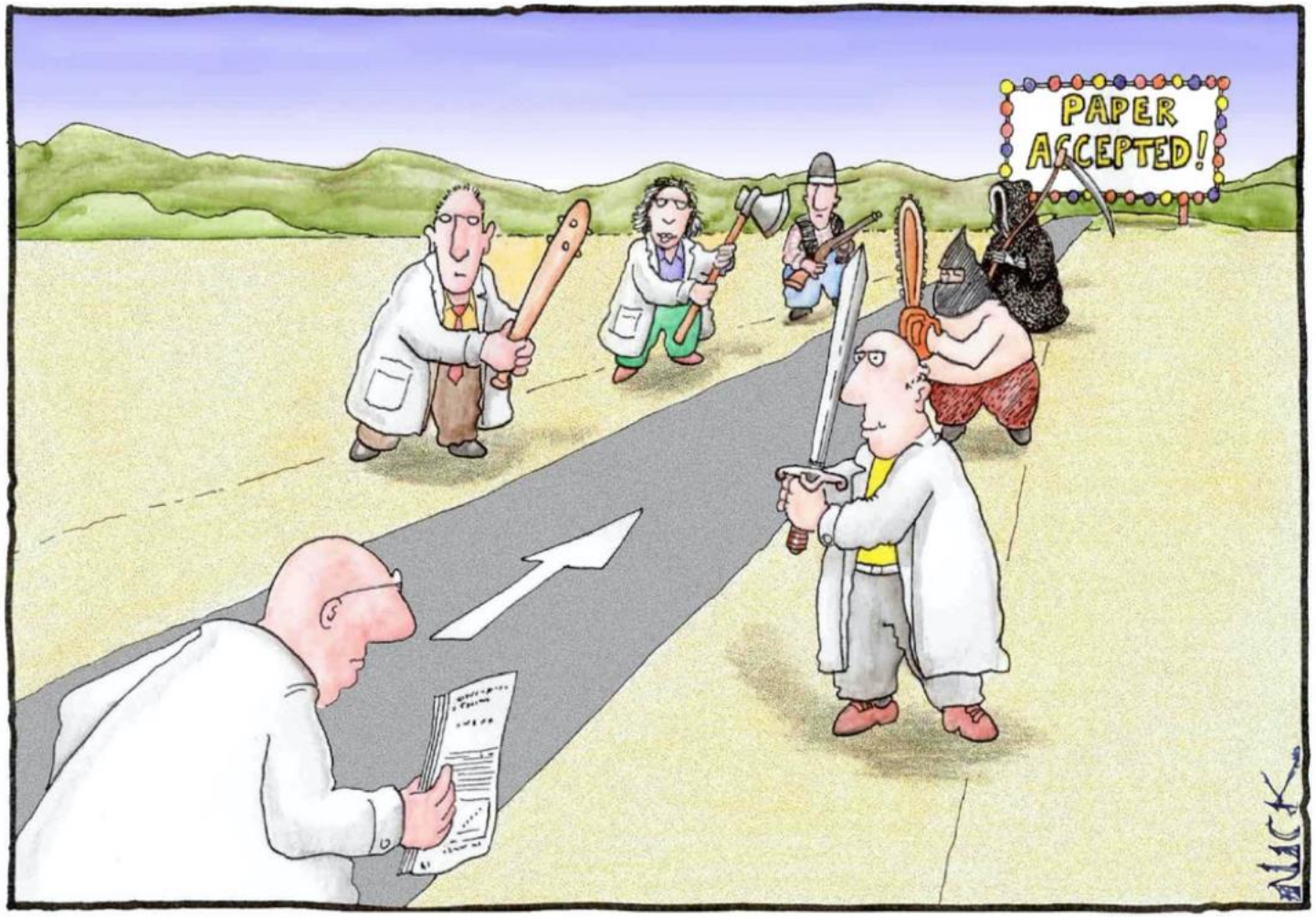
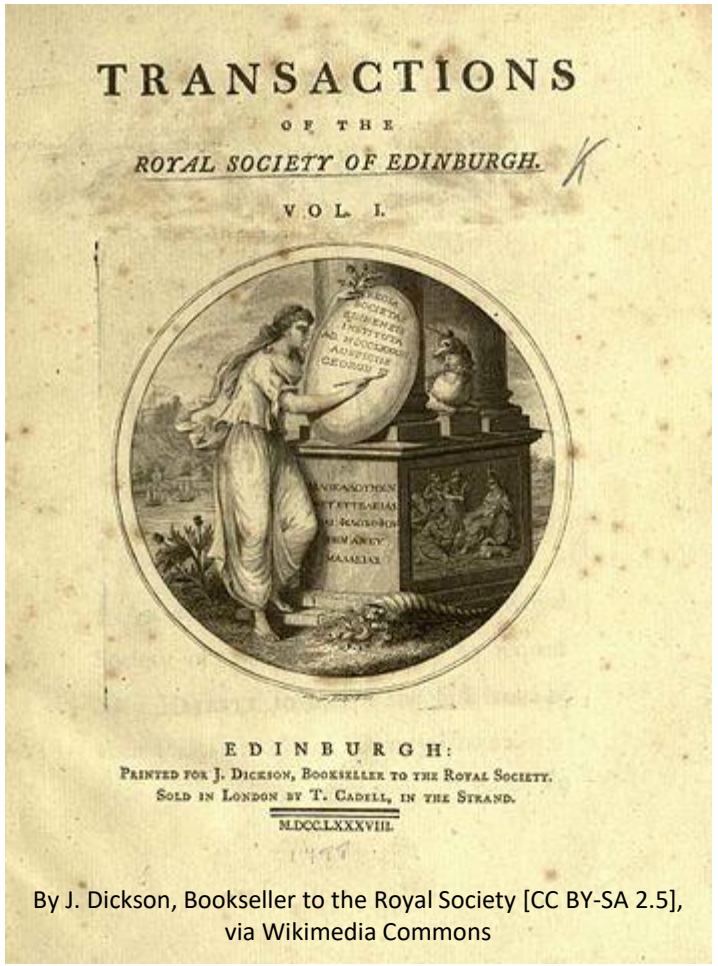
Peer Review

