

Diversity in Peer Review: Improving the Author Experience

Publisher's Panel

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Improving Peer Review

- Provide transparent peer review toolkits for journals wishing to embrace more openness in peer review
- Develop self-assessment measures for journals for peer review and publishing standards
- Explore alternative models of peer review (e.g., Registered Reports)
- Pilot 'integrity technology' especially in relation to image screening, statistical checks and reporting standards to assist peer review
- Increase diversity of editorial board and reviewer database

How do we make peer review better?

- Operational transparency gives researchers better peer review
- Transparent peer review recognizes the work of researchers when they peer review and improves accountability
- Improvements bring benefits and challenges
- How to facilitate and scale?

How do we make peer review better?



Publish

We give authors the option to choose to publish unsigned (or signed) peer review reports, author responses, and editor decision letters with journal articles for readers to learn from.



Reward

We enable recognition and reward for the peer review and editorial work that's part of a published study but that otherwise remains hidden



Clarify

We make peer review more accountable, we help address bias, and we make the value of the peer review process itself clearer



Flex

Our approach is compatible with single- and double-blinded peer review, as well as with open peer review, and can be signed or unsigned

Offering researchers better peer review



- Literature review
- 40 case studies
- Recommendations
- 1 self-assessment checklist with better practice standards for each essential area, around 60 questions that journal teams can use in self-assessment →

Preprint <https://osf.io/4mfk2/>

Draft for preprint

What does better peer review look like? Definitions, essential areas, and recommendations for better practice

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Aim: To define a set of standards for better peer review. **Method:** We set out the expectations of five groups of stakeholders in the peer review process: authors, reviewers, editors, readers, and the general public. We then solicited case studies from people involved in peer review, to capture practical insights into how journal teams address the essential areas of integrity, ethics, fairness, usefulness and timeliness. **Results:** We received 40 case studies from stakeholders of journals published by Wiley in a range of subject areas from around the globe. The case studies identified areas of existing best practices and highlighted problems that might require better practices. **Conclusion:** We used this information to define essential areas of practice for peer review and to provide recommendations in each area, synthesizing these into a practical checklist to help journal teams improve their practices.

What influences the regional diversity of reviewers: A study of medical and agricultural/biological sciences journals. (2018). Learned Publishing.

Editor and reviewer gender influence the peer review process but not peer review outcomes at an ecology journal. (2015). Functional Ecology.

To increase diversity of reviewer populations, journals should increase gender, age and geographic diversity of their editorial boards.