Today's Webinar will start at 3.00 pm GMT+8...

Publishing in International Journals: Submission and Peer Review

Speaker: **Joe Ng**, Acquisitions Editor, Social Sciences, Cambridge University Press

Part of **Academic Publishing Webinar** *Series*
Find out more http://ow.ly/M2o950zsAQR

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Topics

- Academic publishing landscape
- About Cambridge University Press
- Selecting your journal
- Submitting to international journals
- Peer review
- Publishing ethics
- Authors resources
- Q&A

THE PUBLISHING LANDSCAPE

Academic Publishing Landscape

- Over 33,000 journals (excluding 9,400 non-English journals)
- More than 3 million articles published each year
- More than 200,000 new books each year
- STM: $25 billion, HSS: $2.4 billion (annually)
- Many publishers (some small, some large)

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Your Challenge!
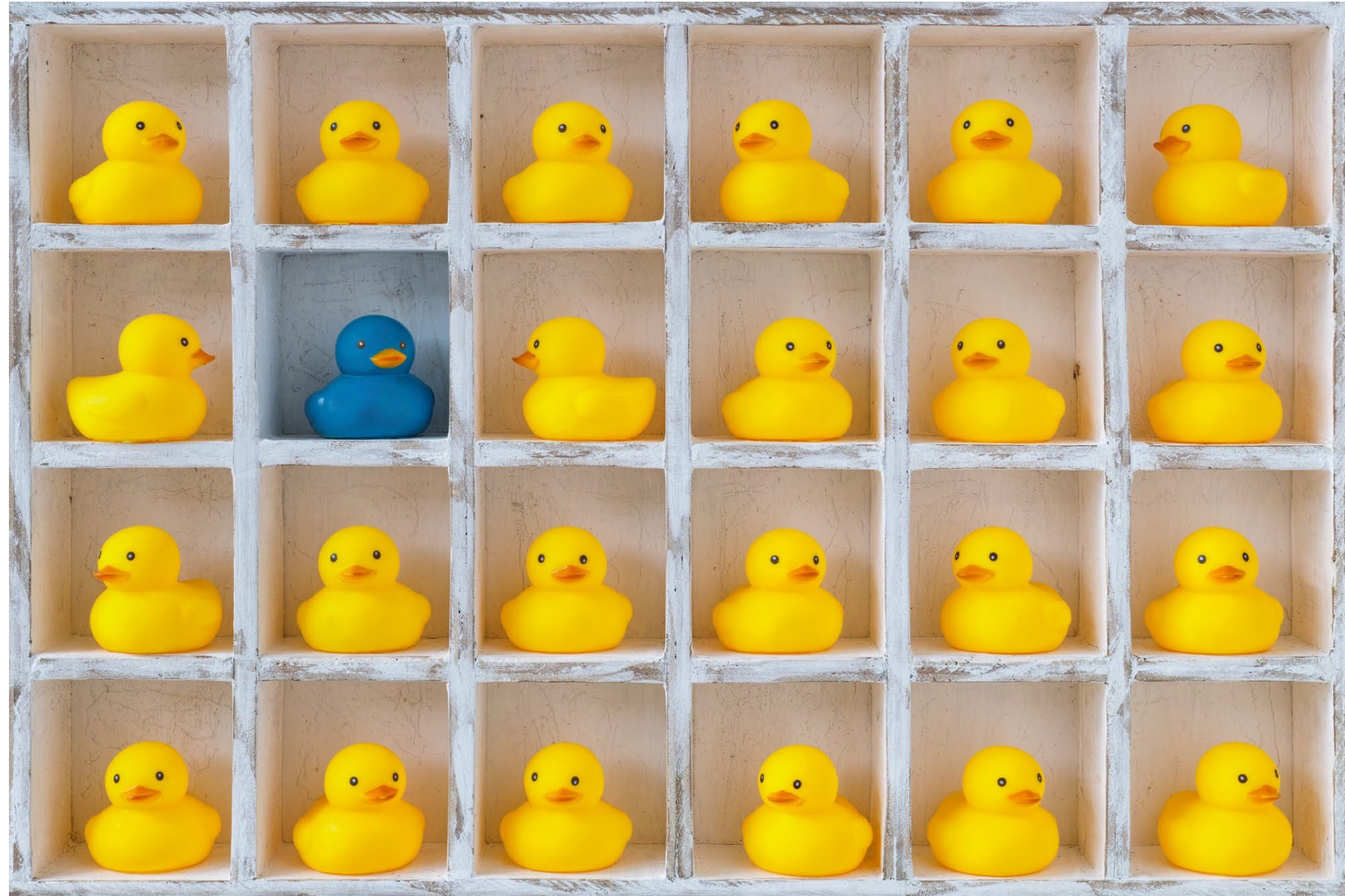
Ecosystem

