

Some Thoughts on Policies for the IEEE Trans. IT

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Editorial Practices (Annals of Statistics)

- The journal has 2 EiCs
- EiC returns papers that are out of scope or exceedingly poorly written (grammar/spelling/clarity)
- EiC *sometimes* rejects papers that are within scope because s/he finds it uninteresting
- Papers that get a “revise and resubmit” decision are papers that we eventually want to see in the journal

Editorial Practices (Annals of Statistics) Cont'd

- AE scans assigned paper very carefully, sending the paper out for review means that it already passed a first threshold
- Annals have rejection rate of 70%, half of the papers are fast-rejected by the AEs (within 2-3 weeks upon submission)
- EiC monitors AEs and “offers help” if necessary
- AEs that show consistently poor performance are discharged from service

Some Ideas for Trans. IT

Some Ideas

- AEs that work in academia should be tenured
- AEs can be discharged from service
- Special effort to reappoint senior people that may have already served as AEs, first successes (Jim Massey, Yossi Steinberg)

Some Ideas Cont'd

- Reviews that take a long time and are of poor quality are to be avoided under all circumstances
- Training session at ISIT and editorial meeting to discuss state of affairs
- Find out what is going on with productions process at IEEE

Transition to Scholar One

- Working on tailoring the system for our needs, help from A. Wijngaarden
- Will soon need a handful of AEs to test the setup
- We get great help from Sonal Parikh at IEEE

Transition to Scholar One Cont'd

- System flags actions, if AE does not take action by a certain deadline system sends automated message
- Provision for special issues
- Paper scheduling
- AEs can set review deadlines by hand

Proposal for an Executive Editorial Board (EEB)

EEB: Main Principles

- 5 senior and highly recognized people in the field
- Appointed by BoG on a rotating basis out of synch with EiC, one new member each year (and one member rotating off)
- One of the EEB members designated to fill in for EiC should that be necessary
- EEB is not (only) a collection of notables in the field, but works closely with the EiC on a regular basis

- Identifying candidates for AE positions and pre-screening them
- Help AEs that consistently underperform
- Decide on whether an AE that consistently underperforms should be discharged
- Dealing with plagiarism cases
- Handle appeals and authors' complaints

- Help in fast-rejecting papers
- Help in handling papers at large
- Help in identifying topics and potential authors for tutorial/survey/condensation papers
- Help in identifying papers for paper awards
- Help in identifying topics and guest editors for special issues