



Guidelines on Reviewing for *MIS Quarterly*

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Presented to CIS & CEPRIN Doctoral Students

Georgia State University

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MIS Quarterly **Fact Sheet**

- **Premier IS general-interest journal**—enjoys a stellar reputation in rankings and impact factors
- **ISI Impact Factors:** 5.3 (2014); 8.5 (5-Year)
- **Ranked consistently in Top Journal lists** (e.g., UT Dallas and Financial Times lists)
- **Welcomes diverse perspectives:** Individual-level behavioral origins that has expanded to include organizational, design science, economics research traditions

The MIS Quarterly Trifecta

- **The MISQ Trifecta**
 - *Impact, Scope of Influence, Speed*
- **Leader in mindshare** on digital phenomena and solutions to business and societal problems
- **Publish the best research** globally that significantly advances the understanding of IS in technology, business, and society

MISQ Strategic Positioning

- **Big Tent—Face** of the Information Systems Discipline
- **Publish the best work across traditions** (behavioral, organizational, design science, economics), between traditions (intradisciplinary), and between IS and other disciplines (interdisciplinary)
- **Promote collaboration among IS research traditions and with the expanding range of disciplines interested in digital phenomena** (e.g., marketing, economics, medicine, statistics, computer science)

Why Review: Some Very Good Reasons!

- **Learn** from the latest research and the review packet, and how to revise (in)effectively
- **Develop relationships** with editors—useful for future appointments on editorial boards, promotion and tenure letters, jobs, etc.)
- **Develop scholarly reputation**
- **Peer review works on the norm of reciprocity**
- **MISQ is the crown jewel of the community** —you can contribute to it as a citizen of the community!

10 Tips on How To Review

- ① **Evaluate the authors' work**—manage the line between constructive suggestions and joining in as (lead, anonymous) author!
- ② **Evaluate work fairly** within its scholarly tradition (and if you cannot, recuse yourself)
- ③ **Establish a frame of reference** for editors and authors on your expertise (and your review)
- ④ **Summarize the paper (2-3 sentences)**
- ⑤ **Start** with the positive aspects of the paper

10 Tips on How To Review

- ⑥ **Identify the novel aspects** that (can) make a contribution
- ⑦ **Identify major issues**—discuss if addressable or fatal; delineate major vs. minor issues
- ⑧ **Provide suggestions** on how to address issues
- ⑨ **Write professionally** using a constructive tone
- ⑩ **Complete review on time**—budget time to read, think, write, rethink, refine

5 Tips on What to Avoid in Reviews

- ① **Refrain from excessive negativity**—early stage academics can tend to be excessively negative
- ② **Refrain from signal-jamming**—do not flood tangential information in a misguided attempt to impress editors!
- ③ **Avoid over-/under-stating positives or negatives**
- ④ **Refrain from working in your favorite song** (paper, theory, control variables, other)
- ⑤ **Avoid laundry listing** (line-by-line or page-by-page comments)

MISQ AE Appointments

- Important considerations in moving reviewers through the ranks to AE :
 - *Scholarly record*
 - *Reviewing quality* (validity, constructiveness, comprehensiveness)
 - *Reviewing conscientiousness* (average time to return reviews, % of review requests accepted)



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