- scholars

- funders

- libraries

- publishers

- learned societies and professional associations

All working together towards expanding access to the fruits of research

Rapidly Changing Landscape

- Journals business has been digital for over 20 years

- Digital is more and more important for books

- Open Access journals and experimentation with OA books

- Scholarly Collaboration Networks (Research Gate, Academia.edu, SSRN)

- Impact and other metrics (e.g. altmetrics)

- Lots of "free" content ! (Both legal and not so legal!)

Cambridge University Press

- An integral part of the University of Cambridge
- World's oldest publisher, founded in 1534
- Our first book was published in 1584
- Now looking forward to future with big investment in digital publishing

Our Mission and Character

- Not-for-profit

  All surplus reinvested in our publishing infrastructure, services and the University – distinguishing us from commercial presses

- Global

  We work with the best scholars and the best universities around the world – employing our offices on 6 continents

- Quality

  Our commitment to research of the highest quality is fundamental to our being – unlike our commercial counterparts.
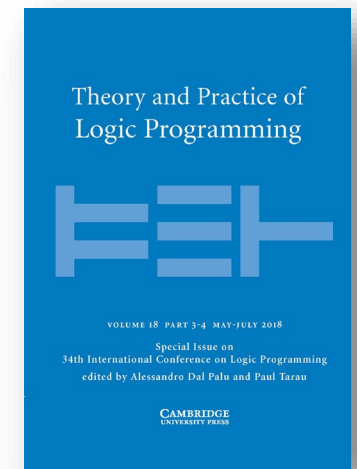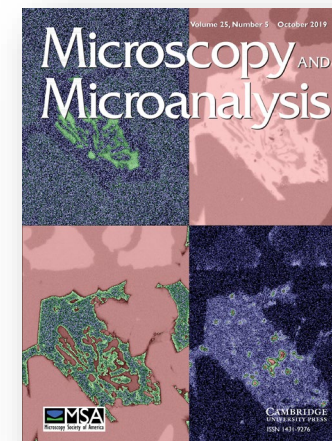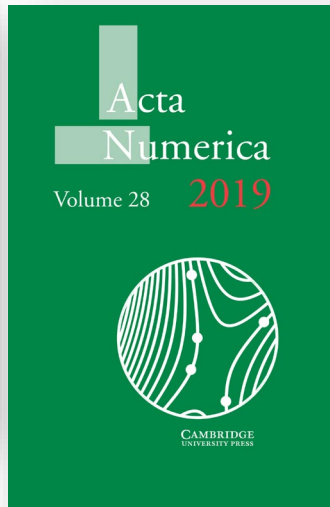
Quality

How do we measure it?

Video: https://youtu.be/U-mK-8a_ejY

Six Cambridge journals top of their **Impact Factor** categories:

Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Acta Numerica, International Organization, Journal of Economic History, Microscopy & Microanalysis, and *Theory and Practice of Logic Programming*

SELECTING YOUR JOURNAL

What is a Scholarly Journal?

