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E TECNOLOGIE AGRARIE,  
ALIMENTARI, AMBIENTALI E FORESTALI

A walk on the editor side: handling manuscripts and reasons for rejection in a Q1 Food Science Journal.



Prof. Erminio Monteleone

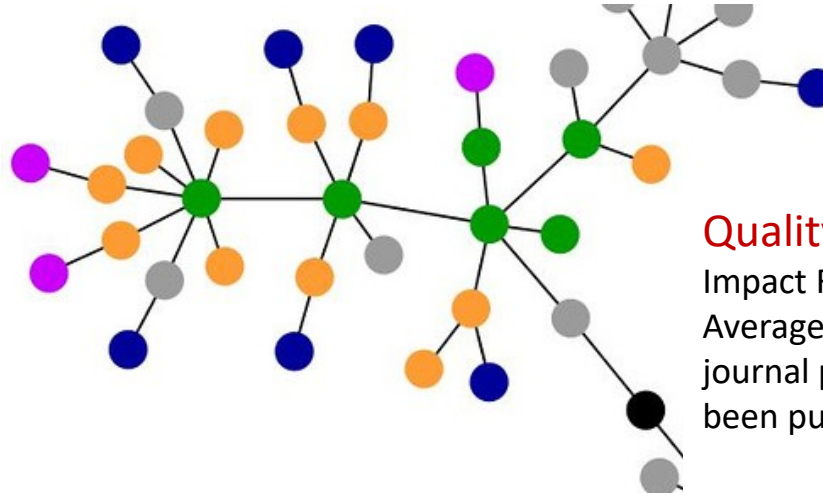
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## How is a Journal organized ?



### People:

Team of editors  
(Main and Associate)  
Usually professor at  
esteemed University

Editorial Board  
Forty – Fifty well known  
researchers from the field

### Aims and scope:

*Food Quality and Preference* is a journal devoted to sensory, consumer and behavioural research in food and non-food products. It publishes original research, critical reviews, and short communications in sensory and consumer science, and sensometrics.

### Quality:

Impact Factor (IF)  
Average number of times articles from a  
journal published in the last two years have  
been published in 2018 and 2019.

$$IF = \frac{\text{All citation in 2018 and 2019}}{\text{All articles in 2019 and 2018}}$$



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Serving as editor it is not killing enemies

What are the responsibilities of an editor ?



