

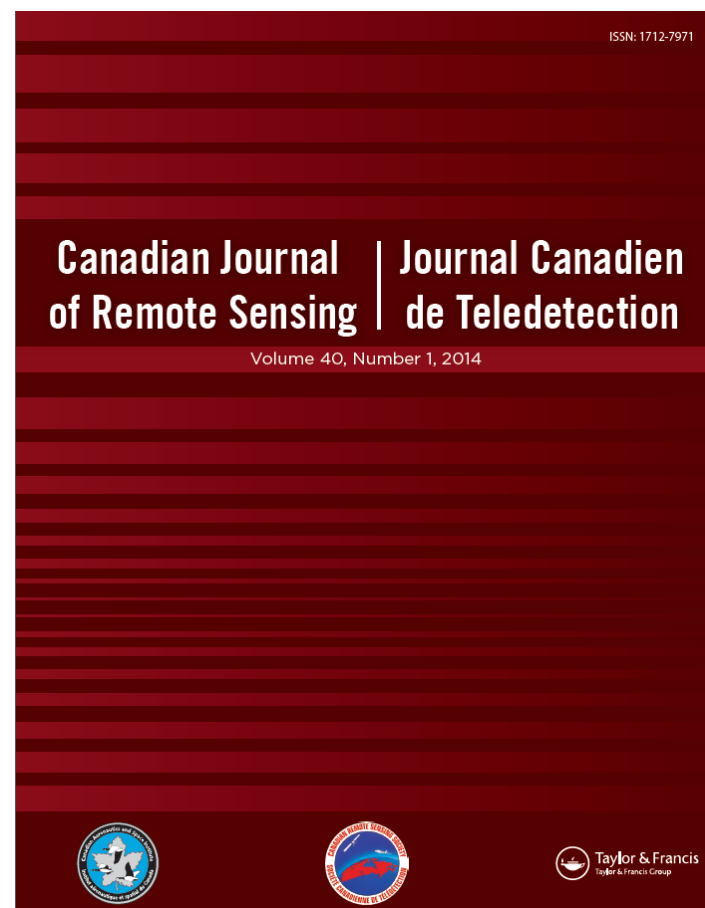
Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing

Nicholas Coops

Editor – in – Chief

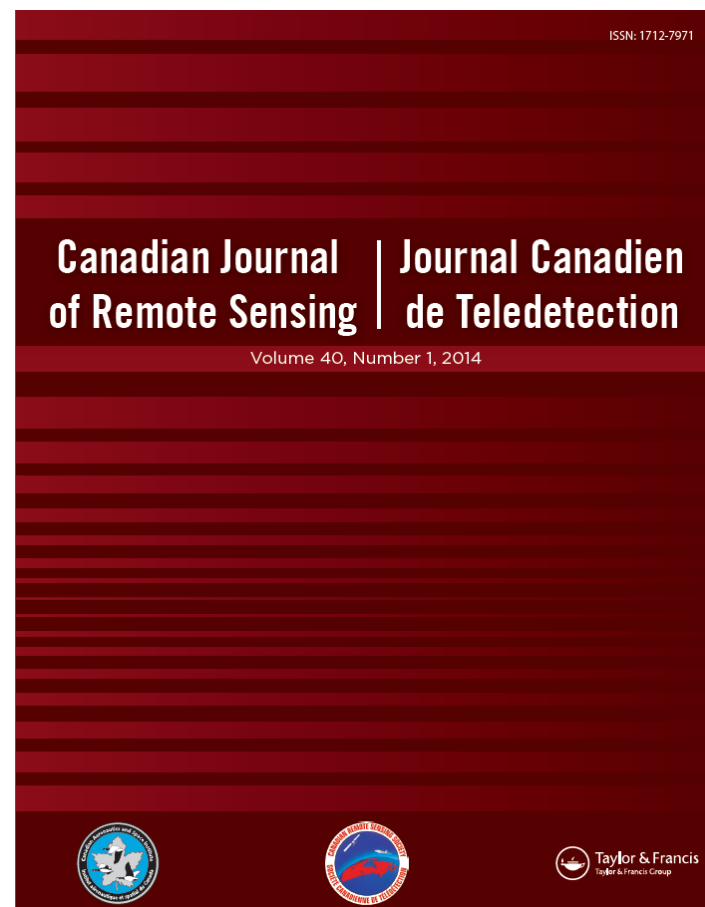
Joanne White

Canadian Forest Service



Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing

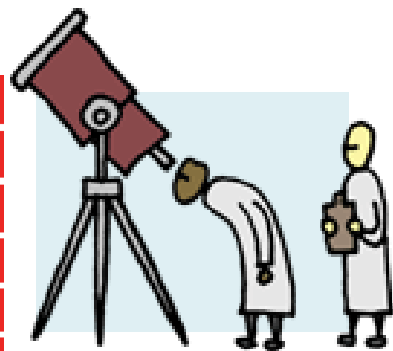
- Now published by Taylor and Francis
- www.tandfonline.com/ujrs
- 6 Issues a year; ISI Listed.