Basic functions
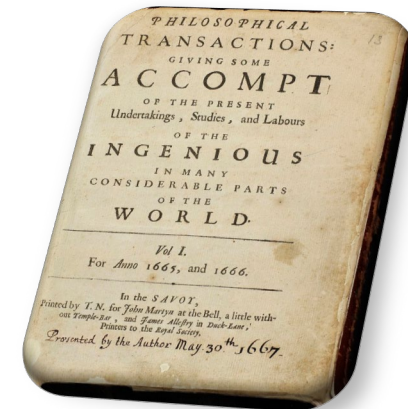
Solve 3 <u>technological</u> problems –

1. Registration – assert **ownership** of an idea
2. Dissemination – attract **recognition** and **career advancement**
3. Archiving – create a **permanent record**

2 additional <u>cultural</u> functions have developed over time

4. Certification – provide **quality assurance**
5. Filtration – **navigate** vast sea of information

Henry Oldenburg (1664-5)

PHILOSOPHICAL
TRANSACTIONS OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY

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Business Models

Subscription

- reader (libraries and individuals) pays annual subscription to publisher
- author bears no cost
- dominant in humanities and social sciences and some STM subjects

Open Access (Gold)

- author pays Article Processing Charge (APC)
- Any reader is able to access articles online for free
- prevalent in life sciences but other subjects are starting to move to this model

Research Your Journals

You've spent so much time on your research.
Now thinking about where to publish your article…

- Choose carefully and thoughtfully
- Aim for the right level of journal – general *v* specific
- Which ones publish articles in your area?
- Who are the editors and Editorial Board members?

Advice from Journal editors

"Read the journal you want to publish in, or at least the abstracts; attention to what the journal is actively interested in (topics, but also methods and theoretical approaches) will help you understand if your paper is appropriate or not."

"Read the Instructions for Contributors"
for the journal you want to publish in."

Selecting a Journal – Key Factors

1. **Hierarchy:** Know the ranking of the journals in your field – aim at Tier 1, 2, or 3 journals

2. **Research Outcome**: How significant are your findings or your argument?

3. **Readership**: Does results only interest a specialized group of researchers?

4. **Scope**: Read the aims and scope of the journal

5. **Citations**: Does your paper cite other published articles in the journal?

Selecting a Journal – Other Factors

6. **SSCI/IF**: What is the journal's impact factor?

7. **Article Type**: Is your paper original research or a review article?

8. **Punctuality**: Is the journal always late/under budget?

9. **Editorial Board/Publisher**: Who are the editors and board members? Is the publisher reputable

10. **Open Access**: traditional or Open Access?

SUBMITTING TO INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS

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A journal article is …

- Fit for purpose and original
- Understandable, and written in good English
- Well organized
- Of appropriate length for the article type/journal
- Discoverable, stable and citable [responsibility of the publisher]

Some writing tips

- Avoid definitions/formulae/specialized terms in the first paragraphs/introduction
- Write in short sentences and straight to the point; avoid grammatical and notational errors
- Test "readability" of a paper, ask a colleague in another field to comment
- Don't use asterisks (*) or **bold** face to denote statistical significance.
- Report standard errors and coverage sets or confidence intervals (for empirical analyses).

Some writing tips

- **Plagiarism.** Avoid plagiarism of others' work or self-plagiarize; cite/acknowledge others' work appropriately

- **Exclusive submission.** Don't submit to more than one journal at a time

- **Authorship.** Only list co-authors who made major contribution to the article

Some writing tips

- Have you followed the **style** of the journal you want to publish in?

- Make your article **concise** (one sentence per idea and one idea per sentence)

- Read the journal's published articles to see how yours can **fit**?

Typical article structure

- Title

- Abstract & Keywords

- Main text (IMRAD)

  - Introduction / Methods

  - Results And Discussions

- Conclusions

- Acknowledgements

- References

- Supplementary Data

Best practice for journal submission

- Write a clear, informative abstract
- Obey the rules in *Instructions for Contributors*
- Make sure your paper
  - Is written in good English
  - Has got a conclusion
  - Has a clear message to show that the paper is important to the target audience
- One journal at a time

How to avoid immediate rejection?

