

Introduction to scholarly publishing

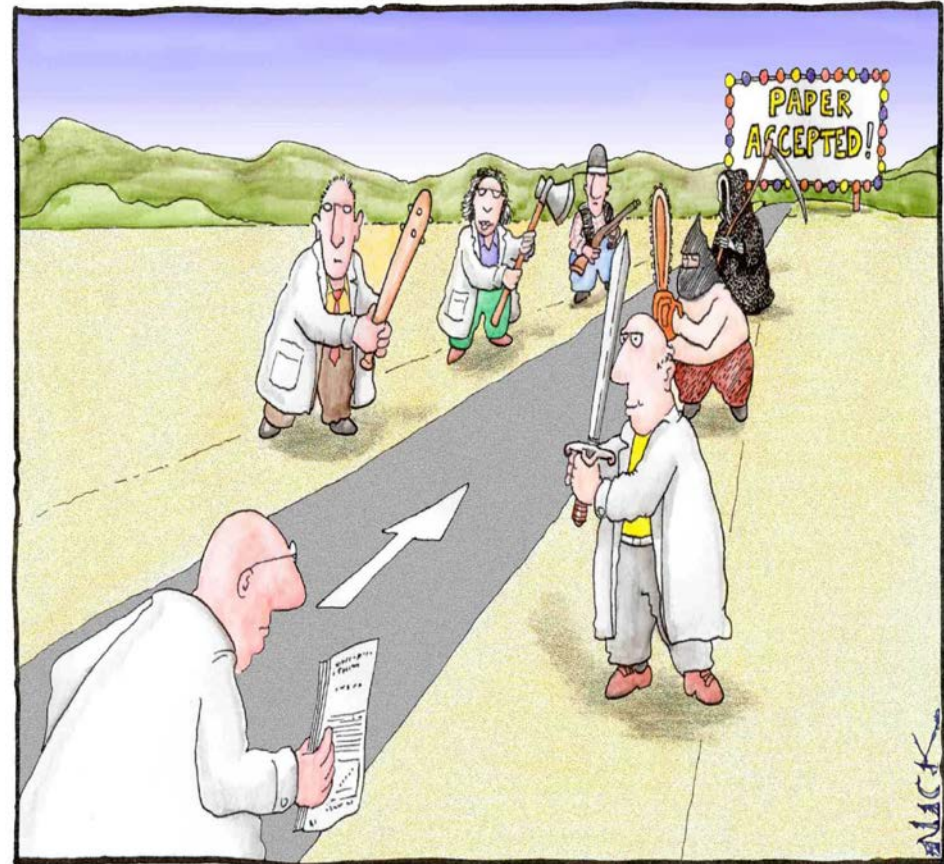
Editorial Process

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What is peer review?

