepted.

David Taniar

- Monash University, Australia
- EiC of 6 journals (3 indexed) and 1 book series
- Associate Editor, EB of 15 journals
- PC chair of 20 conferences

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Take away !!

- If you follow the advice you will find the process of writing an academic paper interesting and pleasurable.

- If you adopt the approach recommended here you can easily write publishable papers in much less time than you ever thought possible.

- Most importantly, it will be a rewarding activity benefiting you, your institution and all those who stand to gain from reading your work.

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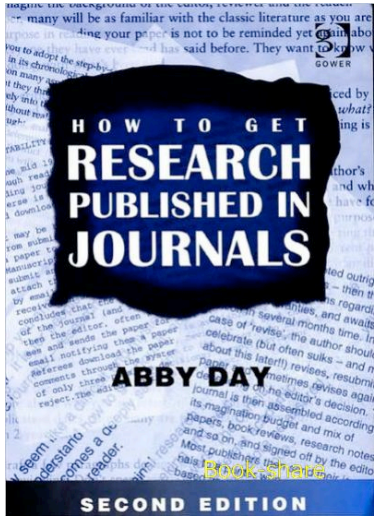
Other useful resources

- www.isiwebofknowledge.com (ISI ranking lists and impact factors)
- www.harzing.com (Anne-Wil Harzing's site about academic publishing and the assessment of research and journal quality, as well as software to conduct citation analysis)
- www.scopus.com (abstract and citation database of research literature and quality web sources)
- www.cabells.com (addresses, phone, e-mail and websites for a large number of journals as well as information on publication guidelines and review information)
- www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk (a general resource for academic writers, designed primarily with international students whose first language is not English in mind)

References

Emerald

"Insider's Guide to Getting Published in Journals"



Abby Day : How to get research published in Journals, 2nd edition, Gower Publishing Limited, 2007

"Thinking, Speaking, Writing" Course

Johannes Kepler University Linz

Prof. Dr. Bruno Buchberger

Questions, Comments, Requests, Feedback?

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