How to find and reward peer reviewers

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Head of Reviewer Programmes
Taylor & Francis
Finding the right reviewer

- Significant task for editors
- 2016-2018: average 26% of invitations led to a completed review
- Variable across subjects
Matching tools to support editors

JANE:
- PubMed data
- [http://jane.biosemantics.org/](http://jane.biosemantics.org/)

Reviewer Connect:
- Publons and Web of Science
- Currently testing on six journals
Key features of Reviewer Connect

Additional information about publications, ORCiD and possible COI
Trial of Reviewer Connect

What the team select for
- Subject expertise
- 20-150 publications
- Not at the same institution as any of the authors or publishing with them
- Not at the same institution as another invited reviewer
- Primary affiliation not a pharmaceutical company
- Not currently reviewing

Trial outcomes
- 27% of reviewers checked invited by the team
- Varied extensively by article/subject area (0-70% suitable)
- Extra information displayed helped use list efficiently
- Email information reliable
Engaging reviewers from other locations

Expanding and increasing the diversity of the reviewer pool is essential

Data from 2016-2017 of reviewers for whom a country was recorded:
• 24% were from the USA
• 5% from China
• 2% from India

But: 60% of invitations to review were accepted by researchers in China and India; USA = 30%
### In-person workshops
- How to be a peer reviewer:
  - Ethics
  - Responsibilities
  - How to assess different articles
  - How to write a report
- Tailored to subject area
- Case study discussion

### Journal experience
- Participants from in-person workshops with enough experience
- Connected to relevant journals where editors interested
- Feedback on 2-3 reports managed by Taylor & Francis team

### Online resources
- Adding to current online resources
- Webinars
- Additional resources in Chinese
What rewards do reviewers want?


Incentives to review:
• Feedback on quality of review
• Certificate
• Published acknowledgement in the journal

Financial rewards ranked poorly, with the exception of personal access to content
Rewarding reviewers at Taylor & Francis

- Publons – integration on approx. 480 journals
- Published acknowledgements
- 30 days free access to online content
- Discount on books
- Reviewer certificates
Thank you

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Supporting Peer Review with Publons

- Tools to help you find and recognize your reviewers

Laura Simonite
Key Account Manager
Publons
The researcher is now at the centre of scholarly communication
Market leading publishers have shifted focus

YESTERDAY
Journal centric

TODAY
Researcher centric

Paywalled content

Author Services

Long-term Relationships
And Reviewers are at the heart of that community

★ Reviewers ARE your community – they are your authors and your readers too.

★ Efficient review reduces editor burden and associated costs.

★ Reviewers are the front line in defending against fraud and retractions.

★ Expert, motivated reviewers drive up the overall quality of your publications.
...but lack incentives to review

- Fragmented recognition
- No evidence of the extent of a reviewers’ contribution or impact
- Limited engagement post-review
- Overworked reviewer
- Stagnant, shrinking pool
- Difficult to find and motivate reviewers
Reviewer expect a better experience

Centralised recognition of their work as evidence of their subject expertise

A positive, memorable experience of contributing to their community

Ongoing engagement and relationship with their editors
And we know that things are getting harder for editors too

What’s the hardest part of being an editor?

Finding reviewers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Getting reviewers to accept invitations</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finding qualified reviewers</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
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*Publons survey of 400 journal editors*
Publons Reviewer Recognition

- Historical recognition
- Rich, researcher profiles
- Publisher dashboard
- Post review engagement
- Seamless integrations

Publons Reviewer Connect

Web of Science Group
10m+ authors (Web of Science)

Publons
800k+ reviewers
4m reviews
Reviewer profile and availability
Partnering with Taylor & Francis

Taylor & Francis on Publons

160k Reviews
55k+ Reviewers
487 Journals
31.8% Uptake Rate

Site-wide

4m+ Reviews
800k+ Reviewers
3,500+ Journals
100+ Publishers

2017
30 journal pilot

2018
250 journal expansion

2019
500+ journal expansion
Reviewer Connect pilot
Helping T&F take a holistic approach to peer review

“Publons contributes to the recognition of an important part of the researcher’s work that before was mostly forgotten.” – May 2019

“It’s nice that Publons offers a way to get some level of recognition for a scientific function that is mostly taken for granted in the scientific community. I really like that Publons also tries to look at quality and not only quantity of reviews.” – March 2019

“Publons is a very efficient tool for promoting excellence in science.” – January 2019

"Nice to have some recognition for the quiet work we do!” - January 2019
Thank you

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Referees and/in/of Regional Studies

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Regional Studies journal

• Flagship journal of the Regional Studies Association
• 800 submissions and 12 issues annually
• International, interdisciplinary and spatial
Identifying referees

1. Make task smaller
2. Delegate to experts
3. Divide referee responsibilities
4. Use networks, searches and tools
Rewarding referees

- Inform
- Respect
- Public recognition
- Award
- Promote
Continuing challenges

• Local knowledge
• New topics
• Increasing demand
• Increasing competition
Thank you!

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