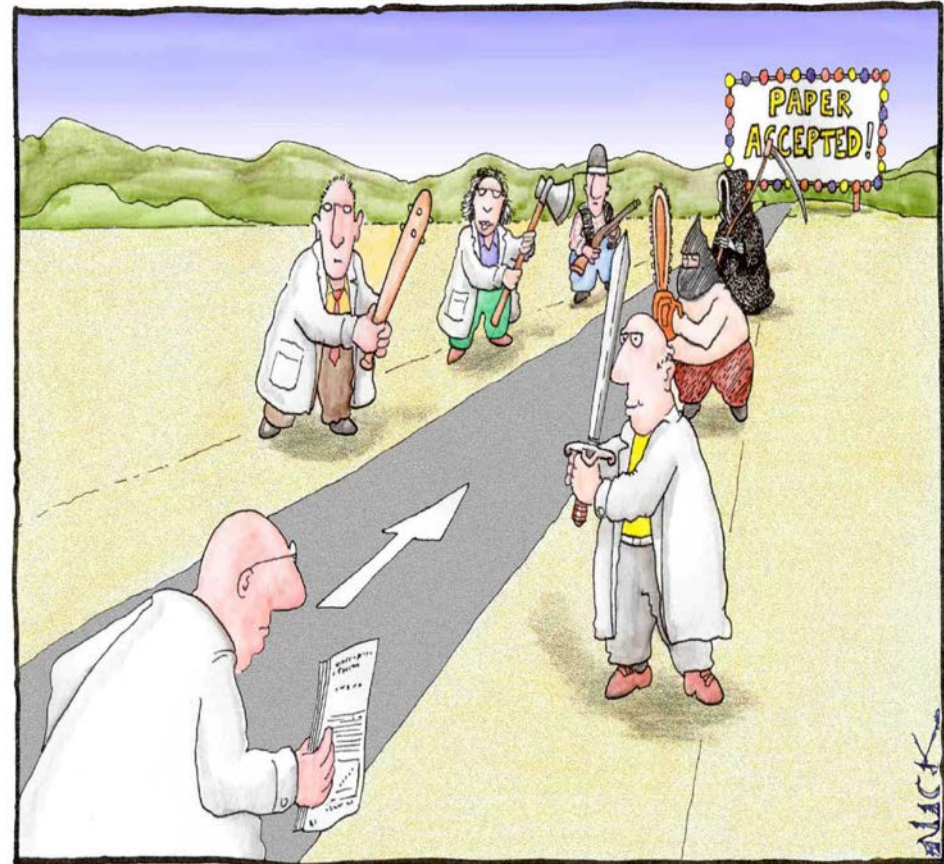
- Peer review is the process by which research is scrutinized to ensure it is of sufficient quality for dissemination
- It was first used in 1665, by the Royal Society in London, *Philosophical Transactions*, first journal in the world exclusively devoted to science (world's longest-running scientific journal)



