Publishing health psychology research: Practical advice on getting started from ECRs and editors

Getting started with advice from ECRs and editors

Juliane Traxler, Rory Coyne & Geert Crombez

Structure

Pre-submission Stage

Selection of Journals

Submission

Revision

Acceptance & Publication

1. Pre-submission Stage

ORCID

ORCID

Connecting research and researchers

An ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) is a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher. It's similar to how a DOI works for academic papers, but for people instead.

- Many journals use it
- Many universities use it
- Many systems (Google Scholar, Web of Science) use it
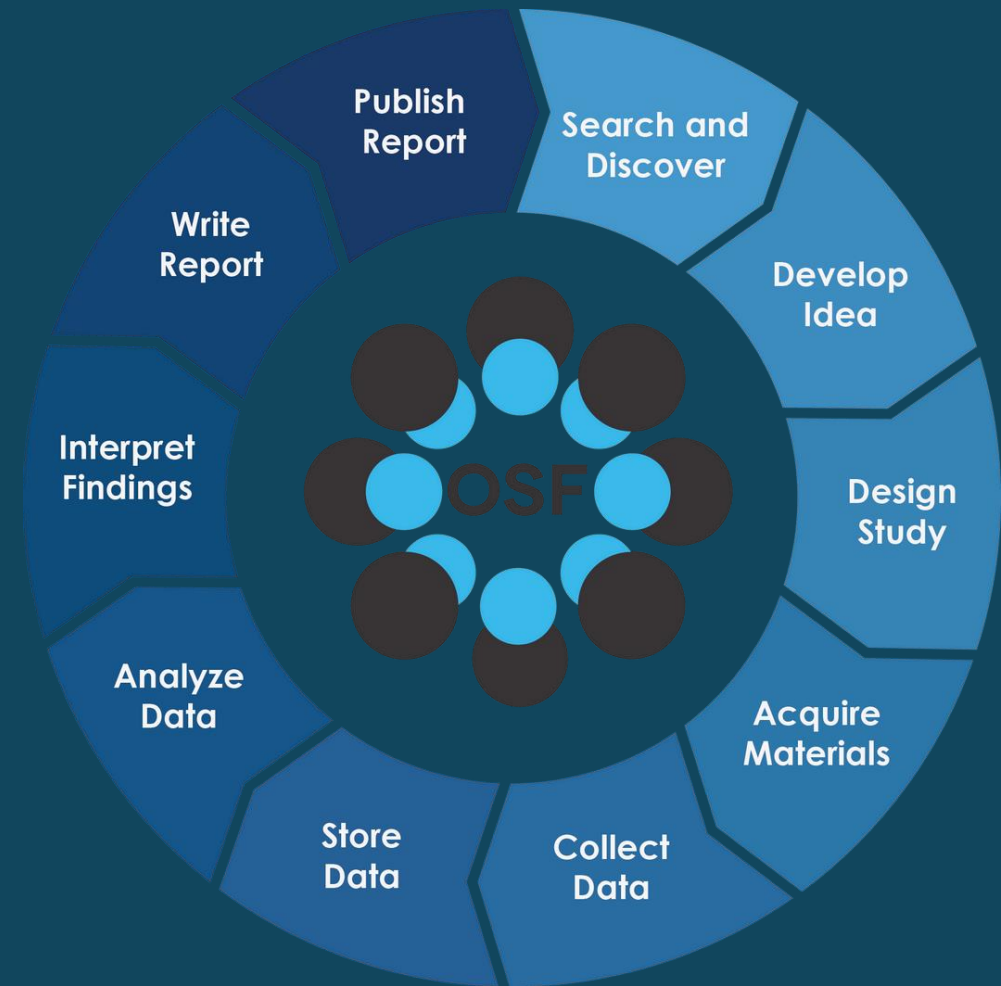
1. Pre-submission Stage

ORCID

Protocol pre-registration

- **Default: "Do it"**
- **many platforms**
  - **OSF, AsPredicted, ClinicalTrials.gov, PROSPERO (for systematic reviews)**

Study Preregistration

- The process of publicly documenting the key details of a research study, including its hypotheses, methods, and analysis plan, **before data collection begins.**
- Published through a formalised registry (e.g., Open Science Framework)
- Aims to improve the transparency, rigor, and credibility of scientific research.

