Best practices for institutional adoption of peer review metrics

2017
Our mission is to speed up science by harnessing the power of peer review
Peer review is at the heart of science, and of science funding

“Peer review, despite its flaws, continues to command widespread support as **the primary basis for evaluating research outputs**, proposals and individuals.”

- HEFCE Metric Tide report, July 2015

“Review ... should be acknowledged by employers or funders of those doing the reviews as valid metrics in career progression.”

- Report from the OSI Peer Review Working Group, October 2016
Peer reviewers perform crucial and unrecognised service for research

7m reviews¹

63m hours²

Reviewers perform 2.5bn USD³ of unrecognised peer review each year

1. The STM Report: An overview of scientific and scholarly journal publishing, STM March 2015
3. The “Burden” of Peer Review, The Scholarly Kitchen
This service is largely hidden from institutions

It hasn’t been possible for institutions to easily and accurately track the service their researchers perform as peer reviewers and editors.

Many institutions ask researchers to self-report the service they perform, but this approach:

- **Lacks evidence**
  Institutions can not easily verify reported service.

- **Is difficult for researchers**
  Researchers are required to keep their own records and manually enter into university records.

- **Lacks context**
  Neither researcher nor institution know what is the norm for a particular field.

Because of these problems, service is often neglected when assessing and promoting researchers.
As a result institutions are underreporting their researchers’ influence

Universities put tremendous effort into tracking, improving, and promoting the impact of their researchers. But these efforts are missing a core part of a researcher’s prestige: their influence as a peer reviewer and/or editor.

Prominent reviewers and editors contribute to 3-4 times more manuscripts than they publish. Ignoring this influence means universities are not putting their best foot forward in the competition for funding, students, and prestige.

Codifying and showcasing the full picture of researcher influence helps with:

- Global prestige
- Staff recruitment and retention
- Attracting students
- Government funding
Publons steps in to turn review into a verifiable, measurable research output

- Reviews added by Publons users
- Publisher integration reviews
- Publons platform
- Recognition for reviewers/editors
- Tools for academic publishers
- Research metrics for universities
Giving researchers cross-publisher recognition for peer review

Steven B. Roberts

Associate Professor - University of Washington
Editorial Board - Scientific Data

BIO
Steven has not yet completed their profile bio.

EDITOR FOR
Scientific Data

REVIEWER FOR
BMC Genomics
Aquaculture
Journal of Invertebrate Pathology
Heredit

PRE PUBLICATION REVIEWS
Nov 2014 ✔ Reviewed for: Molecular Ecology
Oct 2014 ✔ Reviewed for: Scientific Reports
Sep 2014 ✔ Reviewed for: BMC Genomics
Sep 2014 ✔ Reviewed for: Heredit
Jun 2014 ✔ Reviewed for: cold liver trans... for BMC Genomics
Apr 2014 ✔ Reviewed for: Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety

Steven Roberts @sr320 · Sep 20
It was a little easier spending AM on manuscript review knowing even if comments are ignored - I still get some credit, thanks @Publons!

Steven Roberts @sr320 · Sep 20
... I also believe I am much more constructive and spend more time explaining issues and offering solutions.. cc @Publons

NATURE | TOOLBOX: Q&A

The scientists who get credit for peer review

Publons rewards researchers for putting their peer-review activity online. Nature spoke to the startup’s co-founder and two super-users.

Richard Van Noorden

“This year I will be evaluated by my institution for a promotion and in the documents I am including a link to the my Publons profile to show my peer-review activity.”
With support from global industry heavyweights

- 4 of the top 7 publishers in the world have integrated with Publons
- Over 1,000 integrated journals in 2016
- Used by 100,000 researchers who have added half a million reviews
- Covering more than 2,000 institutions

And many more...
Giving new insight into the world’s most influential institutions

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How did UQ race to the top? See the case study on next slides.

Browse online: [publons.com/institution/]
Peer review is the untapped means for growing institutional prestige
Here’s how to make the most of the opportunity
Three step plan for institutional adoption

1. Track and increase researcher awareness
2. Incorporate review data into research information systems
3. Leverage peer review to demonstrate institutional excellence
1. Track and increase researcher awareness
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A. **Track**
Get a quick picture of existing researcher awareness by finding your institution’s profile on Publons:
publons.com/institution/

B. **Raise awareness**
Peer Review Week ‘16 saw the announcement of the Sentinels of Science top reviewers. To find Sentinels from your institution visit:
https://publons.com/community/sentinels-of-science-recipients-2016/

C. **Educate**
Publons provides an extensive set of resources you can use in communications to your researchers about:
- how to become a reviewer
- why review
- where to review
- how to build a record of their service, and
- how to use their record to advance their career (see next slide).
Free resource

Publons has produced a simple guide for researchers on how to use peer review and editorial contributions to advance their career.