Define aim & scope of journal

Advices on strategy and direction of journal

Responsible for Scientific Quality

Decide which papers get published

Coordinates the peer-review process

Communicates with authors and reviewers



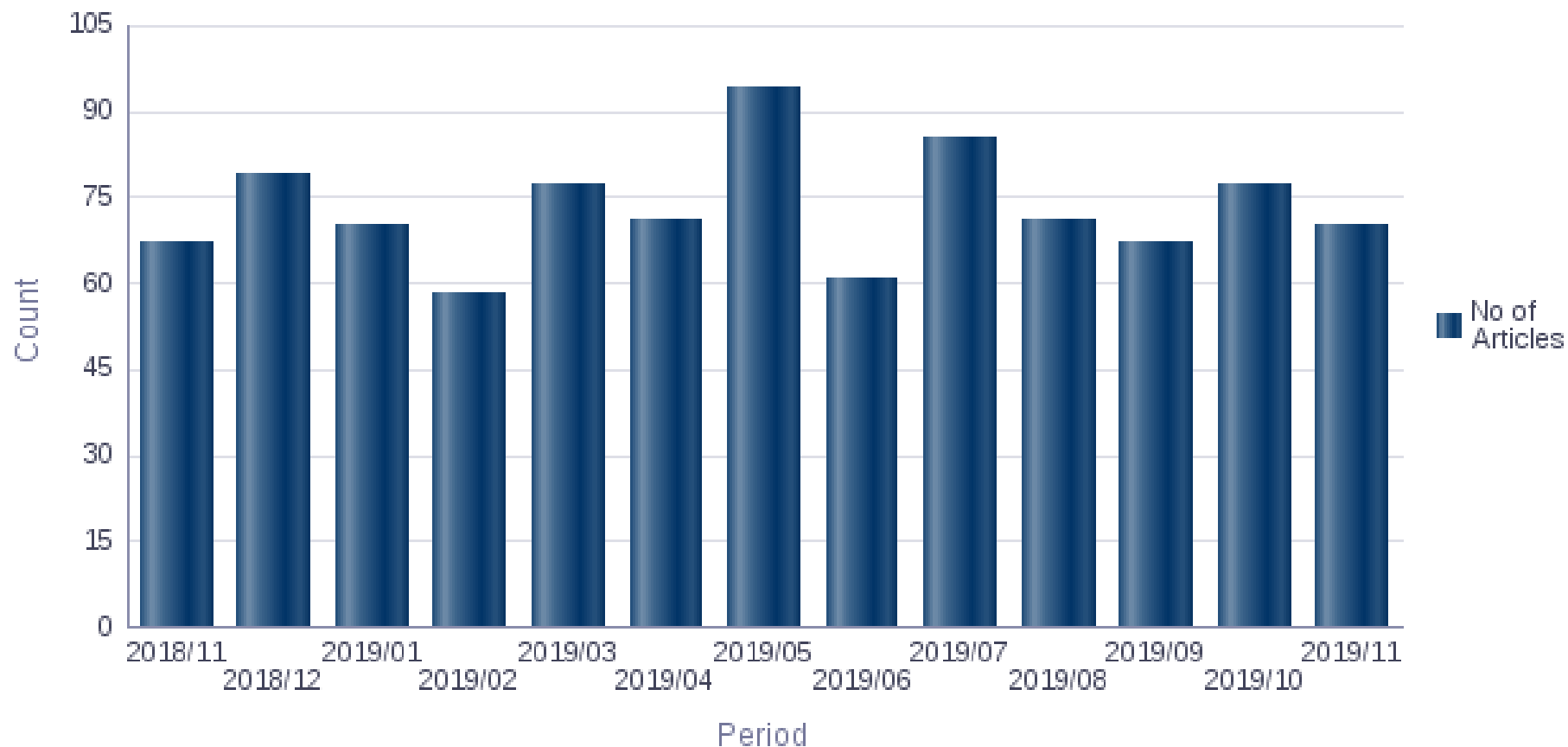
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Serving as editor it is not killing enemies