STRATEGIES FOR PUBLISHING IN PEER REVIEW

- Before you write
- When you write
- When you submit
- When you re-write and re-submit
- Miscellaneous

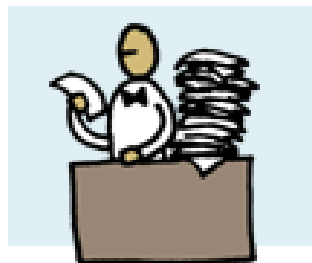




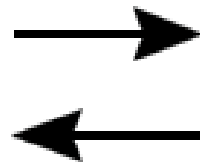
Scientists study something.



Scientists write about their results.



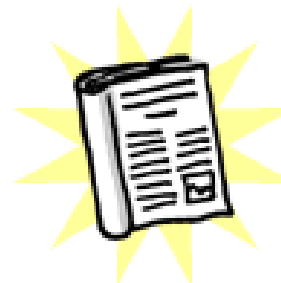
Journal editor receives an article and sends it out for peer review.



Peer reviewers read the article and provide feedback to the editor.



Editor may send reviewer comments to the scientists who may then revise and resubmit the article for further review. If an article does not maintain sufficiently high scientific standards, it may be rejected at this point.



If an article finally meets editorial and peer standards it is published in a journal.

The peer review process

In a nutshell

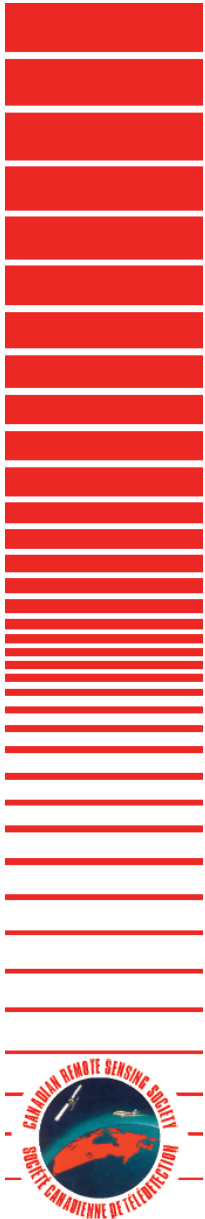
- 26,746 peer-reviewed scholarly and scientific journals¹
- ~1.5 million research papers each year²
- Competition is increasing, particularly for “elite” journals

¹As of December 1, 2011. Source:

<http://pages.cmns.sfu.ca/heathermorrison/appendix-c-how-many-active-scholarly-peer-reviewed-journals/>

²Björk et al. (2008) (Assuming 2.5% increase per year).