- Don't make these mistakes:
  - Poor English
  - No conclusions
  - Insufficient originality or importance
  - Obvious scientific or logical flaws
- Why is your paper important to the target audience? State this clearly in the abstract, introduction and conclusion

How to avoid immediate rejection

- Write a clear and informative abstract
- Do choose an appropriate journal! Check its scope.
- Do follow the *Instructions to Contributors*
- Do meet the submission system requirements

PEER REVIEW

Peer Review Models

ZOOM Poll:

- Which are the types of peer review models used by journals?
  - ❏ Singled-blind and double-blind
  - ❏ Double-blind only
  - ❏ Single-blind, double-blind and open peer review
  - ❏ Single-blind only

Peer Review Models

	Single Blind	Double Blind	Open
Author	Doesn't know reviewer identity	Doesn't know reviewer identity	Knows reviewer identity
Reviewer	Knows author identity	Doesn't know author identity	Knows author identity
How common?	Most common type among science journals	Most common type among social science and humanities	Growing minority of journals do this

Peer Review Models

Post-publication peer review (PPPR)

- Only started in last few years

- Mostly used by experimental open access publishers

- manuscripts are reviewed after they have been published online.

- These reviews are most often open.

Examples

- *Behavioral and Brain Sciences:* www.cambridge.org/core/journals/behavioral-and-brain-sciences

- PubPeer: www.pubpeer.com

- Hypothes.is: https://web.hypothes.is/

- e-Letters: https://www.sciencemag.org/help/e-letters

- ScienceOpen: https://www.scienceopen.com/

- F1000Research (now owned by Taylor & Francis): https://f1000research.com/

Review Stages

- **DESK REVIEW:** – editor-in-chief (EIC) will assess whether suitable for journal (aims/scope).

    - If yes, then will proceed to peer review.

    - Acceptance rate at this stage varies a lot according to discipline

- **PEER REVIEW:** EIC will invite two reviewers to read the paper; double-blind; 4-8 weeks