## Submissions to Food Quality and Preference (count per month in one year time)

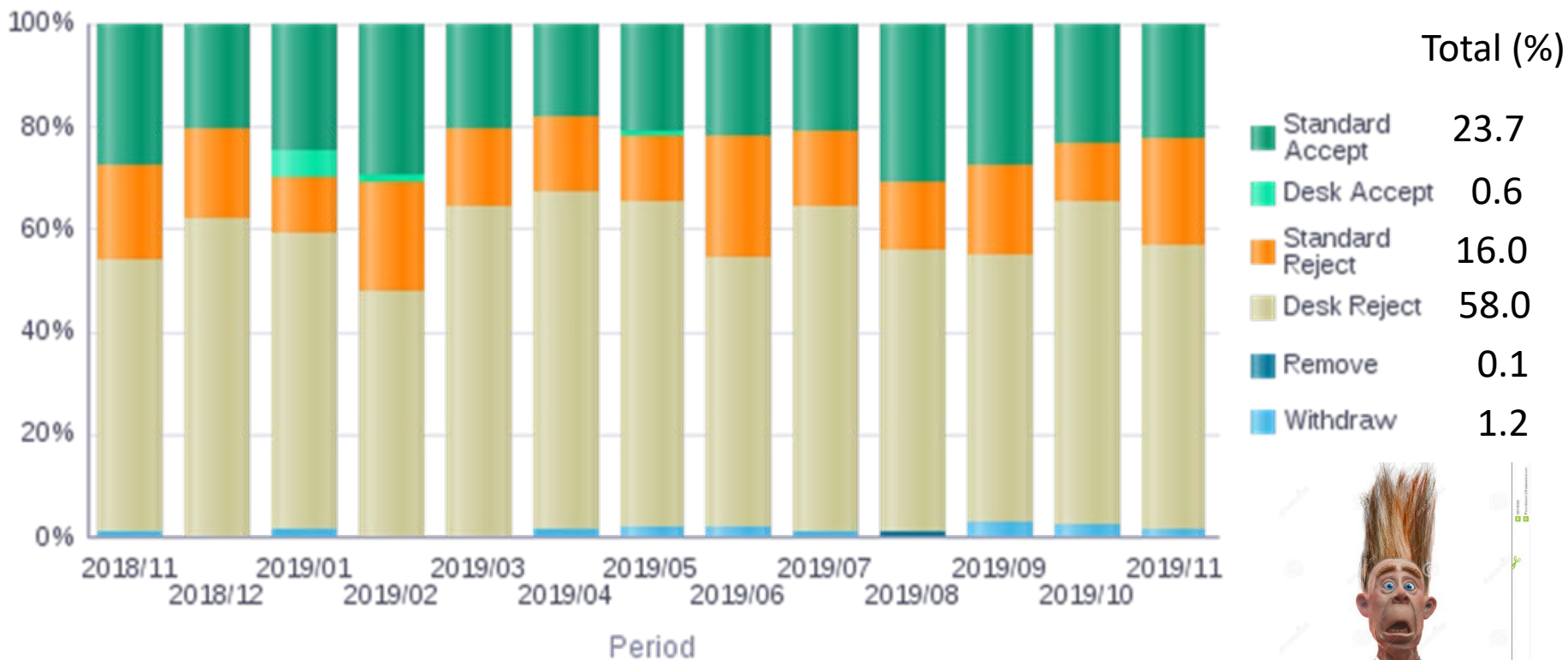


Grand total = 950

Sometime authors attempt on editor's life with poisoning papers for the journal!!!

Rejected and Accepted manuscripts in FQAP  
(% per month in one year time)

Articles



Reject rate (Desk + Standard): 74 %  
Success rate for handled papers: 60%





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...and authors do not even know why they  
tended to kill editors

Why my paper was desk rejected?



bastard!!!



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## Reasons for desk reject



Editor's questions	YES	NO
Does the topic of the paper fit within the journal ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the research pass the <i>So what</i> test?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Out of scope reject

.....Submissions to *Food Quality and Preference* are limited to papers that include some form of human measurement; *papers that are limited to physical/chemical measures or the routine application of sensory, consumer or econometric analysis will not be considered unless they specifically make a novel scientific contribution in line with the journal's coverage as outlined below.*



# Unethical publishing behavior includes:

- Data fabrication and falsification
- Plagiarism

iThenticate Document Viewer - Mozilla Firefox

Google (20) webmail Unifi :: Posta in ar Oversight iThenticate Document Viewer

https://5952f2153628c10646609f4829e786da.ithenticate.com/en\_us/dv/0425?lang=en\_u

02-Apr-2019 02:05AM 6408 words • 78 matches • 44 sources

**iThenticate** SubrevId - 5836415\_FQAP\_2019\_224-An investigation of the Pivot© Profile sensory analysis method: Quotes Excluded 18% Bibliography Excluded SIMILAR