http://elpub.scix.net/data/works/att/178_elpub2008.content.pdf



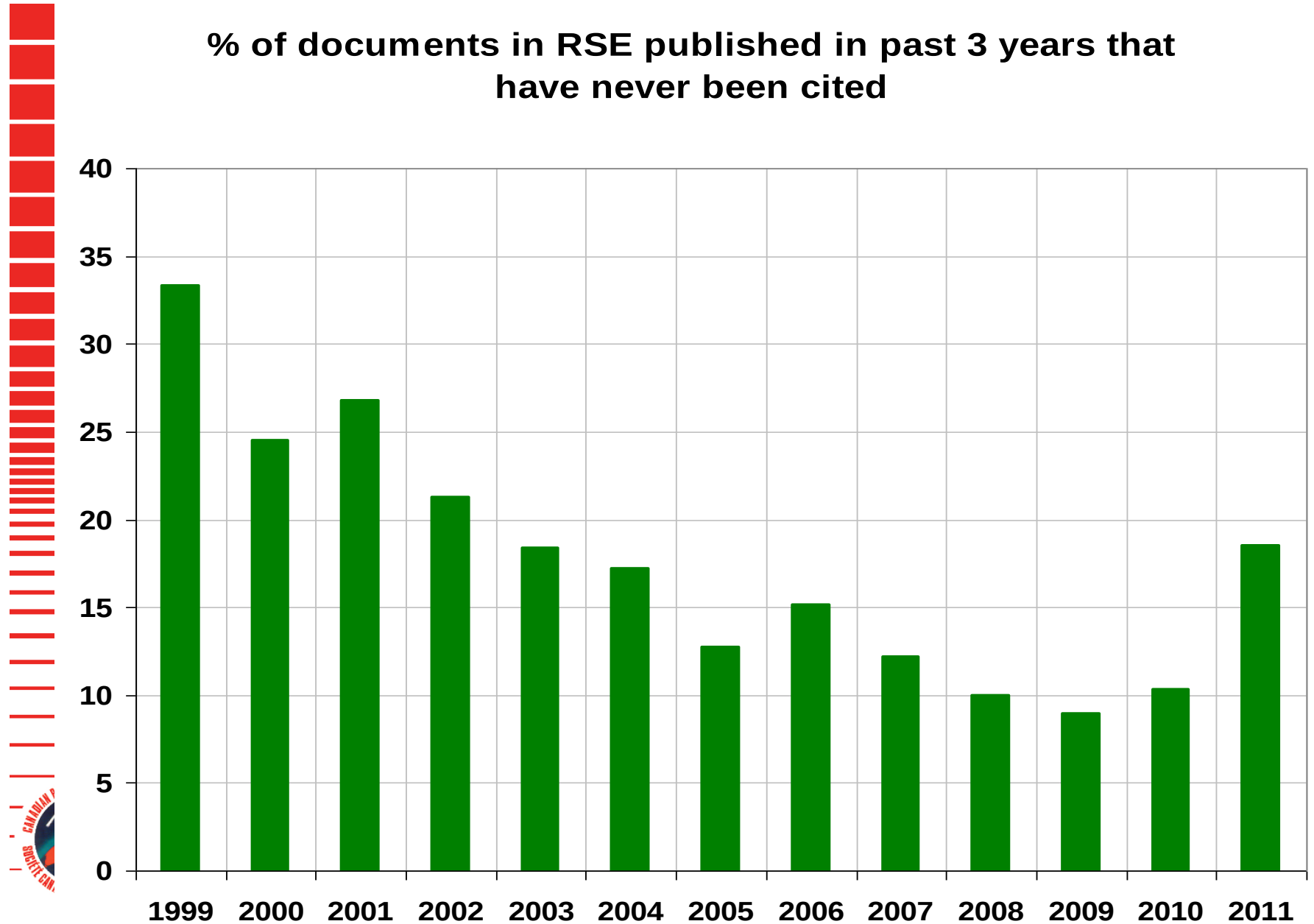
Editors do not want zero-cited articles

“The statistic that 27% of our papers were not cited in 5 years was disconcerting. It certainly indicates that it is important to maintain high standards when accepting papers...”

- Marvin Bauer, Editor, Remote Sensing of Environment



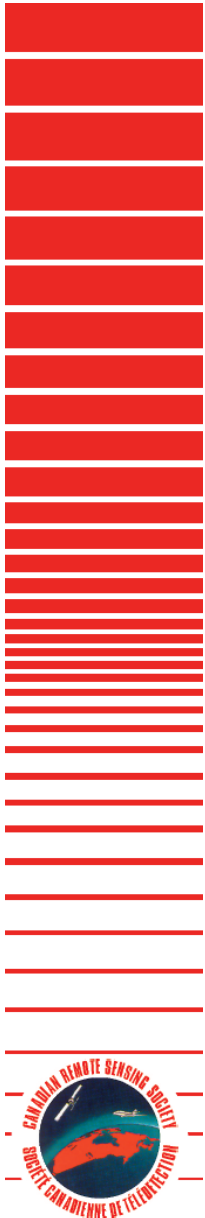
% of documents in RSE published in past 3 years that have never been cited



Source: www.scimagojr.com

Editorial Decisions

1. Editorial rejection
2. Referee rejection
3. Revision (minor or major)
4. Acceptance



WHY DO PAPERS GET REJECTED?

Marvin Bauer, Editor, Remote Sensing of Environment

Nicholas Coops, Editor, Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing

Giles Foody, Editor, International Journal of Remote Sensing

1. Topic is not well matched to the focus and interests of the journal.

2. The research is clearly not significant with common problems being:

- results for only a single image, location, and date
- lack of accuracy assessment and validation
- flawed analysis methods
- the work and paper are well done, but it is nothing that is not already well known and has been published many times

3. The paper is poorly prepared (structure, figures, language, inappropriate citations)

Even if it can be fixed, it makes editors and reviewers question how well the research was done.