Peer review ***filters*** and ***improves*** content for researchers



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."

When did peer review begin?


TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.
VOL. I.
EDINBURGH:
PRINTED FOR J. DICKSON, BOOKSELLER TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY.
SOLD IN LONDON BY T. CADELL, IN THE STRAND.
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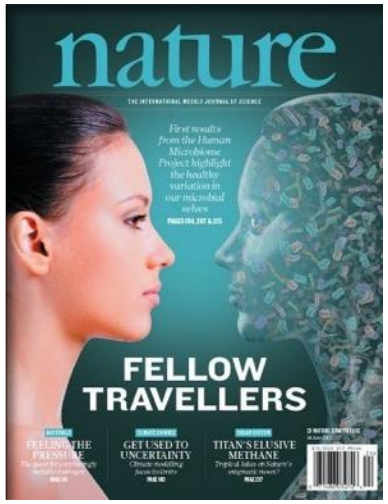
The Royal Society of Edinburgh published a series of peer-reviewed medical articles

But most journals implemented peer review around mid 20th Century

Peer review through 20th Century



1940



1967



1976

How we choose reviewers

Choosing the peer review panel is one of our most important responsibilities

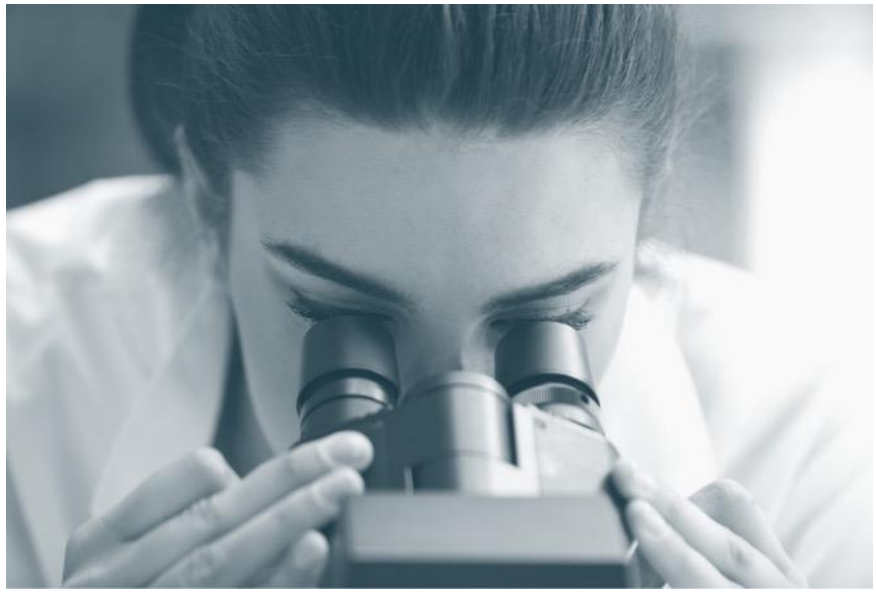
A good peer reviewer has:

