

Overview of Why Peer Review is Important for BAO Journals

Peer-reviewed journals use this process to help ensure good science is presented in an acceptable published version. While it must be acknowledged that peer review is not always perfect, at its best, peer review is objective, and carried out in journals of good reputation. Editorial reviewers act as referees to maintain high standards of publication, help make decisions about the acceptability of manuscripts submitted to the journal for potential publication, and shape manuscripts into acceptable, professional finished products. The degree of acceptability will typically vary, and thus the editorial decision will range.

Ideally, we want to work with authors to help them produce high quality manuscripts. Reviews of manuscripts submitted to the journal should be thorough, constructive, and incisive.

Invitations, Submissions, and Typical Topics for the Journal

Manuscripts arrive for consideration at the journals via several routes, and are typically sent out to two independent reviewers. Some of these are invited specifically by a reviewer, an associate editor, or the lead editor. Any reviewer, AE, or lead editor who has a conflict of interest should indicate the nature of the conflict, so that we can assign reviewers appropriately. The action editor will make a final editorial decision. In the event that an action editor feels that two conflicting reviews place him or her in a conflict of interest (e.g., due to past professional or personal relationship), then the decision should be made by lead editor. In the event that the lead editor has a conflict of interest, then the manuscript should be sent out to another reviewer for a third review.

Another way in which manuscripts are submitted is in response to a call for a special topics issue of the journal. Typically, such calls are made on the BAO journal listserv, as well as on any appropriate listservs related to the topic. Such open invitations are general in nature, and will have a definite deadline by which to submit a manuscript so that publication can occur in a timely manner.

Finally, manuscripts are submitted by individuals to the journal. These should be sent to the associate or lead editor for consideration, and then the associate editor will send out the manuscript for review.

The typical topics covered in BAO journals include (but are not limited to) the following: Abnormal Psychology; Alcoholism & Drug Addiction/Addictive Disorders; Behavior Modification; Child Psychology; Education; Experimental Psychology; History of Psychology; Industry & Organization / Occupational Psychology; Language/Verbal Behavior; Learning & Conditioning; Motivation; Psycholinguistics; Psychopathology, Speech pathology.

When in doubt about a topic or guideline, please contact the lead editor for the individual journal, which can be found on the journal website.

Expected Timeline for Editorial Decisions and Reviews

Typically, lead editors will make final decisions within 1-3 months. Six recommendations may be made by reviewers, with the associate editor making the final decision. These are classified into three types: (a) accept without or with revisions; (b) ask for revision and resubmission; or (c) reject. If a manuscript is accepted, then no further peer review is required. The degree of revision needed for resubmission will determine whether or not additional peer review is needed.

Accept

1. Accept indicates the manuscript should be accepted as is, with no substantial revisions required.
2. Accept with minor revisions indicates some minor changes should be made to the article. These many include things like references that should be added, or minor typographical/grammatical changes (i.e., critical areas relevant to the area that authors may have missed). There is no need for additional peer review if the changes are made.
3. Accept with revisions indicates the manuscript should be accepted for publication, but the authors should make specific structural, systemic grammatical/typographical changes, or minor conceptual/theoretical revisions before final publication. There is no need for additional peer review if the changes are made.

Resubmit

4. Major revision, and resubmit indicates a neutral stance on the article. It suggests that with some work the authors could make the article publishable. With this decision the authors must revise the manuscript in the manner fashioned by the reviewer. When this manuscript returns it will be sent to the same associate editor to determine if the changes have been made.

Reject

5. Reject, revise, and resubmit indicates the manuscript should not be accepted for publication; however, if it were revised, it could become acceptable. With this decision, the authors must resubmit the manuscript and it will go through the review process again. The same associate editor and reviewers will usually evaluate this resubmission.
6. Reject indicates the article should not be accepted for publication. The reasons for this are many, including a poorly written paper, or whether the paper is appropriate for our anticipated reading audience. Where possible, editors can assist authors by recommending alternative journals for publication, or to revise the paper before submission to correct any gross errors.

**Thank you considering the BAO journals
as your outlet for disseminating your work!**