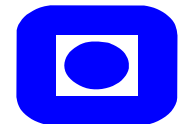# The Editor and reviewer roll
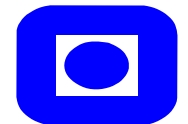
Agnar Johansen

21.10.2020

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The Editor and reviewer roll

- How to get your excellent papers published in PM journals (Locatelli, Huemann)
  - 3 top tip

- What is the job to and editor/reviewer and why should you consider to take on this job (is not payed ☺)
  - Example - review

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Top tip 1 – read the call and format the paper as required

Addressing Editors

Cite the last 3 years ⟶

- Format the papers as required

- Write the cover letter

- Show that your read the journal

- You can email the editors in advance!

Dear Prof. XXX

My colleagues and I have just completed a major research project, and are interested in submitting our paper to the journal. We already prepared a draft and we were wondering if the topic and our approach to the research is suitable for your journal. Please see an extended abstract enclosed to this email.

We kindly ask for your informal feedback whether the topic, methodology and findings are appropriate for XXX

We understand that you are incredibly busy and we are grateful for your time in writing the feedback.

Quantitative Research Submissions to *Project Management Journal*®

Gary Klein[1], Ralf Müller[2]

Project Management Journal, vol. 50, 3: pp. 263-265. , First Published April 3, 2019.

Abstract

Qualitative Research Submissions to *Project Management Journal*®

Ralf Müller[1], Gary Klein[2]

Project Management Journal, vol. 50, 1: pp. 3-5. , First Published January 24, 2019.

Abstract

What Constitutes a Contemporary Contribution to *Project Management Journal*®?

Ralf Müller[1], Gary Klein[2]

Project Management Journal, vol. 49, 5: pp. 3-4. , First Published August 17, 2018.

Abstract

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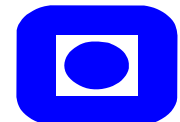
Top tip 2 – ask for help (work and wright in teams)

- Find a "Paper buddy" to exchange papers

- Statistics is hard! Ask an expert

- Write with people that already published in the journal ON THAT TOPIC

- Ask the editors! Email them, sometimes they respond ;-)

- Ask an expert of the discipline (look at your references!)

- Pay a proof-reader
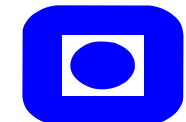
Top tip 3 – Don't aim for the nobel prize on your first paper

- Look for the right journal
  - What has been published in the last 3 years
  - What's the aim
  - Typical structure
  - If your research is too technical, go to a technical journal

- Submit a good draft to a good conference: EURAM, EGOS, AoM, IPMA, BAM...

- Write the paper, leave it there 1 months, read it again

- Abstract, Intro and conclusions must be PERFECT

- If your paper is a contribution to theory work hard on the discussions

- Make it easy to read: break long sentence, avoid acronyms, clear subjects etc

International Journal of
Project Management
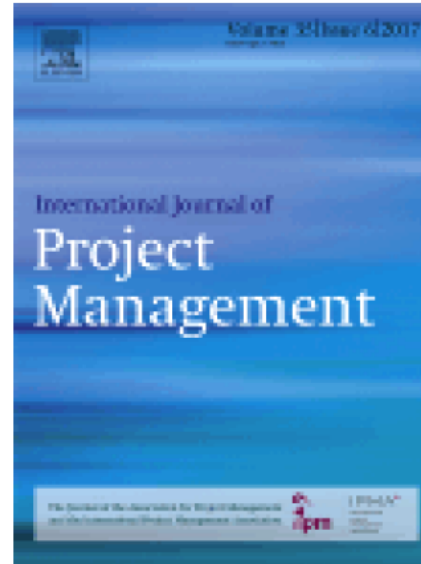
Publisher: Elsevier, APM and IPMA

Established: 1983
8 issues per year: 10-12 papers per issue
Submissions per year: about 1.200
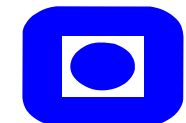Acceptance rate: about 5-6%

Impact factors 2018
4.694 (2y); 5.617 (5y)
30/217 Management

CiteScore 2018: 6.41
11/351 Business and International Management

8/169 Management of Technology & Innovation

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The editor role

- Gate keeper! – What should go to review ?
    - Reads – title, abstract, introduction, Methodology and Conclusion

- "Judge" and mentor to the authors

- First formal checks
    - Formatting guideline, eg double spaced, figures in the text.
    - Blinded version
    - Similarity check
    - Language