- Technical expertise and knowledge of the field
- A fair and constructive attitude
- No conflicts of interest
- Good attention to detail but can also see the big picture
- Familiarity with journal standards

Our editors:

- Seek to increase diversity in the reviewer pool
- Honour author exclusions (within reason)
- Involve as many reviewers as needed; usually three but could be more
- Are alert to inappropriate reviewer behaviour

What reviewers are evaluating



The study



The manuscript

What reviewers are evaluating



The Seven Dwarfs of Peer Review

As experienced by editors

	1	Cursory	Very common and is of no use at all to an editor because of their very short, cursory comments such as ‘this paper is great’, or ‘please publish as is’.
	2	Aggressive	Hates the paper in question (or the author) and so tries to bury the study.
	3	Thoughtful	Comments are thoughtful, in-depth, and provide constructive remarks that enable the author to improve their work.
	4	Jealous	Jealous of authors or feels that he/she has made such a significant contribution with their comments that their name should be added to the study before publication.

The Seven Dwarfs of Peer Review

As experienced by editors

	5	Late	Friendly and ‘quick-to-email’ colleague who is ‘doing the review right now’ or ‘will get this back to you as soon as possible’. It's all talk.
	6	Angry	Reviewers who have been asked to look at papers are then passed over in the journal process if they either take too long or because others return comments more promptly.
	7	Invisible	There are always one or two cases per month of papers for which we simply cannot find anyone to review.

Incentives: The untold story



Status quo

- Approx. 30% of this year's reviewed article output will be subject to incentives
- Incentives are usually limited to the publishers offerings (~85%) and non-cash
- ~ 15% of rewards are cash-based
- Fastest-growing publishers and book publishers tend to invest most into rewards

Vision:

- Rewards should be a re-investment into the publishing ecosystem
- They should be applicable cross-publisher
- They should be transparent and easy to handle

Source: Reviewer Credits 2023

Does that sound familiar?

- Time-consuming reviewer scouting
- Low review acceptance rate
- High reviewer attrition
- Low engagement
- Continuous review delays
- Homogeneous reviewer pool
- Uncertainty over the authenticity of your reviewers

How do you deal with unhappy reviewers?

88%

of reviewers ask for greater recognition

84%

of reviewers ask for at least some career incentives

87%

of reviewers ask for more peer review training while **39%** of reviewers **never received any peer review training** struggling to navigate the process on their own

? Would you really spend 6 hours of hard peer review work without any training, recognition, and reward?

Source: https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-018-06602-y, Aczel, B., Szaszi, B. & Holcombe, A. O. Res. Integrity Peer Review 6, 14 (2021), Hayes, M. & Hardcastle, J. Grant Review in Focus. (Publons, 2019), p. 33, excerpt, LinkedIn, ReviewerCredits 2023

Peer Review will never work again the way it used to

20%

drop in review acceptance rate to 32% continues due to hugely underserved peer reviewers' needs

71%

of reviewers decline review invitations because they are outside their area of interest

75%

of journal editors say that finding reviewers and getting them to accept review invitations is the hardest part of their job

Source: Aczel, B., Szaszi, B. & Holcombe, A. O. Res. Integrity Peer Review 6, 14 (2021), Hayes, M. & Hardcastle, J. Grant Review in Focus. (Publons, 2019), p. 33, excerpt, ReviewerCredits 2023

All-in-one solution by ReviewerCredits

1. Scout
best-fit peer reviewers with proven expertise through customizing your preferences **x10 times faster** with a **100% acceptance rate**.