REJECTION RATES

Remote Sensing of Environment:

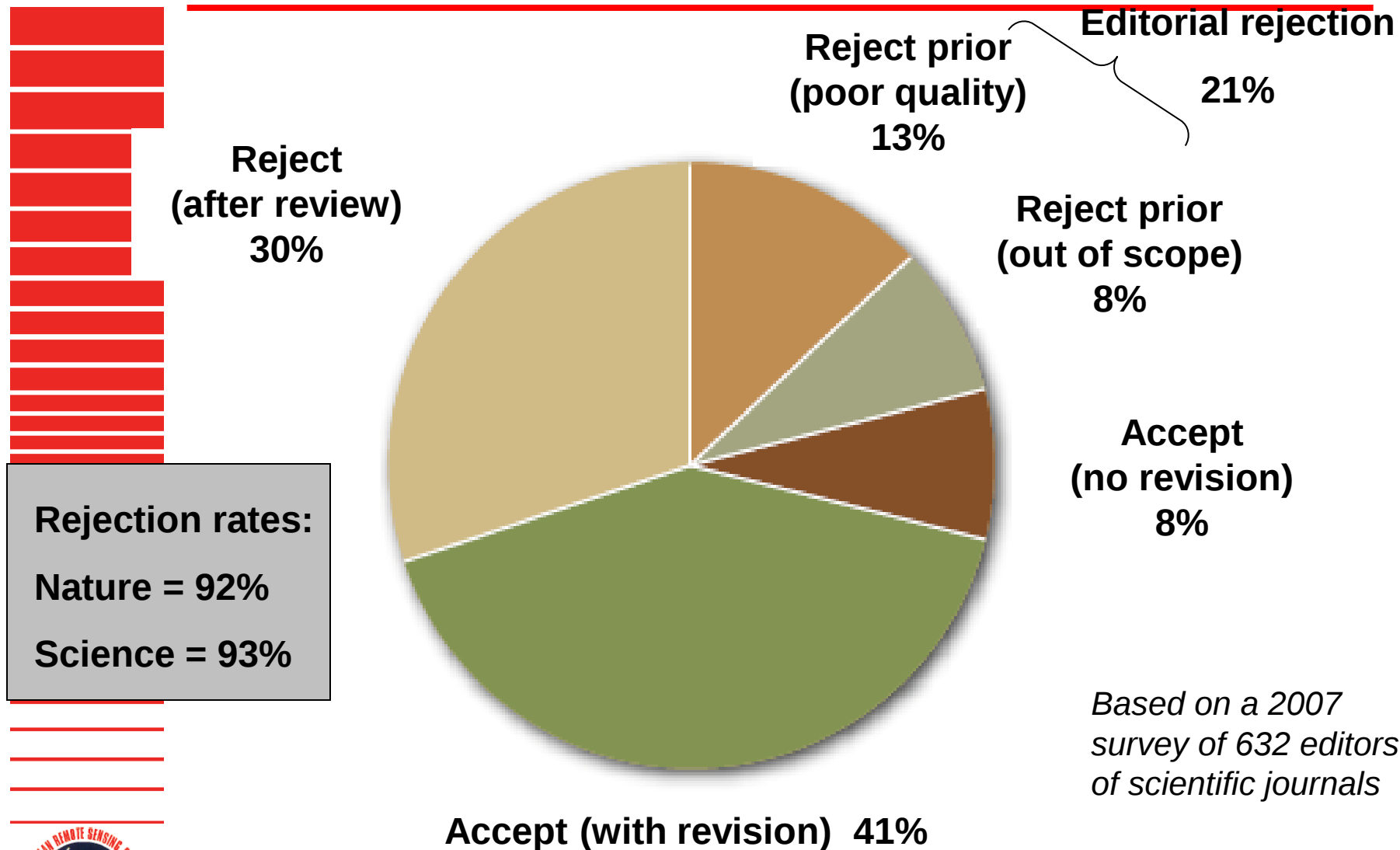
- 30% topic is not appropriate for RSE or the paper is clearly not sufficient (i.e., = rejection without full peer review)
- 35% rejected following peer review or authors fail to submit a revised paper
- 35% accepted (with revision)

Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing:

- 50% rejected

International Journal of Remote Sensing:

- only a small number get rejected without review



Ware, M. and Monkman, M. (2008). *Peer review in scholarly journals: perspective of the scholarly community – an international study*. Publishing Research Consortium. Available online: www.publishingresearch.org.uk

Schultz, D.M. (2010) Rejection rates for journals publishing in the atmospheric sciences. *American Meteorological Society*.