**Match Overview**

1	Internet 187 words crawled on 23-Mar-2018 <a href="#">awtc.com.au</a>	3%
2	Internet 132 words crawled on 11-May-2015 <a href="#">research.agwa.net.au</a>	2%
3	Internet 60 words crawled on 14-Jul-2018 <a href="#">vinolok.cz</a>	1%
4	Internet 52 words crawled on 11-Oct-2017 <a href="#">scholar.sun.ac.za</a>	1%
5	Crossref 47 words D.L. Capone, A. Barker, P.O. Williamson, I.L. Francis. "Th... role of potent thiols in Chardonnay wine aroma", Australian	1%
6	Internet 34 words crawled on 21-May-2014 <a href="#">digital.library.adelaide.edu.au</a>	1%
7	Crossref 26 words K. Šuklje, G. Antalick, C. Meeks, J.W. Blackman, A. Deloire, L.M. Schmidtk. "Grapes to wine: the nexus between bern...	<1%
8	Crossref 26 words Antonio G. Cordato, Mark Solomon, Alex Schullin, Leigh	<1%

**An investigation of the Pivot© Profile sensory analysis method: comparison with descriptive analysis, projective mapping, and results from expert panels**

Wes Pearson<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Leigh Schmidtk<sup>a</sup>, I. Le... Blackman<sup>a</sup>

<sup>17</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>40</sup>

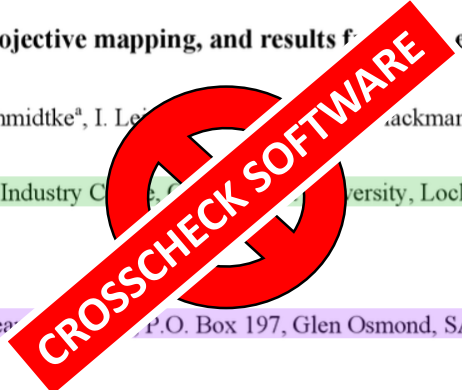
<sup>a</sup>National Wine and Grape Industry C... University, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678, Australia

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## Reasons for desk rejection



Editor's questions	YES	NO
Is the manuscript related to previous research?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the work builds upon the most recent insights?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the paper take into account all relevant international work?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

A close look at the Introduction and List of Reference

Are recent papers included?

Are papers from top-journal included?

Are leading scientists cited ?

Are there too many self-cites ?

Are citations appropriate ?



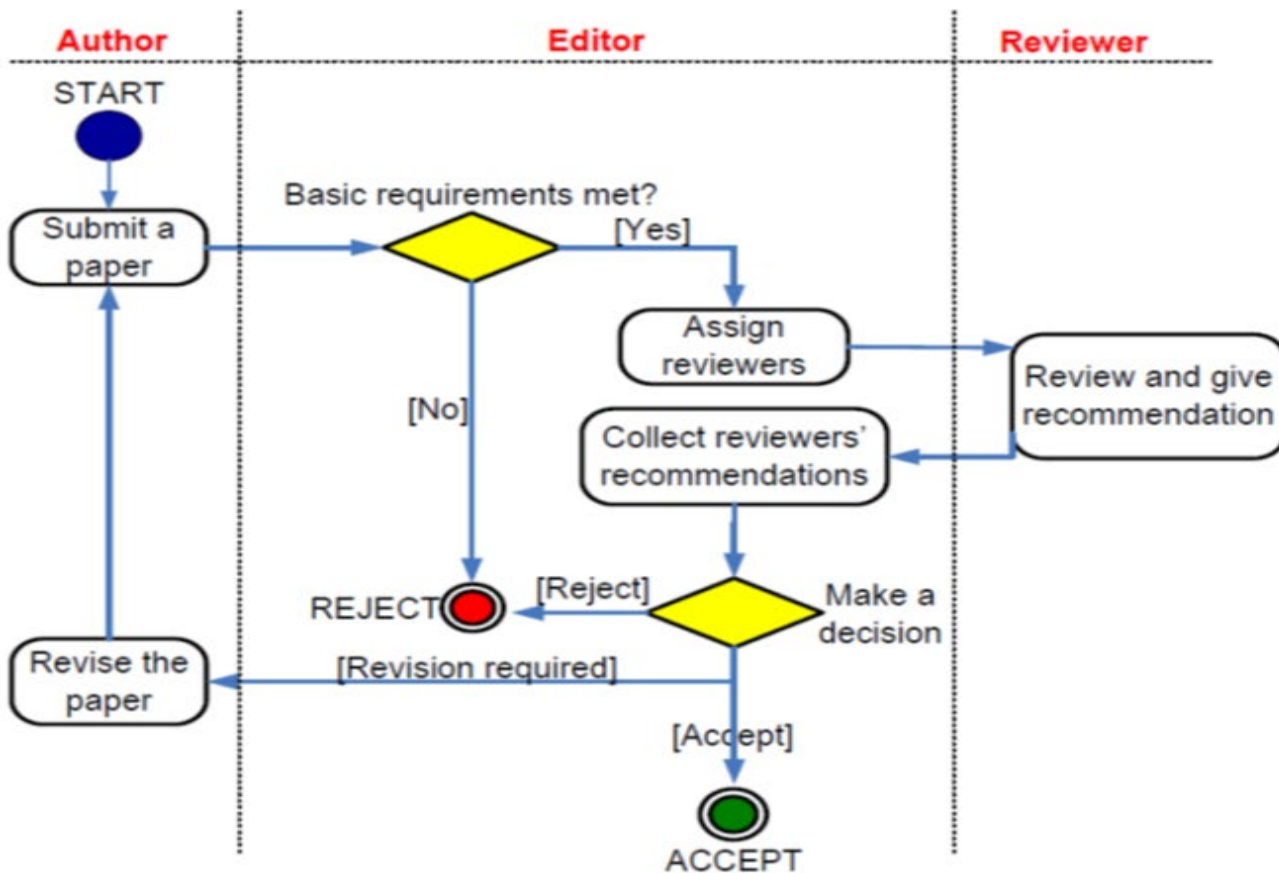
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Handling paper: sending manuscript out for review