- **DECISION:** Accept with revisions, revise & resubmit; decline

Assessment Process for Journals
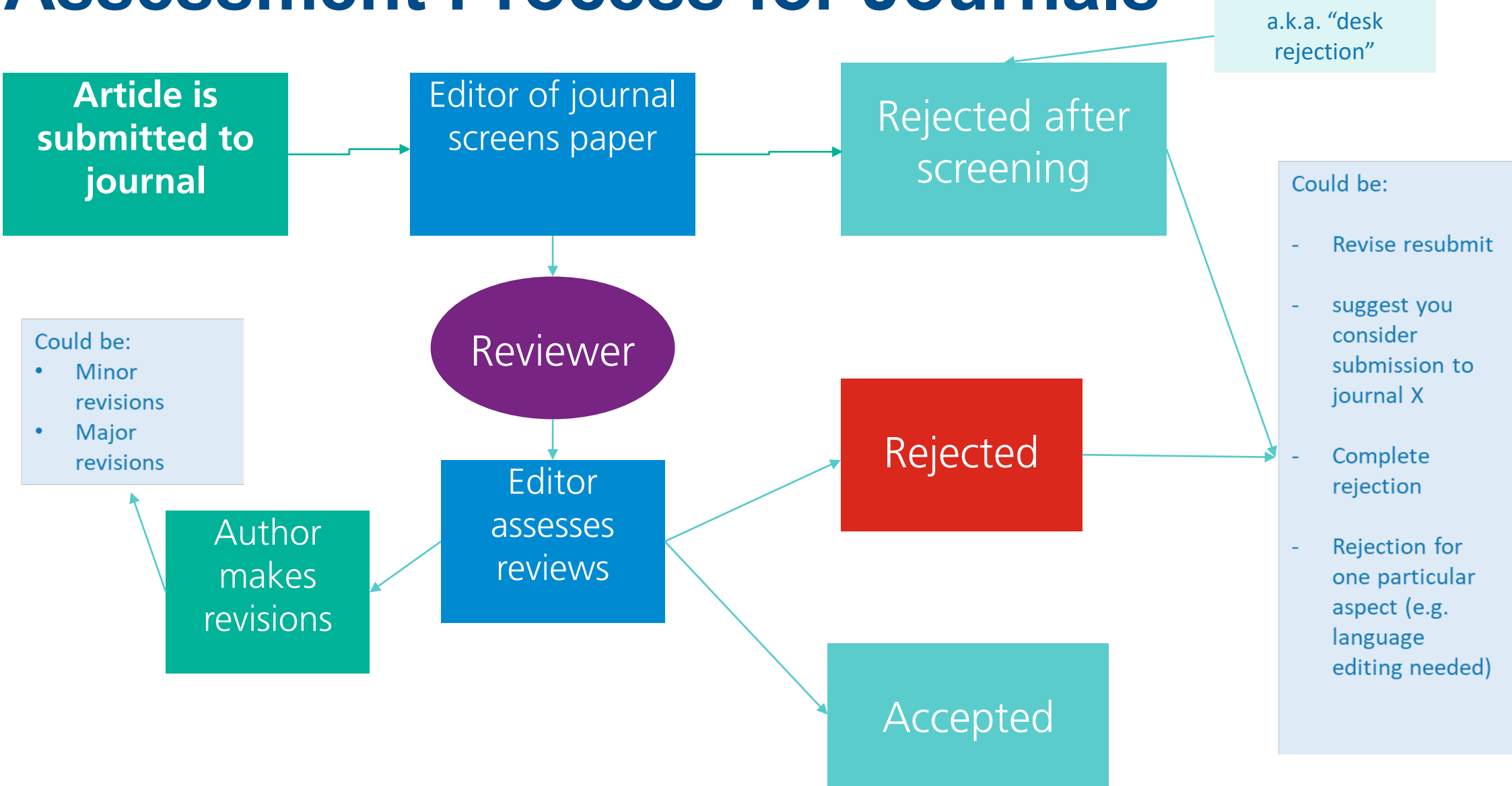
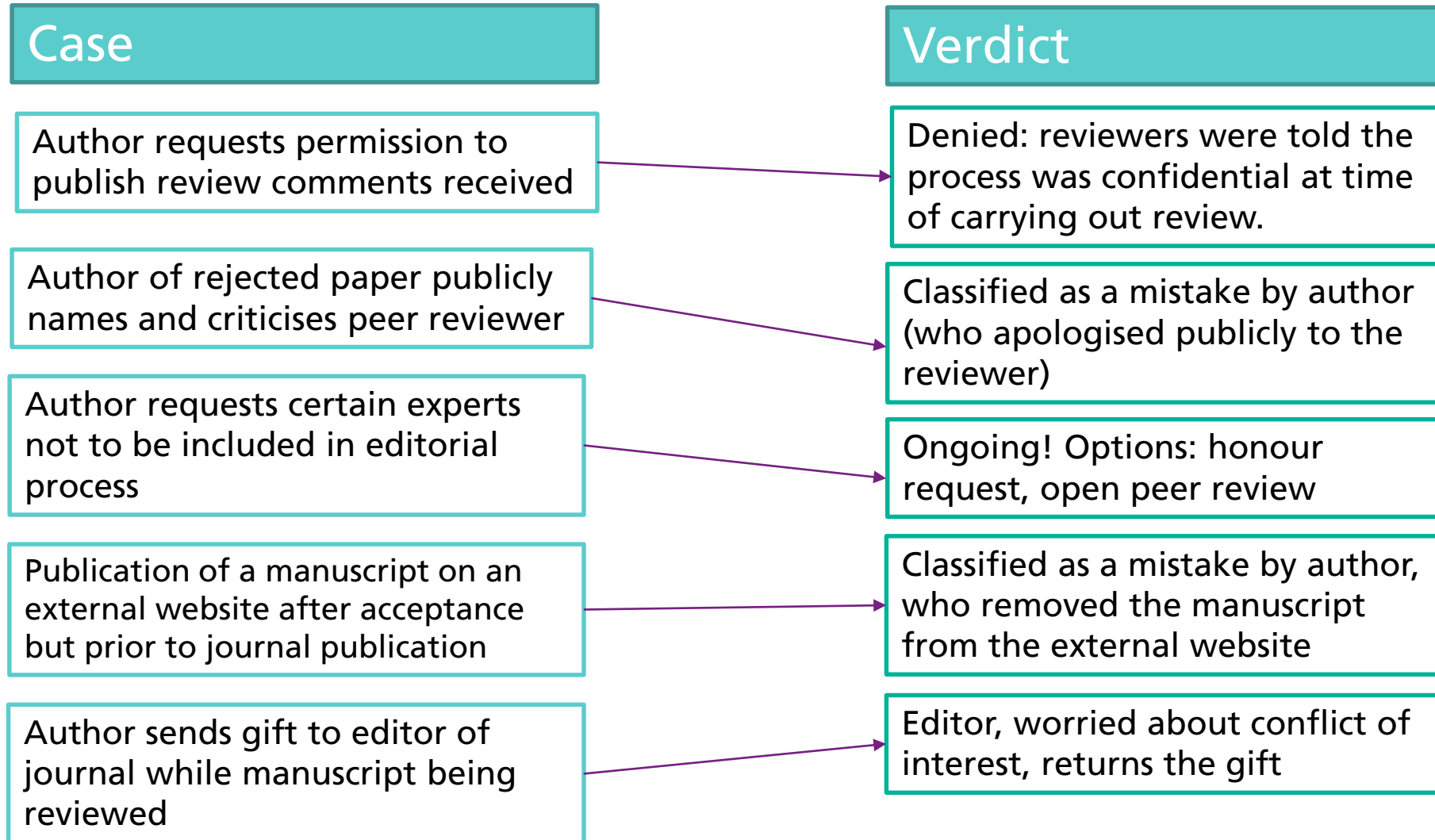# How should I respond to comments of reviewers?