BEFORE YOU WRITE

- Select an appropriate target journal
- Know your target
 - read the journal
 - check out guidelines for authors



SELECT AN APPROPRIATE TARGET JOURNAL

- Relevance
 - Aims and scope; types of articles; readership
- Impact
- Turnaround time
- Open access

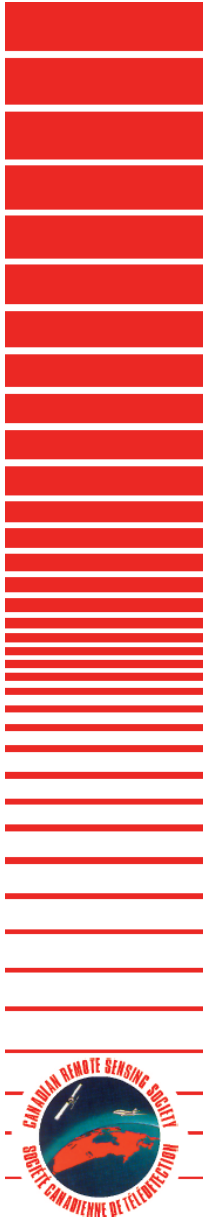
<http://www.scopus.com>

<http://apps.webofknowledge.com>

<http://www.scimagojr.com>

<http://www.journalmetrics.com>

<http://www.harzing.com/pop.htm>



Move beyond “remote sensing” journals alone

- A lot of what is submitted to RS journals may be better considered by more application focused journals, such as:
 - vegetation science,
 - forestry,
 - ecology,
 - resource management



WHEN YOU WRITE:

A process, not an afterthought

- Make an outline
- Consult the literature:
 - background/context
 - methods
 - discussion
- Plan your analysis; acquire appropriate data; do the analysis
- Identify appropriate figures and tables
- Keep writing
- Involve and include your co-authors; make sure you take advantage of their experience and expertise



Section	Function	Preferred Style	Rules of Thumb
Title	Indicates content. Attracts the reader's attention.	Short and simple (but not too short). Purposive (i.e., targets a specific audience/journal).	Avoid redundancy. Include keywords.

Too short: Remote sensing of foliar chemistry

Too long: Predisposition assessment systems (PAS) as supportive tools in forest management-rating of site and stand-related hazards of bark beetle infestation in the High Tatra Mountains as an example for system application and verification

Purposive: The Data Uncertainty Engine (DUE): A software tool for assessing and simulating uncertain environmental variables

Catchy? Ground truth: an underview

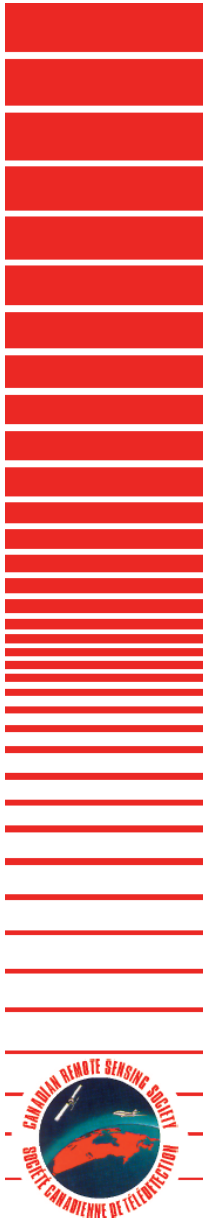
Gerund: Analyzing dune dynamics vs. An analysis of dune dynamics
Characterizing forest vertical structure with lidar vs.
Characteristics of forest vertical structure measured with lidar

Section	Function	Preferred Style	Rules of Thumb
Abstract	State the principal objectives and scope of the investigation. Describe the methods employed. Summarize the results. State the principal conclusions.	Past (perfect) tense. Active/passive voice. First person or not? Short concise sentences. No jargon. No citations.	What was done? What was found? What are the main conclusions? Important summary numbers. Should stand alone. KEYWORDS

Less than 5% of research papers are read in detail, but more than 50% of abstracts are read.

Active Voice / Passive Voice

- Subject is doing the action:
 - *Why did the chicken cross the road?*
 - *This programme focuses on...*
- Object becomes the subject:
 - *Why was the road crossed by the chicken?*
 - *The programme is focused on...*
- Awkward, vague:
 - *Why was the road crossed?*
- When to use?
 - Emphasize an object.
 - De-emphasize an unknown/irrelevant subject (i.e. Methods)



Section	Function	Preferred Style	Rules of Thumb
Introduction	Introduces the topic and defines the terminology. Relates to current knowledge: What has been done? Indicates the gap: What needs to be done? Provides the focus of the paper (purpose) and the research objectives.	Present tense for referring to established knowledge. Past tense for literature review. Active voice. Focussed overview of literature.	Use state-of-the-art references. Follow logical sequence. Emphasize why the topic is important.