1. Pre-submission Stage

ORCID

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- **Registered reports (some journals offer peer review of protocol with in-principle acceptance)**

1. Pre-submission Stage

ORCID

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Discuss authorship, clarify roles & expectations

- **Who qualifies as an author? ICMJE criteria:**
  - **Substantial contributions to conception/design OR acquisition/analysis/interpretation of data, AND Drafting OR critically reviewing content, AND Final approval of version to be published, AND Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work**

1. Pre-submission Stage – Manuscript Preparation

Reporting guidelines

CONSORT (for RCTs)

STROBE (for observational studies)

PRISMA (for systematic reviews)

TIDieR (for describing intervention)

Tables & figures

Consider color blindness and visibility in black & white

Tables should usually be editable in Word **COPYRIGHT!**

Resources: Canva, Unsplash, flaticon, thenounproject, storyset

Journal guidelines

equator network

Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research

1. Pre-submission Stage – Manuscript Preparation

Open Science Considerations

sharing data

sharing analysis code

keeping reproducibility in mind

Reference managers

EndNote

Mendeley

Zotero

Preprints

not peer-reviewed

not all journals allow it!

1. Pre-submission Stage

2. Selection of Journals – Do's

Journal finders

- **Default: "Talk with your supervisor(s) and colleagues", check own references**
- **Wiley**
- **APA**
- **JANE**

Selection criteria

- **Journal aims & scope -> identify your target audience**
- **Impact Factor & Q-ranking**
  - **Impact Factor (IF): # citations from past two years / # publications from past two years**
  - **What constitutes a "good" IF depends on your field**
  - **Q-ranking: Ranking within field based on IF (Q1 = 1st quartile)**
    - **SCImago**
- **Open Access**

Links to 'Journal Finders' that will match your abstract with Journals from a publisher's database:
- **Elsevier**
- **Sage**

Open Access Publication

A change in the publishing model of academic journal articles, in which articles are made freely accessible online, with no paywall. Contrasts with the traditional subscription-based model.

Open Access

Types of Open Access

- **Gold Open Access: Immediately freely available, authors pay Article Processing Charge (APC)**
- **Green Open Access: Self-archive in repository (freely available after embargo period)**
- **Diamond Open Access: Like Gold OA but without APCs**
- **Hybrid Open Access: Subscription journals with OA option for individual articles**

Open Access

Why choose OA?

- Greater visibility - accessible by anyone (including less privileged researchers)
- Fair/ethical, especially if research funding was public
- Research impact, knowledge transfer, dissemination to non-academic audiences
  - [More likely to be cited](#) (than closed access publications)
- May be required by funder

Article Processing Charges (APC)

- Be careful: range from few hundred to several up to ten thousand dollars
- University/organization/country may have publisher deal (e.g., DEAL in Germany)
- Consider including APC in grant proposals
- See website on [open policy](#)

2. Selection of Journals – Don'ts

Predatory journals

- **Email invitations to publish for a fee, often without quality checks**
- **How to check:**
  - **examine e-mail & website quality (mistakes, over the top language, journal title somewhat removed from your own field)**
  - **peer review & publishing fees transparency**
- **See website on predatory journals**

Dear. Juliane Traxler,

Greetings! May success chase you as you move forward ambitiously towards achieving your goals in life.

