WHAT’S TAKING SO LONG?

Chrissy Prater, PhD
Senior Product Development Coordinator
MORE VOLUME, MORE PROBLEMS

Traditional, selective journals

- Not interesting!
- Not novel!
- Doesn’t fit!
- Revise or Reject

OA “sound research” journals

- Review everything!
- Help!
- UGH – maybe later?
- Revise or Reject

Not novel!

Reviewed

Published
GLOBAL STATE OF PEER REVIEW 2018

- 9.8% Increase year-on-year of reviewer invitation.
- 75% of journal editors find reviewing hard.
- 10% of reviewers perform the hardest part of all reviews.
- 50% of survey respondents should more recognize peer review.
- 84.8% Median hours spent writing each review in 2016.
How can Research Square help bring down the time to decision?

Help editors make the decisions quickly and confidently!

1. Provide assessments editors can trust
2. Provide fast return of reviewer comments ★

How do we excel at this?

- Manage the peer review process ◀
- Identify and recruit topic-specific expert reviewers
HOW CAN WE GET GOOD REVIEWS, FAST?  
(even on challenging manuscripts)

Research Quality Evaluations (RQE) a fast, portable, sound research peer review

Decrease fatigue, facilitate efficiencies
- Eliminate reviewer distractions
- Ask reviewers to compare research quality to best practice
- Get reviewers thinking “should it be published somewhere?”

Increase recognition
- Offer incentive to complete the evaluation within a few days

Encourage diversity and fairness
- Include potential reviewers that are typically overlooked
- Minimize unconscious biases
FINDING REVIEWERS

• Internal database of current and potential peer reviewers: 10,000+ researchers from all over the world
• On-the-fly recruiting: new manuscript-specific leads are added to the reviewer database

When a reviewer says yes, we send the redacted manuscript and a link to the RQE form...
9. Want to do more Research Quality Evaluations in the future?

If you're interested, we'll send you an invitation email next time we have another manuscript that seems to be a good fit.

- [ ] Yes - I'm interested
- [x] Maybe - depends on my schedule
- [ ] Maybe - depends on the manuscript
- [ ] No thanks - I'm not interested in trying this again

10. What do you think about this peer review approach?
85% of submitted reviews include thoughts regarding our system (>2600 comments)

- Overwhelmingly positive feedback
- Reviewers appreciate the problems
- Eager for change
- Good suggestions
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EXPANSION OF RQE

RQE is now utilized by over 60 journals to complete over 3000 reviews to date.

- Great reviewer feedback
- Good editor feedback – able to make decisions
- Good metrics
  - 80% of papers reviewed in 20 business days
  - 9 business days avg (first invitation to review completion)

RQE can be used to supplement the traditional process in different journals when they have trouble finding multiple reviewers.

Next project: expanding to a 2-reviewer RQE workflow.
GLOBAL-STATE-OF-PEER-REVIEW-2018

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75% of journal editor “finding review” getting them to review invitation, hardest part of all reviews.

10% of reviewers perform.

84.8% of survey respondents should more recognize peer.

50% of all reviews.

Median hours spent writing each review in 2016.

Research Square
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Peer Reviewers
Reviewer Lead Hunters
Participating Journal Editors
RS Peer Review Coordinators
RS R&D Team Managers
RS R&D Engineers
RS R&D Management