

Editorial

An Editor's Thanks

The concept of peer review of manuscripts goes back to the founding of the first technical journal, the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, in London in 1665. That journal published papers shared at meetings and served as a permanent record of those contributions to knowledge. Peer review in those days was essentially the acceptance of a person's credentials for election to the Society. Since that time, and especially during the past 80 years, peer review has evolved into the process of double-anonymous vetting of manuscripts by expert reviewers that we take for granted today for most technical and professional journals.

In our own time, our own discipline, and our own journal, we rely on rigorous peer review to ensure that only the highest quality content in the field of professional communication appears in these pages. That process of peer review relies on the knowledge and the good graces of reviewers who undertake this important and time-consuming task with only the thanks of the editor and the TRANSACTIONS' readers as payment.

During 2023, 122 individuals—including associate editors, guest editors, members of the editorial board, and other volunteers—have participated in reviewing manuscripts submitted to the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION. I want to acknowledge their vital service here.

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In addition, nine volunteers translated article abstracts from English to Spanish or Chinese to expand the reach of the scholarship that we publish.

Abstract Translators

Bruno Salgado Berzal
 Victoria Garcia
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 Julie Henderson
 Yaxing Li
 Dina López
 Zhongen Xi
 Chenxing Xie
 Min Yang

As I noted, all these individuals perform their duties without pay to advance the profession and enlarge the body of knowledge that both practitioners and academics rely on in their own work. Every time that I receive a manuscript that falls within the journal's scope, I contact two potential reviewers. Typically, one reviewer is an academic, and one is a practitioner or a second academic with extensive industry experience. Both have expertise on the manuscript's topic. I request that each of them conduct an independent review of the manuscript in question within three to four weeks. When the reviewers agree to undertake the task, I send each of them an anonymized copy of the manuscript to maintain the double-anonymous nature of the review. The reviewers do not know the identity of the author(s), and the author(s) do not know the identity of the reviewers. Incidentally, the reviewers typically do not know one another's identity either.

Reviewers complete an elaborate quantitative and qualitative rubric that asks them to note strengths and weaknesses of all parts of the manuscript, and

to make a summary recommendation to me as editor-in-chief: accept, accept with minor revisions, request the author to revise and resubmit, or reject. Probably 90% or more of the time, the reviewers' recommendation is "revise and resubmit." This recommendation and my comments, along with anonymized copies of the rubrics, are sent to the authors, who decide whether to submit a revised manuscript. If a revision is submitted, the peer-review process is repeated with the same review team. Often, authors submit three and occasionally even four drafts of a manuscript before it is accepted for publication.

I think that this recursive peer-review process is responsible for the very high quality of the articles that we publish, and authors regularly recognize the feedback that they have received from reviewers in the Acknowledgment sections of their articles. In my mind, this process is responsible for the high level of editorial excellence that characterizes our TRANSACTIONS. I salute the invaluable contributions made by our peer reviewers. Our TRANSACTIONS and our profession are enriched by their contribution.

VIDEOS FOR *TRANSACTIONS* PEER REVIEWERS

I also want to acknowledge the work done over several years by four of my associate editors—Rebekka Andersen, Joyce Karreman, Aimee Kendall Roundree, and Jason Tham—in helping me complete a series of seven videos designed to assist both new and experienced reviewers in peer reviewing manuscripts for the journal. I am also extremely grateful to Dr. Bremen Vance of Mercer University's Department of

Technical Communication, who transformed our raw video files into much more professional form.

Those who have never reviewed for the TRANSACTIONS can begin with the first two videos, "Introduction to Reviewing for the TRANSACTIONS" and "How to Complete a Review Rubric," before moving to the video corresponding to the manuscript genre that they have been asked to review, such as "Reviewing Research Articles." Those who are experienced reviewers but have been asked to review a manuscript genre that is new to them may simply want to watch the video corresponding to that genre. Manuscript authors or prospective authors may also want to familiarize themselves with the journal's review processes by watching one or more of these videos.

Viewers can select each of the available videos to view from <https://procomm.ieee.org/videos-for-transactions-peer-reviewers/>. Each video is closed captioned to enhance accessibility for those who are deaf or who have hearing loss, or to assist those for whom English is not their first language to better understand the videos. We hope that these video tutorials will enhance the peer review and authoring experience.

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