- Be respectful and **acknowledge** the time and care referees have taken

- **Engage** positively and constructively with criticisms. Do not be defensive or aggressive

- **Respond** either by common themes in referee reports or take each report in turn

- Indicate what you agree with, what you disagree with and what changes if any you would **propose** to make

PUBLISHING ETHICS

Publishing Ethics

Cambridge University Press is a member of Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Case

Author requests permission to publish review comments received

Author of rejected paper publicly names and criticises peer reviewer

Author requests certain experts not to be included in editorial process

Publication of a manuscript on an external website after acceptance but prior to journal publication

Author sends gift to editor of journal while manuscript being reviewed

Verdict

Denied: reviewers were told the process was confidential at time of carrying out review.

Classified as a mistake by author (who apologised publicly to the reviewer)

Ongoing! Options: honour request, open peer review

Classified as a mistake by author, who removed the manuscript from the external website

Editor, worried about conflict of interest, returns the gift

Publishing Ethics

Ethical issue	Author responsibilities
× Duplicate submission	✓ Confirm work in the submitted manuscript has not been submitted elsewhere
× Plagiarism or inadequate citing	✓ Ensure that all work in a submitted manuscript is original and that you acknowledge content reproduced from other sources.
× Non-disclosure of conflicts of interest	✓ To declare any potential conflicts of interest.
× Significant errors in publication	✓ Notify the publisher if a significant error in publication is identified
× Not conforming to national, local and institutional laws and requirements	✓ Studies involving human or animal subjects should conform to national, local and institutional laws and requirements
× Copyright issue	✓ Obtain permission to reproduce content such as images, maps, figures, musical examples etc.

SUPPORT FOR RESEARCHERS & AUTHORS

Journal Recommendation Services

- Cambridge University Press (partnered with AJE):

  www.cambridge.org/academic/author-services/services/journal-recommendation/

- Other publishers / service providers
  - Wiley's Journal Finder
  - Taylor & Francis Journal Suggester
  - Elsevier JournalFinder
  - Springer Nature Journal Suggester
  - Cactus Editage Journal Selection

- Search Web of Science database / Scopus for the top journals if your institution have subscribed to it

Editing/Translation Services

- We partner with AJE to provide language editing, translation, formatting and figures services

- 420 area of studies with > 1,000 qualified editors

- editors are native English speakers, with Masters/PhD/MD from top research universities and a specialist in your discipline