## Peer-review process





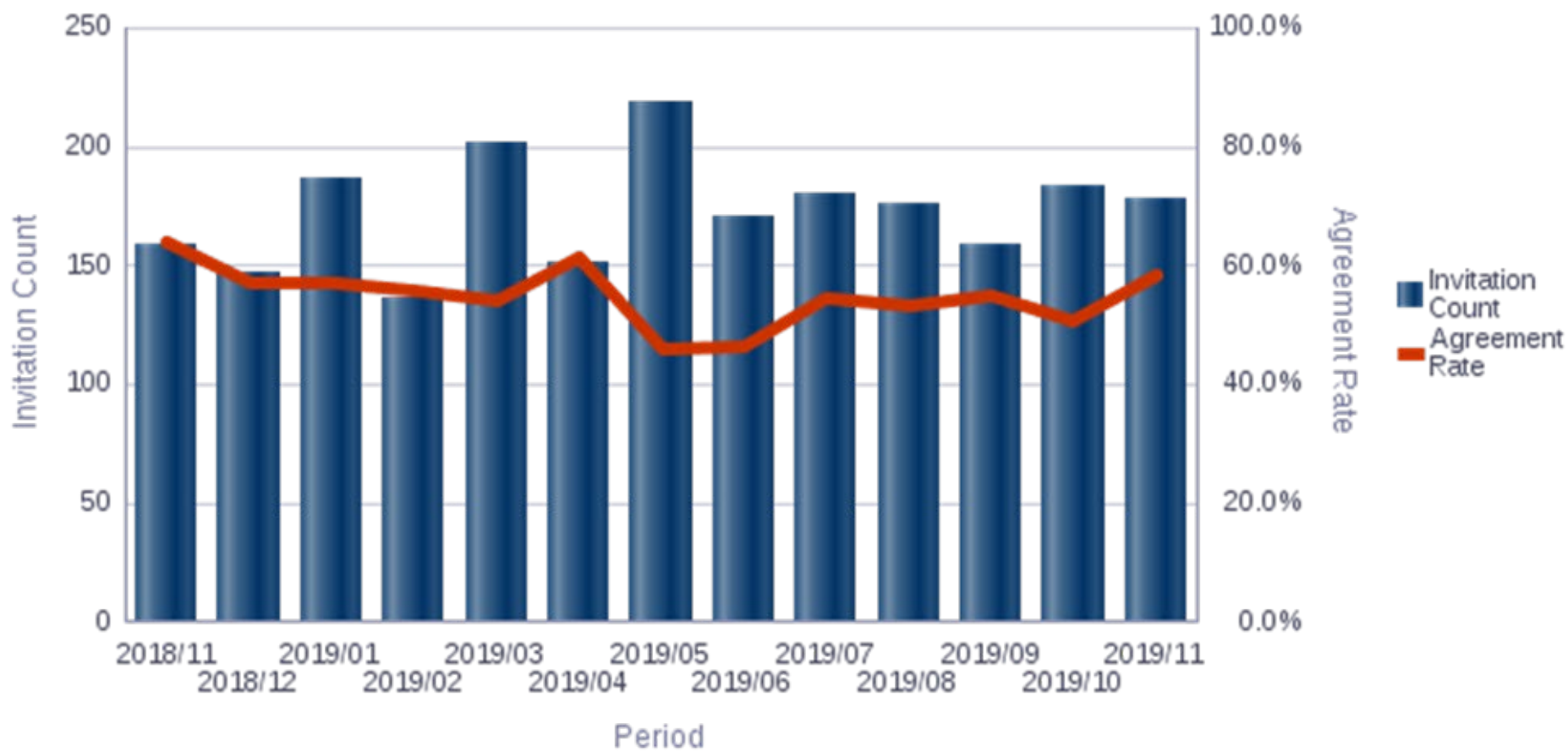
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## Handling paper: sending manuscript out for review