We are very pleased to inform you that you are invited to submit a manuscript for "Current Research in Psychiatry and Brain Dis

2. Selection of Journals

3. Submission

Cover letter (max. 1 page)

• Address the editor

• Brief description of manuscript, its relevance, and why it fits the journal

• Statement that manuscript has not been published/considered elsewhere

• Suggest Reviewers

Author declarations

• Author contributions: many journals use CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy)

• Conflicts of interest (declare explicitly if none)

• Use of generative AI: see APA guidelines

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29 January 2024

Dear Professor ▋▋▋▋,

Please find enclosed our paper, entitled 'Understanding drivers' perspectives on the use of driver monitoring systems during automated driving: Findings from a qualitative focus group study'. I would be very grateful if you would consider it for publication in Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour.

In this paper, we report on a qualitative focus group study that was conducted to explore drivers' perceptions of driver monitoring systems within automated driving systems. Participants in this study were asked to discuss their attitudes towards this technology, the perceived benefits, challenges, or issues that they associated with its use, and what they anticipated it would be like to use this technology.

This work is important because, as you will see in our manuscript, driver monitoring systems are an integral part of the future of automated driving. Higher levels of automation (SAE Level 3 and above) allow the driver to disengage from the driving task in certain situations.

We believe that this paper will be of particular interest to the readers of Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour, given its focus on automated driving and driver state monitoring, and the behavioural and psychological factors associated with drivers' intention to use them. A recent study by Smyth and colleagues (2021), published in this Journal, found that effort expectancy and performance expectancy were positively related with behavioural intention to use a driver state monitoring system within automated vehicles. Our qualitative study complements the findings of previous quantitative studies and contributes to the knowledge base in this area, thus moving the conversation forward. Moreover, many of these previous quantitative studies have been published in this Journal, which highlights not only the increasing research attention on driver monitoring systems within automated driving, but also the good match between the submitted paper's focus and the interests of the readership of this Journal.

This study was preregistered on the Open Science Framework, and all data relevant to the study are included in the article or uploaded as supplementary information on the repository: https://osf.io/d4b29/.

I hereby affirm that the content of this manuscript is original. Furthermore, it has been neither published elsewhere fully or partially nor submitted for publication elsewhere simultaneously.

I also affirm that all authors have seen and agreed to the submitted version of the paper and their inclusion of names as co-authors.
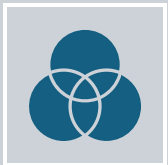
Yours sincerely,

Rory Coyne, University of Galway

What is peer review?

Other researchers (usually 2-3) from the field provide feedback to ensure scientific quality

Editor's decision options

Reject -> select a different journal

Minor/major revision / reject & resubmit-> respond to reviewer comments

Accept -> proofs

Variations on 'revise', 'reject', and 'accept'

- **Desk rejection:** The paper is rejected by the editor-in-chief without being sent out for peer review. Could happen simply because the paper is not the right fit for the Journal – not necessarily an indicator of poor quality.

- **Reject and resubmit:** The paper has potential but needs substantial revision. It will be treated as a new submission.

- **MAJOR revisions:** The paper is sent out for another round of peer review, in which the reviewers will assess how well the authors responded to the first round of reviewer comments. New revisions may be requested at this stage.

- **MINOR revisions:** The paper may or may not be sent out for another round of peer review. Still no guarantee that the paper will be accepted.

- **Conditional acceptance:** Again, not a guarantee, but usually very minor changes are requested at this stage.

- **Rejection after peer review:** You will receive (hopefully) constructive feedback which you can apply to your submission to another journal. Onwards and upwards!

3. Submission

4. Revision

Default: "The reviewers are right even if they are not"

- Try to read it from the perspective of the reviewers
- Take your time

Responding to reviewer comments

- Point-by-point response: address all individual comments
- Make necessary changes in manuscript (using track changes)
- Indicate page and line numbers of changes in response
- When disagreeing remain friendly, explain why, back up with literature if possible

Submit revised manuscript

Goes back to editor and usually to same reviewers

School of Psychology

University of Galway

Galway

Ireland

24-May-2024

Dear Professor ████████

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit a revised draft of our manuscript, entitled "Understanding drivers' perspectives on the use of driver monitoring systems during automated driving: Findings from a qualitative focus group study". We appreciate the time and effort that you and the reviewers have dedicated to providing your valuable feedback on this manuscript, and to the reviewers for their insightful suggestions.