<https://www.students4bestevidence.net/problems-with-peer-review-the-achilles-heel-of-modern-research/>

What is peer review?

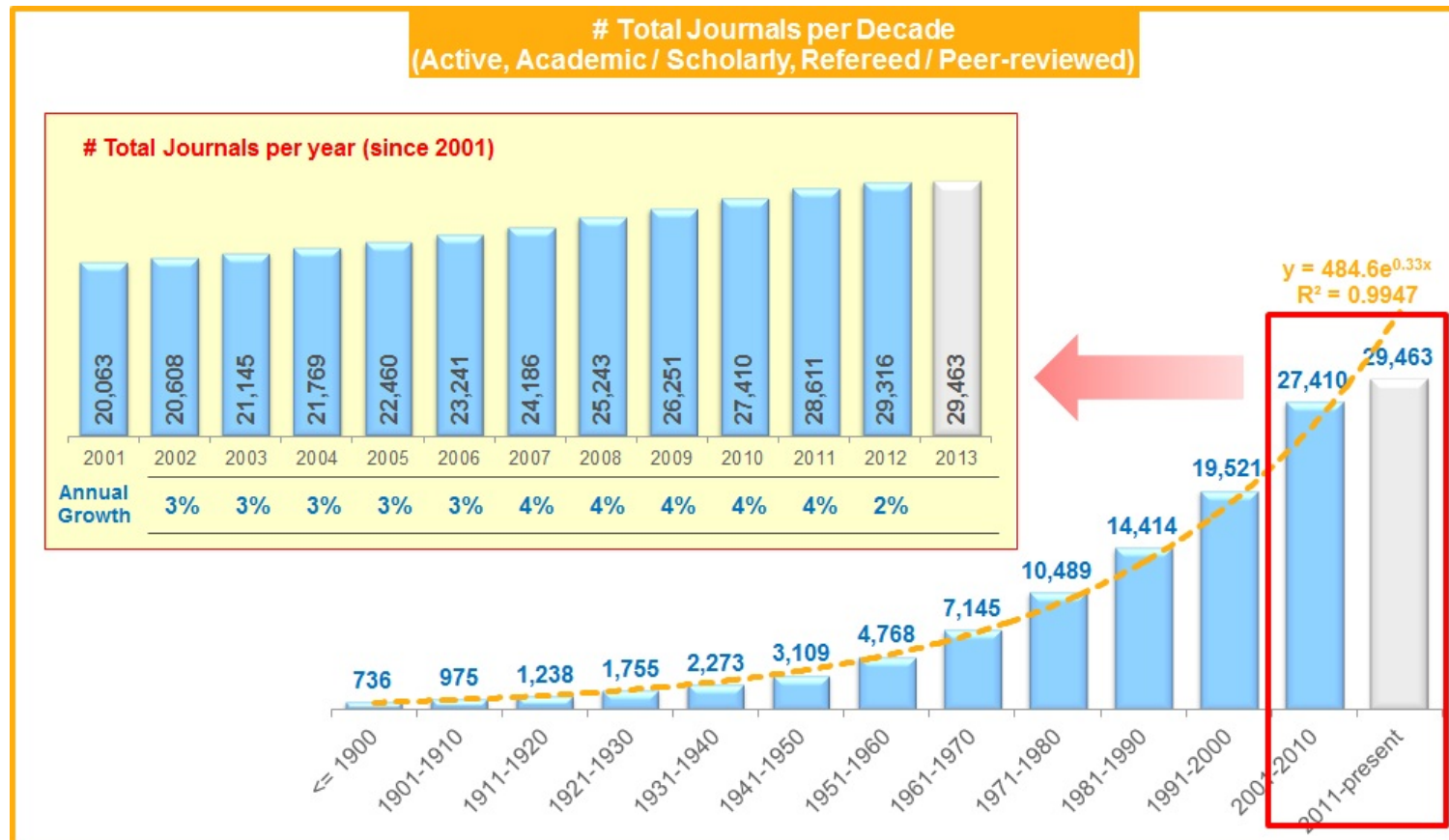
- Peer review places the reviewer, with the author, at the heart of scientific publishing
- **The researcher's work can be not only improved and validated, but also registered, disseminated and preserved.**
- Without peer review there is no quality-control in scientific communication.