Section	Function	Preferred Style	Rules of Thumb
Methods	Provides enough detail for <i>competent</i> researchers to be able to repeat the study. Describe data. Describe methods used. Who, what, where, when, why.	Past tense. Passive/active voice. Correct and internationally recognized style and format (for units, variables, materials, etcetera).	Mention everything that is important to the results. Do not create a bull's-eye for the reviewer (i.e., "<i>some data was ignored</i>"). Do not explain accepted techniques. Flow diagram.

Section	Function	Preferred Style	Rules of Thumb
Results	Gives summary results in graphics and numbers. Compares different results. Gives quantified proofs (statistical tests).	Past tense. Active voice. Use tables, graphs, illustrations.	Present summary data related to the objectives (not all the research results). Call attention to the most significant findings. No methods! No analysis of results.

Section	Function	Preferred Style	Rules of Thumb
Discussion	Explains discrepancies and unexpected findings. Agreement (or not) with previously published work. States the important implications of results.	Present tense. Past tense if referring to results. Active voice.	Do not recapitulate results. Make strong statements (i.e., avoid "<i>It may be concluded</i>"). Do not attempt to hide unexpected results-they can be the most important ones. No new results.

Section	Function	Preferred Style	Rules of Thumb
Conclusion	Answers research questions/objectives. State limitations of the study. State importance of findings. Announce future research.	Past tense (for referring to this study). Present tense for musings of future work.	Summarize concisely. Describe how it represents an advance in the field. Avoid repetition with other sections. Avoid speculation. Do not overemphasize or overstate the impact of your work.

Section	Function	Preferred Style	Rules of Thumb
References	Provide a list of related literature and sources of information. Support the ideas in the paper.	Depends on journal. Check journal requirements for formatting.	Cite primary source rather than review papers. Make citations count.

Plagiarism

- Unacknowledged use of other people's ideas or work.
- Misrepresentation of someone else's ideas or work as your own.
- Changing words, but copying sentence structure.
- Use of specific facts without attribution to the source.
- Paraphrasing without citation.
- Improper use of quotations.



WHEN YOU SUBMIT

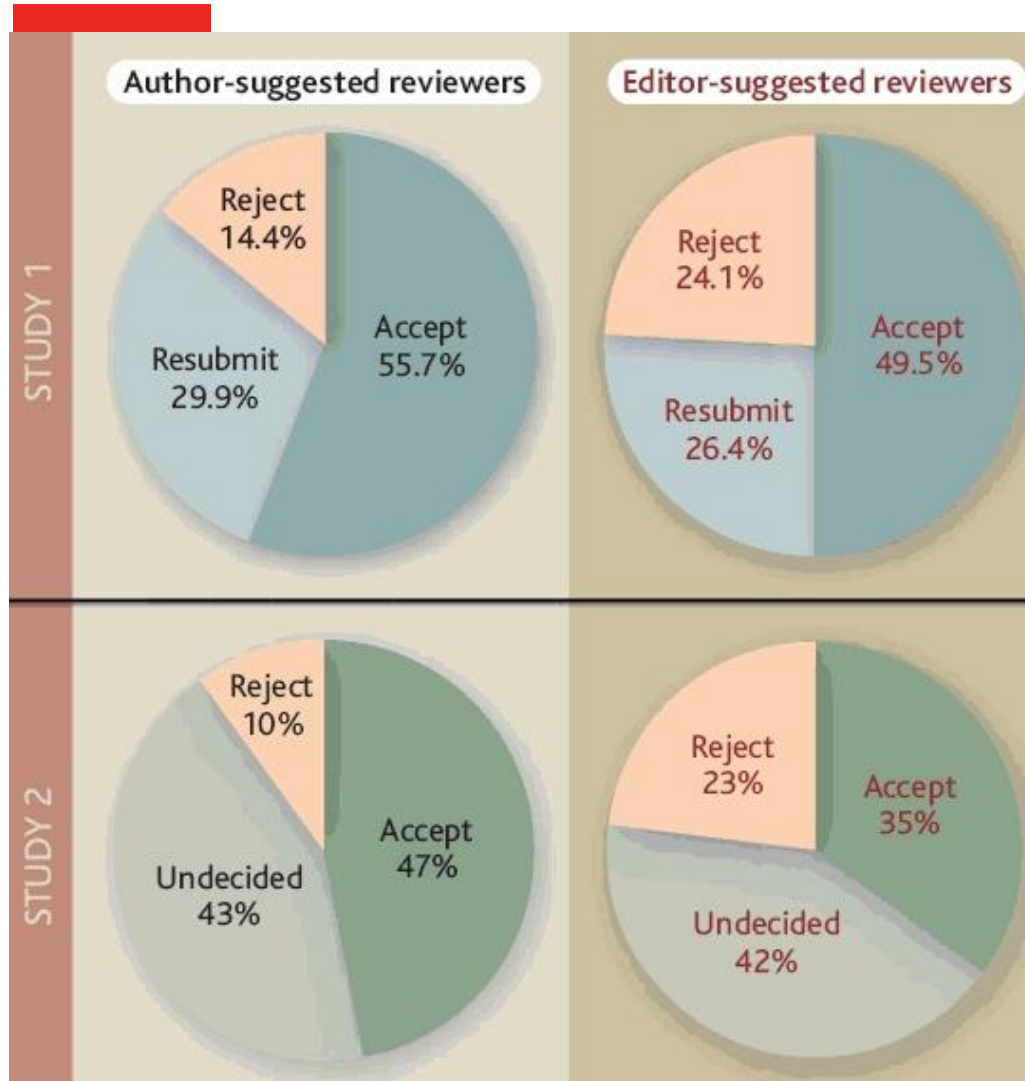
- Follow the submission guidelines explicitly
- Draft a cover letter to the editor if required and/or appropriate
- Suggest reviewers if given the option

