

A Scientific Publication Platform for Tourism. Work in Progress Report

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Although the concept of open access publication is not entirely new and has been around for several years, people have begun to realize its importance only recently. Based on a mandate by the International Academy for the Study of Tourism this paper evaluates the opportunity for a new format of online publications in tourism research, in order to improve the traditional reviewing system and to give scholars worldwide free access to quality tourism research. Principles of online knowledge sharing and creation, collaborative and transparent selection procedures, and the highest possible ethical research standards are the driving principles of this initiative. The proposed *Scientific Publication Platform* (SPP) is a pathbreaking new form of online 'journal' that adopts an open source approach to publication, viewing research as a cooperative enterprise between authors, editors, referees, and readers. SPP does not charge any author fees. This is due to marginal costs of publishing papers online and to the activities of scholars participating in the reviewing for free.

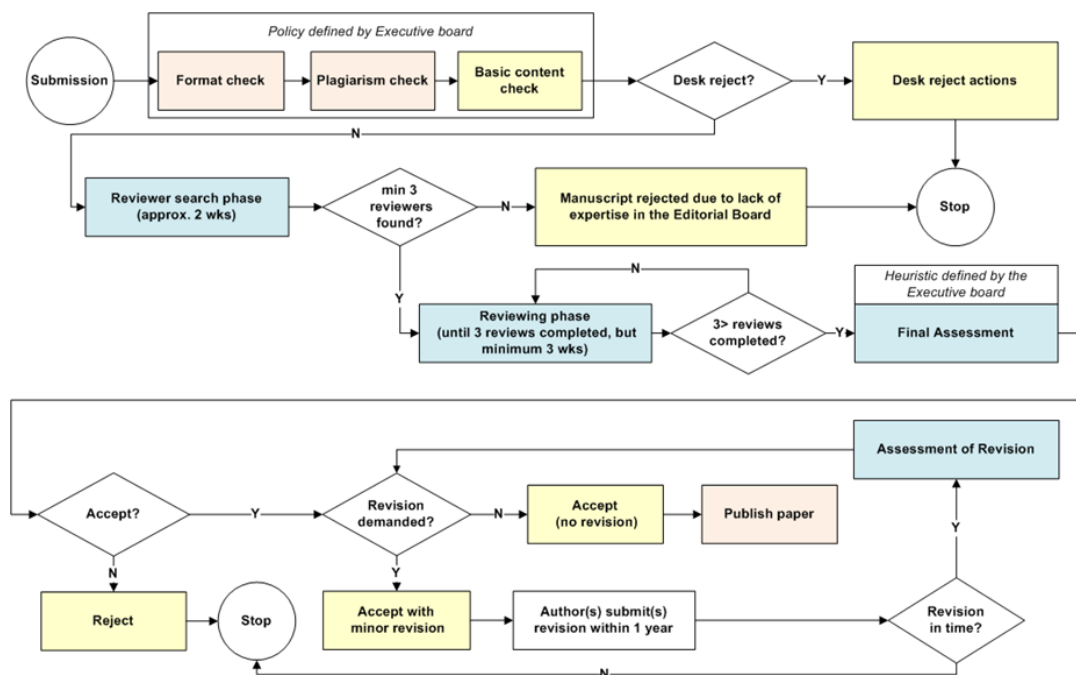


Figure 1: The SPP's public peer review process

The SPP of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism aims to cover all the main areas of tourism research. Inevitably, articles in different areas of tourism must address different audiences. By involving a large community of qualified researchers, the SPP aims to find for every research paper the best virtual team of reviewers out of its network. The traditional peer review process is supplemented by a collaborative process in which the entire community of researchers has a hand in the evaluation process. Due to the interactive self-selected peer review and the public discussion opportunities, the SPP provides the best possible framework for quality assurance. Research evaluation also continues after an article has been published.

Keywords: tourism research, science, publications, open access, knowledge creation.