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Academic publishing

Peer-reviewed journal growth 1990-2013

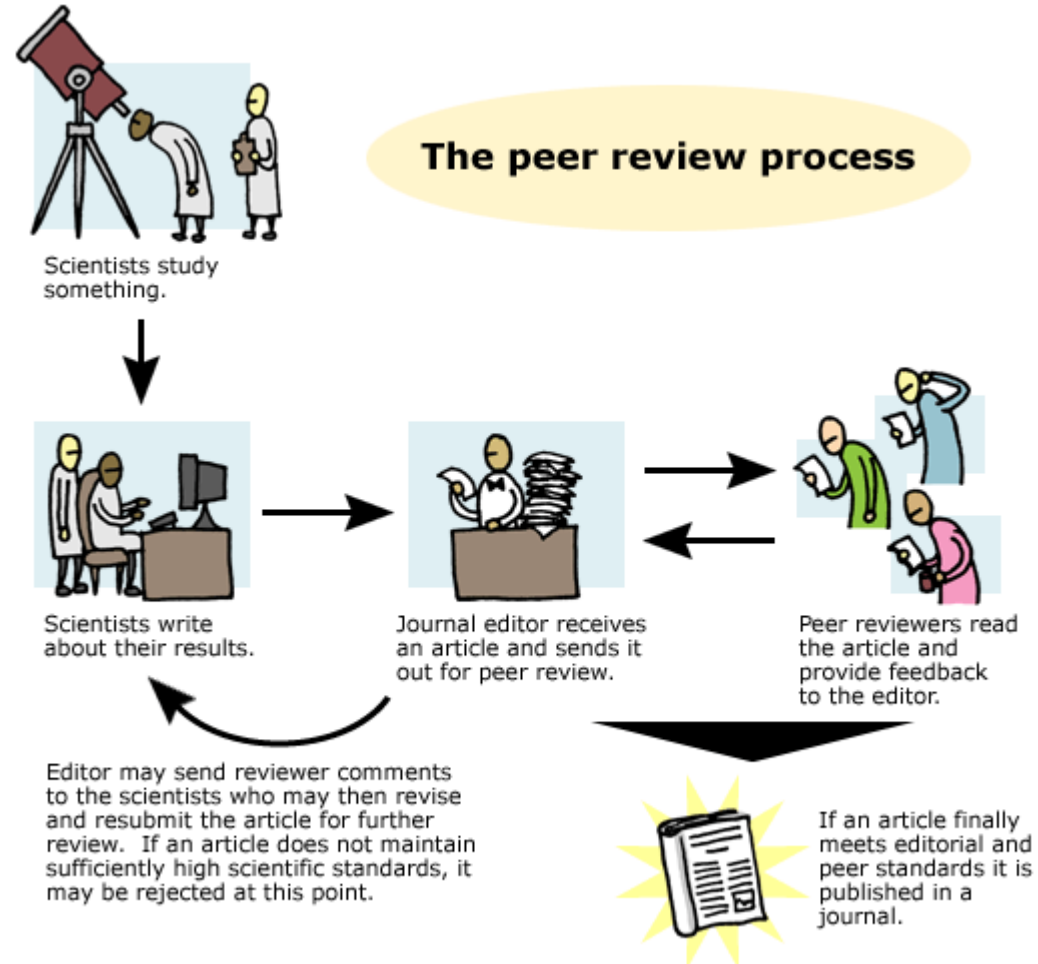


What is the role of the editors?

Editors of scientific journals have responsibilities toward:

- authors (who provide the content of the journals)
- peer reviewers (who comment on the suitability of manuscripts for publication)
- journal's readers
- scientific community
- owners/publishers of the journals
- public (as a whole).

<https://www.councilscienceeditors.org/resource-library/editorial-policies/white-paper-on-publication-ethics/2-1-editor-roles-and-responsibilities/>

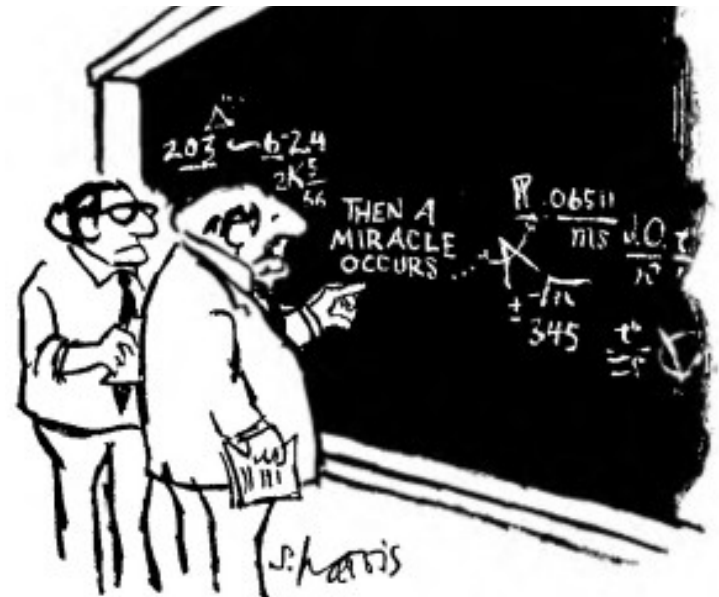


https://undsci.berkeley.edu/article/howscienceworks_16

What should an Editor look for in an article?

Editor(s) check the articles to see if they meet the minimum criteria for publication in the journal (to maintain the quality of the journal)

- **Scope:** fit the aims and scope of the journal (authors need to clearly read it)
- **Language:** well written in the language of the journal and with a good abstract (it is important to make the article easy to read without complicated language)
- **Novelty:** new knowledge and research findings.



"I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE EXPLICIT HERE IN STEP TWO."

<http://stillbreeze.github.io/Deep-Learning-and-the-Demand-For-Interpretability/>

What should an Editor look for in an article?

