



Experiences from Editing a Journal: Case EJOR

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EJOR Editor 1999-2004

Outgoing Editor till June 30, 2005

EJOR Editorial Board Member 1981-1998



What does an editor do?

- Depends on the size and type of the journal and the structure of the editorial board – whether we talk about a large or a small journal, whether departmental editors are used or not, whether the journal is “owned” by a society or whether it is published by a commercial publisher
- **Far-reaching matters**
- **Daily business**

Far-reaching matters

- **Editors have a contract with the publisher (commercial publisher) – defining their and the publisher's role**
- **Publisher and editors jointly decide about publishing policy (theory vs. practice, specialized vs. broad) – with a major journal the editors can in the long run to some extent influence the development of their field**

Far-reaching matters -- continued

- Does the journal receive enough quality submissions?
- Does the journal have a good reputation?
- Can you improve the journal's impact factor?
- What to do about 'marginalized' fields? 'In-breeding'
- Fighting plagiarism

Daily business – supervising the review process

- Decide, whether a submitted paper fits to the journal (about 10% declined– also because of bad English)
- Choose the reviewers, communicate with them (contact 4 to get 2 reviews)
- Communicate the reviews to authors; resolve conflicts; communicate the authors' revisions and responses to reviewers
- Read the paper myself?
- Make final decisions – revise (once, twice, three times), accept, reject



Daily business -- continued

- How are reviewers chosen?
- Who is a good reviewer?
- How much time do reviewers take?
- Can you resubmit a rejected paper?
- What to do in case of conflicting reviews?

What issues do reviewers typically focus on?

- What is the contribution? Is it significant enough? Has it been clearly stated?
- Is the journal appropriate?
- How is the paper written?
- Are there mistakes? ("Should they be enlisted at 55?")
- Could it benefit from condensation? Expansion?

What issues do reviewers typically focus on?

- Have the methods been applied correctly?
- Does the evidence support the conclusions? Have all important references been cited?
- Is the title appropriate? Are the abstract and introduction good?
- Has the author responded to all my previous comments?

Scientific writing -- criteria

- Think who is your reader – put yourself in her/his shoes (always target a larger audience)
- Simplicity, Clarity – Hemingway style!
Use illustrations, examples!
- Correctness, Preciseness
- Consistency, Objectivity
- Convincingness
- Are you able to keep the reader's interest till the end of the paper?