Review invitations in Food Quality and Preference  
(count per month in one year time)





### Suggestions from an experienced editor:

*....."The manner of choosing reviewers can be different for different editors, and it will change as you gain more experience with reviewers and the quality of their reviews, promptness, etc.*

*Personally, I rarely use the reviewers suggested by the authors, unless I have had a large number of declined invitations from my selected reviewers. I also rarely use the EVISE suggestions, because they are too broad.*

*I choose reviewers based on who I think are the best people to review the manuscript, based on my knowledge of that area and/or searching the literature if I'm less familiar with the area.*

*I also do not adhere strictly to the timelines for reviewers to respond or the "alternate reviewer" system, because if I want a certain expert in an area to review the manuscript, I'd rather wait for a reply from that person or keep nudging them, rather than go on to the next person, who may be less qualified to review it".*



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## What to do when reviewers disagree

Referees decision				
accept	reject	minor revision	major revision	Editor decision
*	*			Third referee
*		*		Minor revision
*			*	Major revision
	*	*		Reject/third referee
	*		*	Reject



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## Check list and “comments to make” of an experience reviewer



Questions and comments	YES	NO
Does the topic of the paper fit within the journal ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are title and abstract in line with content?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the introduction clear, balanced and well organized?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the research have a clear rationale and a clear aim ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the experimental design adequate to the aim and correct?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are the results well presented and analyzed ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are reference accurate, up-to-date, accessible?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Comment on importance, validity, generality of the conclusions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>




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## First decision after review : Acceptance, rejection, Revision (minor or major) and Reconsideration



	Accepted “as it is “	Rejection	Revision and reconsideration
Probability	Rare	It happens often	Very frequent
What to do		It happens to everybody	Carefully handle all the points raised by reviewers  Make reviewers as much as possible happy
		Do not despair/cry	
		Try to be critical	
		Do not send the paper as it is to another journal. Revise it first!	
		Read Journal aims and scope and guide for authors.	



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In conclusion: improve your writing skills

... I have got it ! You will not desk rejected my paper again,  
bastard!!!