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/rse/>



“Suggesting or excluding reviewers can help get your paper published”

D. Grimm, 2005, *Science*, Vol. 309, p. 1974



- Suggesting or excluding reviewers significantly increased a manuscript's chances of being accepted
- No difference in quality or timeliness of reviews

WHEN YOU RE-WRITE

- Don't underestimate the importance of the rebuttal process.
- Prepare a rebuttal document:
 - make it easy for the editor/reviewer to accept your revision!
- Respond to all points, even if you disagree.
- If you disagree with particular points present your argument.
- Be constructive, positive, and tactful.
- Cross reference to other reviewer comments for the same issue.



An accuracy assessment framework for large area land cover classification products derived from medium resolution satellite data.

Reviewer 1:

Use different font style to distinguish your responses from reviewer's comments

1. Page 10, line 20: Cite Don Steven's work

An addition has been made to the text (page 10, line 10):

"Ideally, the sampling frame will match the target population; however in natural resource applications it is common for the sampling frame to contain many non-target elements, and for many of the target elements to be inaccessible (Stevens and Olsen, 2004). Sampling frames are usually list frames or area frames. In an ecological context, both forms of sampling frames may be implemented, depending on the nature of the sample units (Stevens 1993)."

2. Page 10, line 23: The frame most appropriate for large area land cover validation is not necessarily an area frame – could be a list frame. Depends on the nature of the features (are they extensive or discrete)?

The text has been clarified as follows (page 10, line 19):

"The type of sampling frame that is most appropriate for large area land cover validation depends on the nature of each land cover class and whether the class is discrete or extensive."

3. Page 11, line 3: Check that it was the air photo grid that was used as the sampling frame in Zhu et al. 2000.

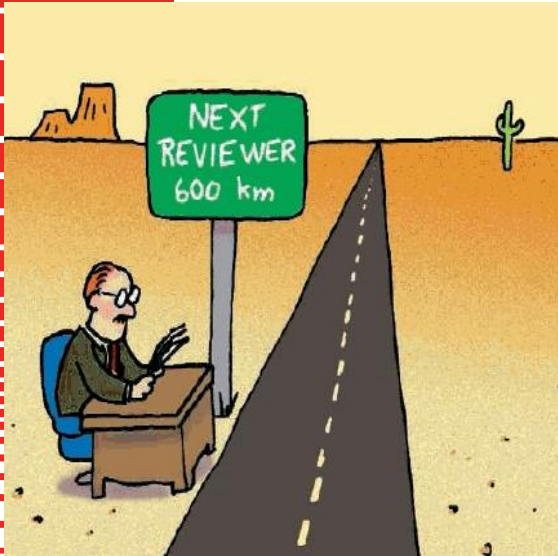
The reference to the photo grid has been made more explicit in the text (page 11, line 1):

"4 example frames were defined by a specific spatial dataset, such as the National Air