2. Authenticate
your reviewers via ID, academic emails, and biometrics to protect the integrity of your peer reviews.

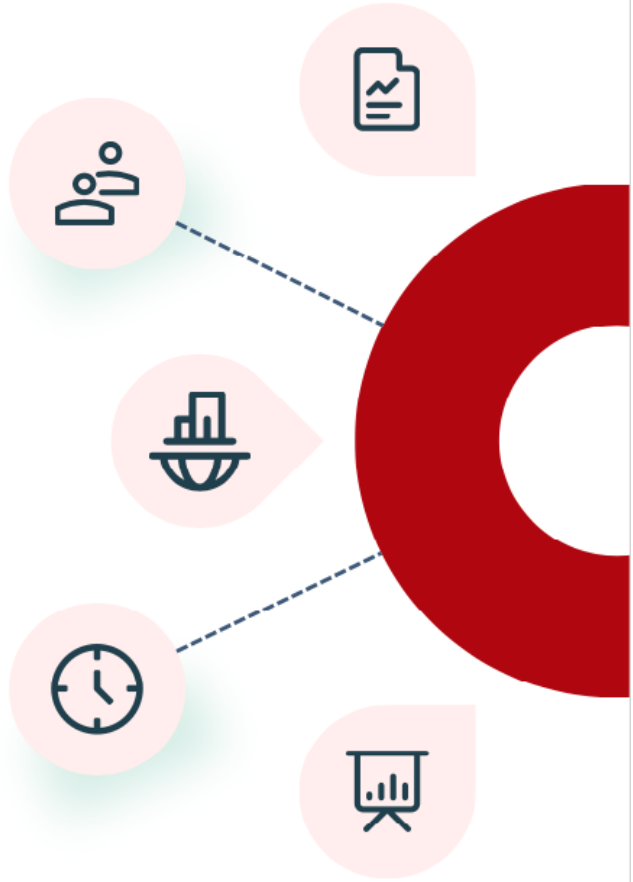
3. Train
your reviewers to strengthen their peer review skills with our unique Power-Up Course and trusted peer review certification.

4. Recognise
your reviewers for their tedious peer review efforts by automatically registering all reviews performed for the past 20 years.

5. Reward
your peer reviewers by granting Reviewer Credits redeemable against services available at unique discounts.

6. Keep track
of reviewer performance and progress on one dashboard with our suite of comprehensive Reviewer Graph and Reviewer Contribution Index (RCI).

7. Get certified
for your peer review process over the years to increase the visibility and credibility of your journal.



How it works

1. Upload the manuscript

You Upload the manuscript (article, book, conference paper) & set up search

2. Find best-fit candidates

We classify meta-data & find best-fit candidates

3. Authenticate reviewers

We onboard and authenticate review candidates

4. Employ reviewers

You employ registered candidates in one-click

5. Track progress

We track reviewers' progress and performance & recognise performed reviews

6 Recognize and reward

You reward the best performers & engage your reviewer pool

Save time with seamless integrations: Transfer your historical and new peer review data automatically from your submission management system via API integrations available for Editorial Manager, OJS, Arpha, Crossref, and more, or using use manual CSV uploads.



25,000+

registered and authenticated reviewers willing to review

65%

continuous engagement level, which is x2 times more than content-based social networks in research

100,000+

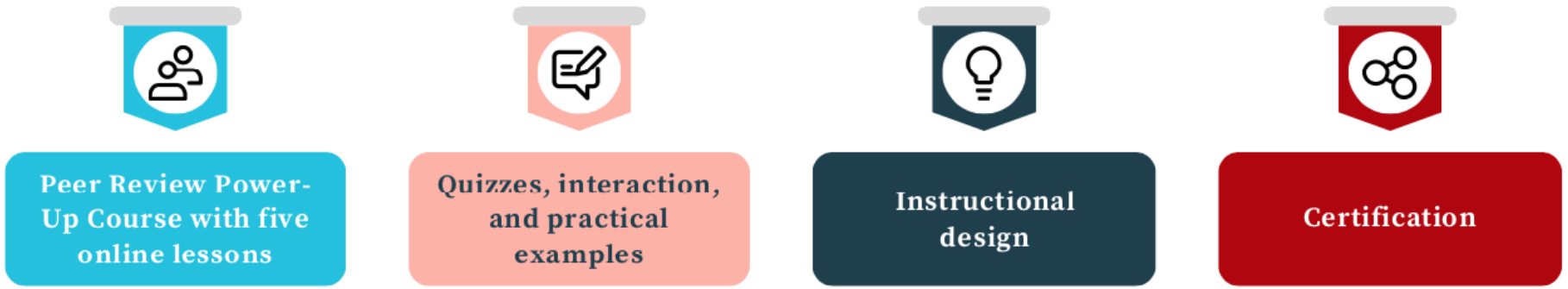
registered and recognised peer reviews

1,400+

registered journals including F1000Research, Journal of Molecular Endocrinology, Psychiatry Research, Science China Materials, The Geological Society of London

Strengthen reviewer skills with our Power-Up Training Course

Leverage training as a key engagement loop to develop early-career researchers into committed reviewers.



Training course engagement and results feed reviewers' Engagement Index and Reviewer Graph.