See publons.com/community/career/ for the full pack.

Advance your career with Peer Review

Peer review is an important component of scientific activity. It’s central to our ability to trust and understand research. But it doesn’t only improve research - it can also accelerate your career.

Top researchers on Publons have used their review records to help secure promotions, receive prestigious fellowships, and more. We asked them, and many more researchers worldwide, for best practice tips to help you do the same.

For example, your contributions can help get you ahead in individual evaluations, including:

- Performance reviews
- Competency assessments
- Development plans
- Salary reviews

It’s also a good idea to include your peer review and editorial contributions with your CV or biosketch when applying for:
Case study: Dr. Matthias Lein

Dr. Lein used his automatically generated Publons report of his verified peer review record to stand out from the crowd in his latest promotion application.

Funding and promotion criteria require researchers to keep finding new ways to provide evidence of their expertise, influence, and service to the research community.

Publons makes it possible for a researcher to accumulate evidence of their review activities and compare with experts around the world:

- Matthias tracked **120 pre-publication** peer reviews
- Using Publons, he was able to backload and verify reviews performed over the last **6 years**
- This put him in the **98th percentile** of all Chemists, a standout performance

Full case study: publons.com/static/Publons - Matthias Lein promotion case study.pdf
2. Incorporate review data into research information systems
Peer review naturally fits into existing infrastructure

**Source**
- HR data
- Publication and bibliometric data
- Peer review and editorial data
- Copyright info
- Manual input

**Internal systems**
- CRIS/RIMS
  - Elements, Converis, Pure
- Institutional Repository
  - Dspace, Eprints, Fedora

**Applications**
- Business intelligence and benchmarking
- Public researcher profiles
  - VIVO, Profiles, ...
- Grant application and management
- Reporting and assessment
  - Internal, REF

Direct feed
Feed through CRIS and IR
With applications across key strategic areas of the institution

**Existing goals**

Research information systems allow administrators to build an overall picture of researchers in order to:

- Evaluate institutional research activity
- Respond to funder requests
- Fulfill government assessment requirements (e.g., REF, PBRF, ERA)
- Populate public research profiles with complete and up-to-date information
- Support the generation of researcher CVs and other internal reports

**Peer review**

Including peer review provides a **clearer, more impressive, and more complete** picture of an institution’s research activity:

- **Highlight expertise** and influence on public research profiles
- **Measure workload** of peer review and editorial activities
- **Increase performance** in government assessment
- Generate complete research CVs and internal reports
Region-specific slide on how review can get funding
Publons provides a fully fledged API, making it simple to populate institutional repositories and the research information system with complete review and editorial records:

- Flexible query system supports ORCID identifiers or researcher email
- University of Queensland (concept on right) leveraged this approach to build a more complete picture of their researchers than ever before.
Integrations with leading vendors

[Concept]
Automatically **populate your CRIS** with a standardised feed of review and editorial contributions.

The Publons API and standard ontologies make it simple to:
- automatically populate records;
- back them with evidence verified on Publons;
- for any institutional researcher with an email or ORCID in the Publons system.

The simplest way to begin reporting on review and editorial activities for internal and external assessment.

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3. Leverage review to demonstrate institutional excellence
Highlight researcher expertise

Publons makes it simple to add contextual summaries and complete details of verified review and editorial activity to public institutional profiles. This highlights the influence and expertise of researchers.

Profiles can be populated automatically:

- Via a Publons feed into the research information system
- Or directly, by way of the Publons widget and data feeds
Case study: University of Queensland

Publons and the University of Queensland (UQ) collaborated on a successful six month pilot to publicise and integrate reviewer metrics into their research information systems.

Publons reveals previously hidden contributions to world research. With Publons, the University successfully enhanced its profile as a center of research excellence:

- With more than 4,000 reviews added, UQ moved to #1 on the Publons institutional rankings
- More than 200 UQ reviewers registered for Publons
- UQ now has evidence of its contribution to research like no other institution
- The integration also increased ORCID adoption

Full case study: publons.com/about/info/institution/
Publons
Speeding up, measuring, and evaluating research

To learn more, contact
andrew@publons.com
@Publons