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Development of editors and assistant editors

Labby Ramrathan

Journal of Education; Springer Series on key thinkers in Educ;
Alternations African Book Series
22 November 2022



EDGEWOOD CAMPUS



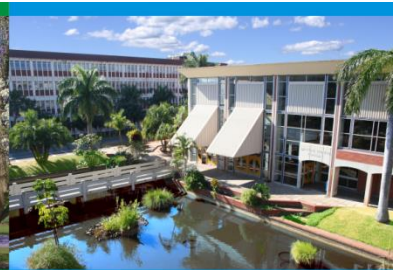
HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS



NELSON R MANDELA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS



WESTVILLE CAMPUS

UKZN – INSPIRING GREATNESS

Structure of presentation

- Introductory comments on becoming an editors – lessons that I learnt
- Technical competence – especially with on-line systems
- Quick review of submission – what should we look for
- Administration and finance
- Managing review process

Introductory comments

- Becoming an editor of a journal
- Excitement/reality dilemma
- Workload re-organization
- Accountability issues – accountability up; accountable to the team, accountability to authors and accountability to readers/scholars
- Scope of the journal – are we clear what the scope is? How often should the scope of the journal be reviewed?
- Bring a new perspective to editing (identity as an editor) – reviewing the editorial team and editorial board
- When and how do we end a wave (cycle) of publications in a particular focus area – e.g. articles published on COVID-19 in relation to T&L ?

Technical competence for on-line platforms

- Knowing the system intimately
- Awareness of updates

Quick submission review: what should we look for?

- Articles located within the focus of the publication (journal/book/report)
- Ideas built up/extend/critique of papers published by the journal in its previous editions
- Recency of information
- Dealing with a topical/current issue that has national/global/sectoral attention/interest
- Innovation in ideas/methodology/context
- Length
- Range of article type
- Special edition

Managing and mediating reviewers' comments

- Title and purpose of paper
- Coherence and clarity of focus
- Development of paper – logical development from purpose to conclusion
- Adequacy and recency of literature
- Methodology
- Clarity and relevance of claims/arguments made
- Evidence supporting claims/arguments made
- Coherence between focus, claims, evidence, conclusion
- Technical details relating to language, writing styles, paragraphs, subsections, references

Quick review of manuscript – what should we look for?

- Backward mapping – my preference
- Purpose statement
- Three (perhaps four) things the author/s want to say through their paper
- Explain how they arrived at the three/four things they want to say
- Methodology
- Evidence
- Locate within current discourse identified through a literature review
- Identified body of knowledge they are making a contribution to
- Contextualise paper (background info showing relevance and interest)
- Establish coherence between purpose, claims, evidence, literature, conclusion

Academic writing

- Sentence construction
- Paragraph construction
- Section (sub-section) construction
- Sub-section headings (avoid one word headings)
- Strong/weak arguments
- Types of evidence
- Personal experience
- Empirical evidence (prim/secondary)
- Literature review
- Introduction
- conclusion

Administration and finance of a journal

- Data metrics – keep track of key metrics:
 - Submissions
 - Downloads
 - Citations
 - Author frequency
- Finance
 - APCs
 - Copy edition
 - Administrative and tech support

Reviewing challenges

- Pool of reviewers – concerns about experience, relevant knowledge base and emerging scholars exposure to the discourse
- Time delays in reviewing manuscripts - even though they have agreed to do the review within the time frame
- Delay in receiving the revised manuscript
- Who checks on the revised version

Some parting thoughts

- Be part of the editorial committee before becoming an editor/assistant editor
- Be an active researcher/scholar
- Have earned credibility institutionally and in the research community
- Work collaboratively – especially in decision making related to complex issues
- Don't rush to conclusions in complex issues

Thank you

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Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

ASSAf Research Repository

<http://research.assaf.org.za/>

B. Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) Events

I. Other

2022-11

Annual National Scholarly Editors' Forum (NSEF) Meeting

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11911/259>

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