



NEST-FUNAI PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINAR

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Improving Publishing Success: Revising Manuscripts for Top Tier Journals

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Outline

- Introduction
- Journal Peer Review Process
- Reviewer Roles & Responsibilities
- What Reviewers Look for in Journal Papers
- Addressing Reviewer Comments
- Conclusion



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Introduction

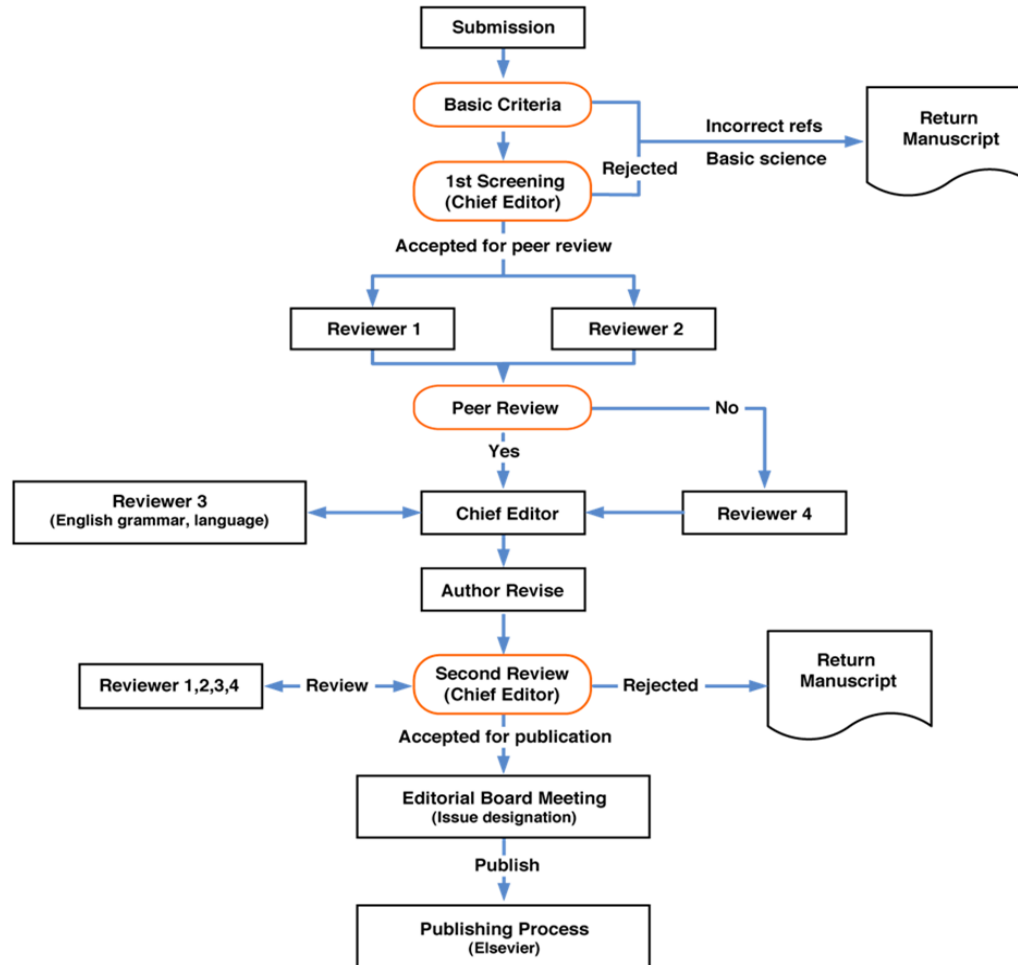
- Reviewers are **Experts** in their **Domain**
- Peer Review – a Fundamental **QA Process**
- **Stakeholders**: Authors, Editors, Readers
- **Bi-directional Communication** between Authors and Reviewers
- **Best Practice & Predator** Journals
- Elsevier – a **Global Brand**



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Journal Review Process



Reviewer Roles & Responsibilities

- What **Editors** Look Out For
 - *Basic technical requirements*
 - *Aims and Scope of the Journal*
 - *The Case for **Special** Journal Issues*
 - *Completeness: **NOT** flashpoints of work in progress*
 - *Procedures and Data Analysis: **Replication** of Methods & **Statistical Validity***
 - ***Originality**, **Comprehensibility** & **Logical Conclusion***



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Reviewer Roles & Responsibilities

- Reviewer's Roles towards **AUTHORS**
 - *Unbiased & Timely Feedback*
 - *Highlight Scholarly Merits and Scientific Value*
 - *Indicate paper Clarity, Relevance, Conciseness*
 - *Rate the work's Composition, Scientific Accuracy,*
 - *Originality (AVOID Self-Plagiarism)*
 - *Avoid Making Personal Comments*



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Reviewer Roles & Responsibilities

- Reviewer's Roles towards **EDITORS**
 - *NOTIFY* Editor if *UNABLE* to Review Paper
 - *ALERT* the Editor of any Potential Conflict of Interest and *DECLINE* to review the work
 - Providing *thoughtful, fair, constructive and informative critique* of the submitted work
 - Provide *supplementary materials* if necessary
 - *Refraining* from Direct Author Contact



Reviewer Roles & Responsibilities

- Reviewer's Roles towards **READERS**
 - *Ensuring* that Methods are adequately detailed to allow the readers to judge the scientific merit of the study design including replication
 - *Ensure* the article cites all the relevant work of others



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What Reviewers Look for in Papers

- ✓ *Scientific soundness*
- ✓ *Originality and quality:*
- ✓ *Engagement with previous research & results*
- ✓ *Relevance to potential reader audience*
- ✓ *Aspects of the article that are strong*



What Reviewers Look for in Papers

- ✓ *Currency, accuracy, and consistency*
- ✓ *Coverage and depth of literature review*
- ✓ *Tables, figures, and diagrams,*
- ✓ *Relevance of figures to the discussion*
- ✓ *Appropriateness for the targeted journal*



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Addressing Reviewer's Comments

- ✓ Never reply/revise your paper in a hurry
- ✓ Reviewers' comments often require cool-headed reflection
- ✓ Do a forensic analysis of each comment and respond in appropriate level of detail
- ✓ Communicate your responses to the respective reviewers in very clear terms



Addressing Reviewer's Comments

- ✓ Do not engage in **unnecessary argument** with a reviewer,
- ✓ Remember that they are the **umpires** in the review process.
- ✓ Be **polite** even in the face of **extreme criticism** from a reviewer.



Key Success Factors

- **Tell Your Story** : Articulate the question(s) you are trying to address
- **Sell Your Story**: The success metrics include downloads and citations
- Avoid **Information Overload** & Cognitive Stress : **Quality** NOT Quantity
- Remember the Acronym : **KISS**



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Conclusion

- ✓ A journal paper about **story-telling**,
- ✓ Tell your story in a **very good and unambiguous way**.
- ✓ Incorporate different **trajectories** of story lines,
- ✓ **Connect** various **dots** and missing links.
- ✓ The story must be well **choreographed**



Conclusion

Thank you!



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