“Publish and review, or perish”

W.F. Perrin, 2008, *Science*, Vol 319, p. 32



- Review 4 times as many papers as you publish per year

Otherwise:

- Less knowledgeable reviewers
- Reviews of lesser quality



REVIEWERS ARE MORE PRODUCTIVE

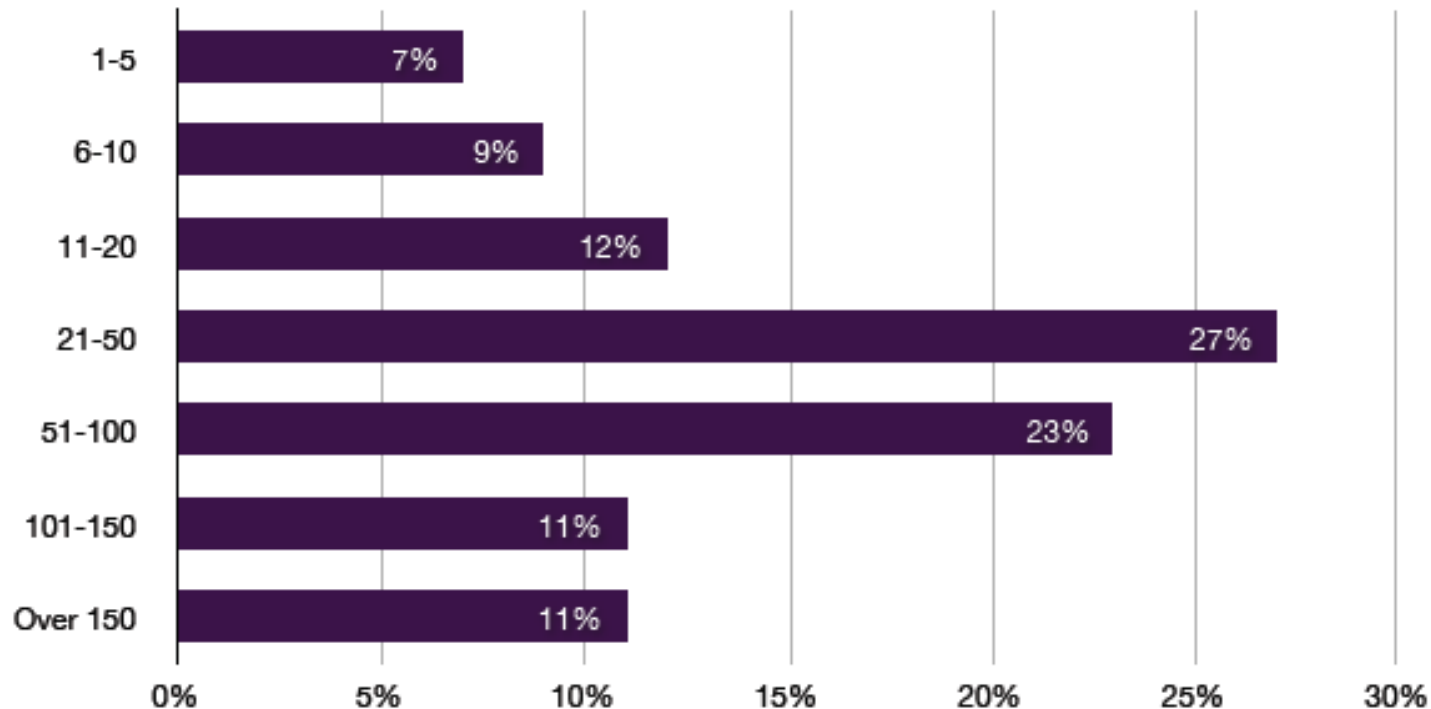


Figure 14: Total number of papers published in career to date (n = 3040)

Average # of papers = 60

Active reviewers (i.e., who had reviewed 6 or more papers in past 12 months) were more productive authors with an average of 85 papers).

¹Ware, M. and Monkman, M. (2008). *Peer review in scholarly journals: perspective of the scholarly community – an international study*. Publishing Research Consortium. Available online: www.publishingresearch.org.uk



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Journal of Informetrics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/joi



Publication patterns of award-winning forest scientists and implications for the Australian ERA journal ranking

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

“...prominent scientists increase their impact through coauthorship of a larger number of papers rather than by publishing in journals of higher impact.”

and there should be an adjustment to the ranking of several journals relevant to the ERA Field of Research classified as 0705 Forestry Sciences.

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Welcome any comments / discussion at
this meeting or anytime.

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