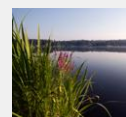


Research papers – evaluation and some criteria

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Journal of Official Statistics

- An international scientific journal published by Statistics Sweden
 - Started in 1985 by Lars Lyberg
 - Four issues per year
 - Open access, www.jos.nu
- “The journal publishes theoretical and applied articles on survey methodology for statistics production within official statistics, policy decision making, and the economic and social sciences.”



Journal of Official Statistics

- About 80-100 manuscripts per year
- About 25-30 published articles per year
- Editorial office: Two Editors in Chief and one production manager at Statistics Sweden in Stockholm
- 35 Associate Editors at other statistical agencies, organizations, and universities
- Hundreds of persons all over the world review manuscripts without any remuneration – peer review



Evaluation process

- Preview by an Editor in Chief, possibly an immediate decision
- Each remaining manuscript is assigned an Associate Editor
- A number of people are invited to be referees, we try to get 3-4 referee reports
- Associate Editor suggests decision based on own reading and referee reports, Editor in Chief approves
- Five decision categories: Reject, Reject and Resubmit, Major Revision, Minor Revision, Accept
- A learning process for everyone involved



Some criteria

- Content
 - Relevant subject
 - Novelty or improvement of methodology and/or application
 - Possibility to generalize results
- Presentation
 - Language
 - Disposition
 - Sufficient detail and description
 - Context - background, relevant research and literature, intention/hypothesis, limitations of research question
 - Discussion of results and methodology – limitations, drawbacks, usefulness, come back to context, further research



Scientific paper or not?

First version:

- I did this and I got this result

Second version:

- Why is this a problem? Has it been seen in other studies/settings/countries/over time?
- References to other studies/papers/results on the same or a similar problem
- My hypothesis and my assumptions
- Possible methods, pros and cons, my choice of method
- I did this and I got this result
- Where the results as I hypothesized? What are the limitations of my results and their reasons? Are they useful? Are they of some general value? Is further research necessary?

