

Editor Briefing

Dear Editor,

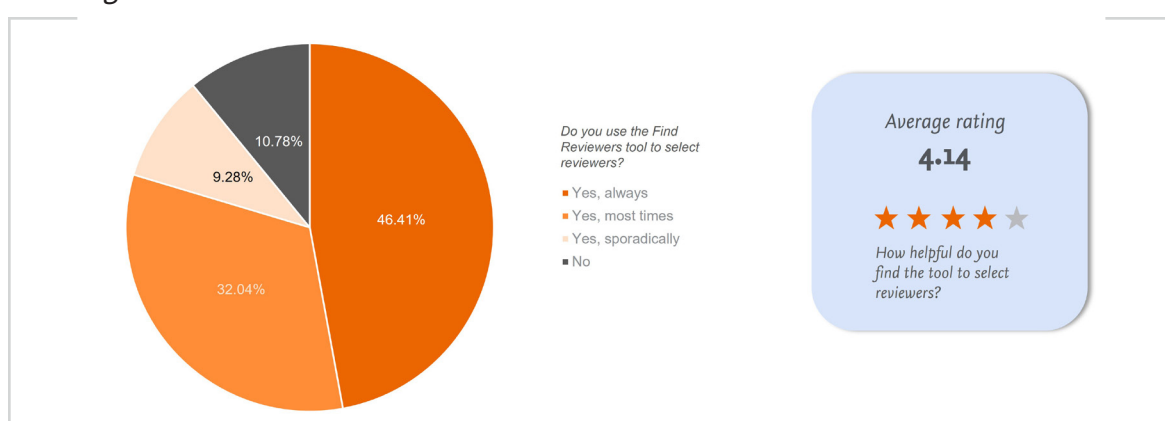
I hope this finds you well and that 2025 is treating you kindly thus far. Following [our earlier Editor Briefing in January](#), I'm pleased to provide an update on the things we've been working on and share some developments, insights and changes which will impact your work as an editor.

A brief word from me

At Elsevier, we are dedicated to responding to the needs of the research community and enhancing the publishing experience, while ensuring research integrity. To do this, we are avid embracers of innovative technologies. You'll see, as a result, that we have lots of exciting improvements in the works, ranging from a simplified submission process (a key item on author wish lists) to innovative on-screen reviewing for referees, to a new tool which aims to identify and prevent unethical research from being published. Read on to find out more!

Empowering you to focus on the science

We recently conducted a survey, to understand how you select reviewers, and how we can better empower you in this regard. It was gratifying to see that over 90% of respondents were aware of the Find Reviewers tool – and to see how highly it is rated. For those of you who aren't regular users, the tool can streamline your reviewer selection process, allowing you to dedicate more time to the content of submissions. We are committed to improving the tool and providing you with resources and training.



We have put together a series of articles [as well as a new “tips” page to help you effectively use Find Reviewers](#) for selecting reviewers and if you would like to share your experiences on how you select your reviewers and provide feedback on how we can improve, [please take our survey today!](#)

Other updates in this area

- » [Read more tips on finding reviewer candidates](#)
- » [See how we're leveraging technology to improve the submission and review process](#)

Collaborating to advance trusted research

Maintaining integrity in all stages of publication process is a top priority, and we are therefore heavily investing both in people and technology. In our previous communications, [we presented pilot projects aimed at preventing unethical papers from entering the submission process](#), allowing you to concentrate on evaluating trustworthy science.

We're pleased to report that the majority of our journals are now utilizing our newly developed “Check Integrity” tool. Although the tool has only been widely available for a short time, we have seen significant positive impact: combined with human validation, it has successfully prevented the publication of thousands of papers that did not meet our publishing ethics criteria. As the tool continues to develop, we will further enhance our ability to identify unethical research, ensuring the integrity of the content we publish and allowing you to save your precious time for trustworthy research.

Other updates in this area

- » [Learn how to approach authorship change requests](#)
- » [“Meet” the head of our research integrity & publishing ethics team](#)

Enhancing the service provided to authors

Over time, submission requirements for many journals have become increasingly complex and time-consuming for authors. Happily, advancements in our systems and processes now allow for a smoother approach. We are currently piloting an enhancement to Editorial Manager that offers authors a simplified, more user-friendly submission process. This “new submission experience” will scale up starting mid-2025 and we are already seeing author satisfaction scores at around 90% (with roughly 1,000 authors sharing their views thus far). Verbatim feedback has likewise been very positive:

“I think the new system is great! It's saving time and effort, accelerating the procedure... The other submission systems should be revised or even discarded.”

“Everything was smooth. I didn't face any challenges. This is the easiest journal I have ever submitted a paper to.”

“Really amazing. It saves our time. Very easy to handle.”

For you, this will mean receiving more complete manuscripts which are immediately ready for peer review. As time progresses, [we will introduce new features and functionalities](#) in the submission system to further improve the quality and suitability of submitted manuscripts. Your publishing contact will keep you updated on what this means for your journal.

You might be aware that we regularly sign new or renew agreements with institutions, consortia, and countries around the world. This generally means that more authors can benefit from free or discounted publishing arrangements in our journals as well as access to our content on ScienceDirect. Two recent examples include [a new Dutch agreement](#), covering 66 Dutch research performing organizations and [one with the Carolina consortium](#) – enabling 17 participating institutions to access the latest high quality scientific content while supporting authors in publishing their work open access. To keep current on these (and our other) agreements – and to see the details – [check out our dedicated webpage](#).

Other updates in this area

- » [Check out the co-submission workflow rolling out this year](#)
- » [Read the latest advice from our latest free Researcher Academy webinar for authors](#)

I hope you've found this update useful. If you have any questions or feedback, please let your regular publishing contact know.

Thank you, as always, for your continued commitment and support.

Laura Hassink
Managing Director, STMJ



Editor Briefing

How helpful was the communication to you?



If you have any questions or suggestions, please write to us:
STMJcommunications@elsevier.com