



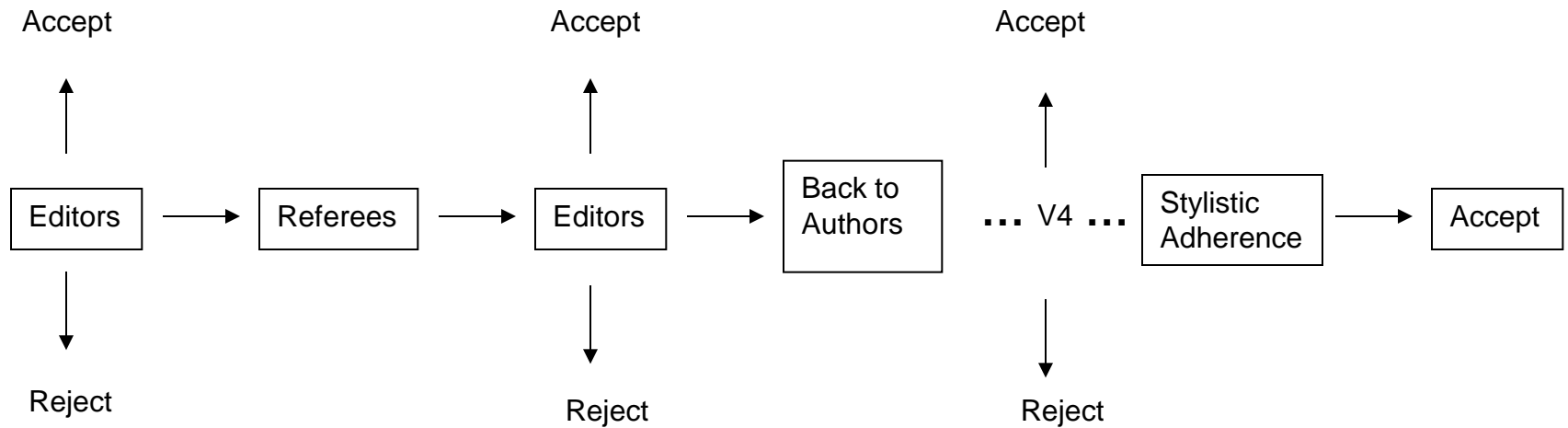
# Getting published: Demystifying the editorial/review process

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# The editorial/review process



# The (rough, general) stats

- Possibly 300-400+ submissions per year for top journals.
- Typically half rejected at submission.
- Typically half rejected after review.
- Acceptance rates of 20-30%; can be less – 10%.
- Initial review takes weeks, revisions can take months. From submission to publication with top journals can take 2-3 years.

# What editors do at the start

- Check that appropriate subject for the journal.
- Check that has an argument or storyline: what is the paper about? Need to avoid the ‘so what?’ response.
- Check that potentially adds something new to understanding.
- Check if already published – or something similar (particularly by you!).
- Check content; empirically, conceptually, structurally.
- In short, assess the paper’s basics and second guess referees’ reaction about *general* standard.

# What do referees look for?

- Focus on the *detail*: context and content; argument and evidence; contribution.
- Go through the basics again.
- Then:
  - aims and objectives
  - storyline/argument
  - literature review
  - methodology and methods
  - evidence base
  - contribution
  - writing/house style

# Responding to the refereeing process

- Take stock; take a step back. Carefully read the editor's and referees' comments.
- Check if the editor gives a steer to any response.
- If it's a revision:
  - Identify and list what needs to be done
  - Revise the paper to the suggestions
  - Write a response to comments
  - Don't be afraid of balance – positive and negative responses
- If it's a reject, identify the reasons and learn from them.

# Tips

1. Check the editors and review process.
2. Make sure that you have a clear, coherent and consistent storyline/argument that adds to understanding in the field.
  - Useful to indicate the 3Cs in the introduction: content, context and contribution.
  - Useful to shape the introduction around the 3Ps – position, problem, proposal.
3. In structure and content, a good article is like a mini thesis.
4. Don't take rejection or review comments personally; be professional and helpful to editors.
5. Getting it right is a learning process; like the PhD apprenticeship.

# For more information

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