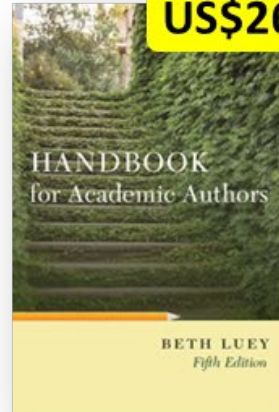- More details here: www.cambridge.org/academic/author-services/

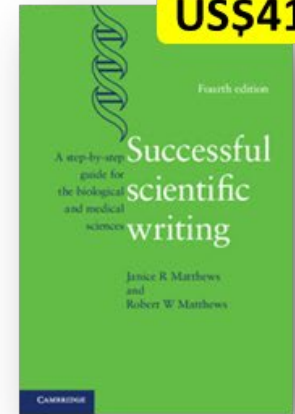# Useful Books for New Authors
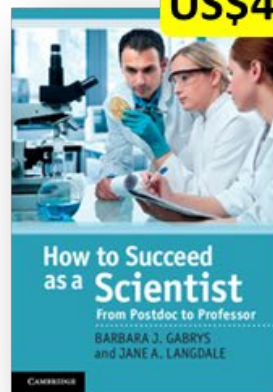
US$35
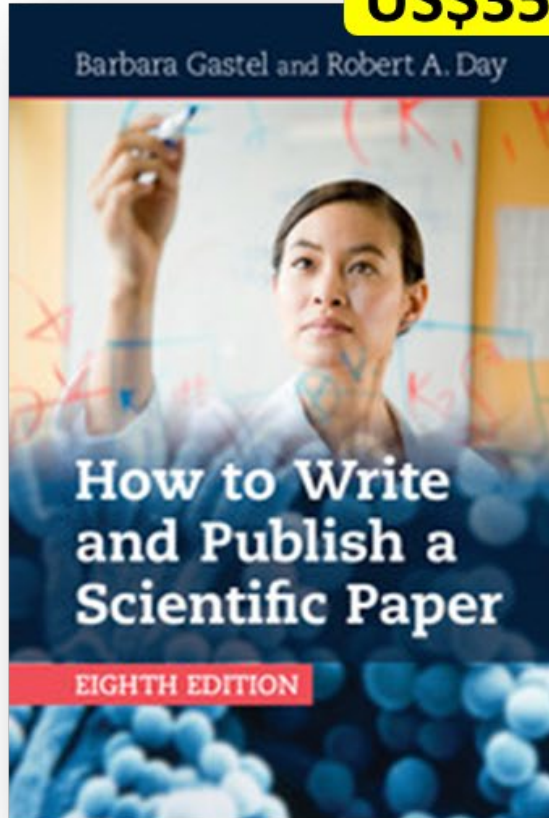
Day and Gastel
9781316640432

US$26

Luey
9780521144094

US$30
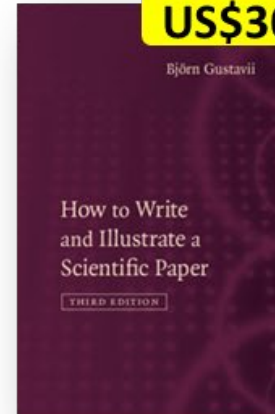
Gustavii
9781316607916

US$41

9781107691933

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Gabrys & Langdale
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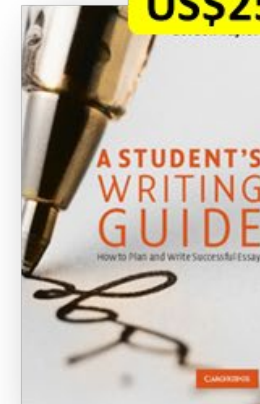
Taylor
9780521729796

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The collaborative site to upload, share and advance your research

Cambridge Open Engage is the new early content platform from Cambridge University Press, designed to provide researchers with the space and resources to connect and collaborate with their communities, and rapidly disseminate early research. It is free to upload and read content.

www.cambridge.org/engage/coe/public-dashboard

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