- Content checks
    - Topic fit, scope
    - Style of writing
    - Engaging in current (PM) journal literature
    - Theoretical lens
    - Contribution to theory
    - Soundness of methodology
    - Practical relevance

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The editor role – first And second round

- Reads the paper

- Final decision on borderline submissions

- Select reviewers

- Reads reviews and bases his/her decision on the reviews and own opinion

- Decisions
  - Moderate/ Major Revision
  - Borderline Major Revision with high risk
  - Borderline Reject (you are allowed to submit a completely reworked paper)
  - Reject (look for a different journal)

- Gives guidance to the authors

- Revised paper comes back

- Reads the paper
  - Authors need to make changes transparent and traceable

- Send revised paper to the same reviewers

- Based on the reviews and his/her own opinion

- Decisions
  - Minor Revision
  - Moderate Revision
  - Major Revision
  - Reject (look for a different journal)

- Gives guidance to the authors

- Further rounds, IJPM 3 revisons
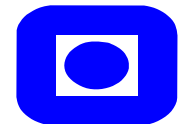
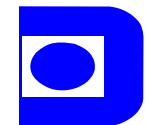# How to respond to the reviewers – be polite , remember they are doing this on the spare time ☺

- Read carefully

- Distribute the work

- If you disagree on some points explain why – reviewers can be wrong

- Ask for examples of "Answer to review" documents

ADDRESSING REVIEWER COMMENTS BAD REVIEWS ON YOUR PAPER? FOLLOW THESE GUIDE-LINES AND YOU MAY YET GET IT PAST THE EDITOR:

Reviewer comment:
"The method/device/paradigm the authors propose is clearly wrong."

How NOT to respond:
✗ "Yes, we know. We thought we could still get a paper out of it. Sorry."

Correct response:
✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, as the focus of this work is exploratory and not performance-based, validation was not found to be of critical importance to the contribution of the paper."

Reviewer comment:
"The authors fail to reference the work of Smith et al., who solved the same problem 20 years ago."

How NOT to respond:
✗ "Huh. We didn't think anybody had read that. Actually, their solution is better than ours."

Correct response:
✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, our work is based on completely different first principles (we use different variable names), and has a much more attractive graphical user interface.

Reviewer comment:
"This paper is poorly written and scientifically unsound. I do not recommend it for publication."

How NOT to respond:
✗ "You #&@*% reviewer! I know who you are! I'm gonna get you when it's my turn to review!"

Correct response:
✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, we feel the reviewer did not fully comprehend the scope of the work, and misjudged the results based on incorrect assumptions."

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Example – what should a reviewers give as a response to the editor?

Report 1

	High	Average	Low	No Answer
Originality / Novelty	( )	(x)	( )	( )
Significance of Content	( )	( )	(x)	( )
Quality of Presentation	( )	(x)	( )	( )
Scientific Soundness	( )	( )	(x)	( )
Interest to the readers	( )	( )	(x)	( )
Overall Merit	( )	( )	(x)	( )

Overall Recommendation
( ) Accept in present form
( ) Accept after minor revision (corrections to minor methodological errors and text editing)
( ) Reconsider after major revision (control missing in some experiments)
(x) Reject (article has serious flaws, additional experiments needed, research not conducted correctly)

English Language and Style
( ) Extensive editing of English language and style required
( ) Moderate English changes required
( ) English language and style are fine/minor spell check required
(x) I don't feel qualified to judge about the English language and style

	Yes	Can be improved	Must be improved	Not applicable
Does the introduction provide sufficient background and include all relevant references?	( )	( )	( )	(x)
Is the research design appropriate?	( )	( )	( )	(x)
Are the methods adequately described?	( )	( )	( )	(x)
Are the results clearly presented?	( )	( )	( )	(x)
Are the conclusions supported by the results?	( )	( )	( )	(x)

Comments and Suggestions for Authors
Authors deal with topic focused on a risks and opportunities management approach for 3 organizations dealing with complex R&D projects, however, this article does not address sustainability issues in any way. I consider this a fundamental reason why I do not recommend publishing this article. The focus of the article does not correspond to the focus of the journal. Moreover, this article does not bring new knowledge and does not significantly contribute to the theory and practice.

	Yes	No
Do you have any potential conflict of interest with regards to this paper?	( )	(x)
Did you detect plagiarism?	( )	(x)
Did you detect inappropriate self-citations by	( )	(x)
Do you have any other ethical concerns about this study?	( )	(x)

Comments for Editors (will not be revealed to authors)
This article does not address sustainability issues.