Referees are chosen by the editors, associate editors or members of the editorial board (anonymity in the peer-review process varies)

- Double masked or double blind, mask the identities of both the authors and reviewers
- Single masked or single blind, reviewer identities anonymous to the authors
- Some journals give reviewers the option to reveal their names
- Some journals provide authors with the names of all reviewers associated with the manuscript



<http://jasonya.com/wp/what-peer-review-feels-like/>

What should an Editor look for in an article?

Some articles are rejected without being sent out to review. Why?

- Outside the scope of the journal
- Does not meet the journal's quality standards
- Limited scientific merit
- Lacks originality or novel information
- **verbatim textual overlap**



verbatim textual overlap

- An article shows a verbatim overlap with other publications when parts of the article (for instance the introduction or the results section) are copies of other publications
- This copying does not make a decent impression and brings doubt of novelty of the work
- To solve the problem it is necessary to replace the copied parts by original text or to remove them completely

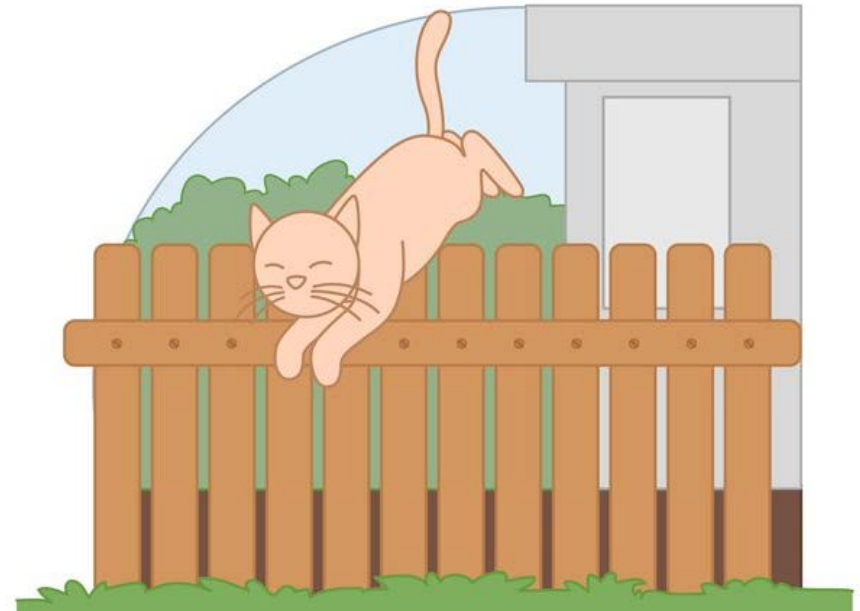
CrossCheck (powered by iThenticate software)

<http://www.crossref.org/crosscheck/index.html>



How to pass over the editor barrier. Why cover letter matters?

- Explains why the editor would want to publish your manuscript.
 - Introduces your work to the journal editor
 - Explain why the manuscript will be of interest to a journal's readers
(*something which is always as the forefront editors' mind*)
 - Help to “sell” your manuscript to the journal editor
-
- **Crucial element to pass over the editor screen to the referee process**
 - As such, it is worth spending time ***writing a coherent and persuasive cover letter.***



“Luck is random, but the ability to capitalize on luck isn’t necessarily random”

Mari Kuraishi, Cofounder of GlobalGiving

How to write a coherent and persuasive cover letter

A possible structure...

First paragraph

- Address the editor who will be assessing your manuscript by their name (if known)
- Include the date of submission and the journal you are submitting to
- Check to see whether the journal's instructions for authors have any cover letter requirements (e.g. disclosures, statements, potential reviewers, etc.)



Tip 11 - Submitting a paper: write a convincing cover letter!

Second paragraph

- Succinctly explain the scientific context of your manuscript (what are the main scientific borders framing your work).

- Concisely explain what was done, the main findings and why they are significant.



How to write a coherent and persuasive cover letter

Fourth paragraph:

- Indicate why the readers of the journal would be interested in the work. Take your cues from the journal's aims and scope. For example if the journal requires that all work published has broad implications explain how your study fulfils this.
- Include a sentence on the importance of the results to the field.
- Suggest potential reviewers



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Thank you.