We have been able to incorporate changes to reflect most of the suggestions provided by the reviewers. For the convenience of the reviewers, any changes in the revised manuscript are highlighted in yellow, and in what follows we provide page and line numbers to specify where changes have been made. Here is a point-by-point response to the reviewers' comments and questions.

Comments from Reviewer 1

When responding to reviewer comments, try to use language along the lines of…

- **"Thank you very much indeed for this helpful suggestion."**
  - (e.g., the reviewer wants you to add something to the paper).
- **"You have raised an important point."**
  - (e.g., the reviewer had a comment around your use of theory).
- **"Apologies for this oversight. We have amended this."**
  - (e.g. if the reviewer has spotted a typo).
- **"Thank you for your comment. It is fair to say that in our initial submission we did not fully address…"**
  - (e.g., the reviewer had a concern around the interpretations of the findings).
- **"Thank you very much for pointing this out. We acknowledge/agree that…"**
  - (e.g., the reviewer had a concern around the presentation of results).

Respectfully disagreeing with reviewer comments

1. Even if you disagree, first ask yourself:

- Can I use these comments in any way to improve my paper?
- Could the reviewer have misunderstood what I was trying to say, and if so, could I clarify this point somehow?
- Can I at least partly address the reviewer's comment, explaining where I couldn't fully address it?

2. Seek advice and support from colleagues/editor

- Ask your supervisor(s) to read the reviewer comments. Asking a more senior researcher to read the reviews can be helpful in determining how you should respond.
- Email the editor and explain the situation, if necessary/appropriate. Politely point out the challenge in fully addressing the reviewer comment(s) and ask for guidance.
- Stay calm – go for a walk, vent to a colleague etc., but don't let your emotions get the best of you when corresponding with the Journal.

3. Crafting the response

- Be diplomatic – politely express your disagreement, but also thank the reviewer for their feedback and contributions to improving the manuscript.
- Sandwich approach – i.e., start off by thanking them for raising the point, then provide your clear justification for why the requested change wasn't made, then thank them for the opportunity to discuss this complex debate/methodological issue/theoretical issue.
- Support your response with evidence from the literature – systematic reviews, randomised controlled trials – be factual rather than opinion-based in your response.

When might you be unable to fully address all of the reviewer comments?
- When reviewers have conflicting opinions.
- When reviewers request multiple changes that are impossible to implement simultaneously.
- When changes are requested that are beyond the scope of the paper.
- (Uncommon) when reviewer comments don't make sense.

4. Revision

5. Acceptance and Publication

Proofs

• Check the copyedited and typeset article before final publication

• No major changes allowed at this stage

• Verify everything is complete, headings & subheadings are consistent. Publisher will often ask you to double-check author affiliations, citations and references, and acknowledgements.

• Ensure figures/graphs are readable

Copyright

• If not open access, copyright is transferred from authors to publisher

• Ensure you have permission for any copyrighted material (tables/figures)

5. Acceptance and Publication

Increasing Discoverability

Use of social media: X?; blueSky, Linkedin

Hyperlink to the published version in the journal

Deposit "Author Accepted Manuscript" (AAM) in university repository

Follow-up impact

Citations in Google Scholar, Web of Science, Altmetrics

Make a profile, but most often ORCID can be linked

Gold versus Green Open Access

- published paper is Open Access at publisher's website
- through **hybrid** (subscription) journals or **fully** OA journals
- authors pay **Article Processing Charge** (500-5,000EUR)
- your university may have a **Transformative Agreement (TA)** in place with the publisher, which covers the costs
- article is made openly available immediately upon publication
- limited number of publishers with TA
- **you might have to pay a huge fee if no TA available**
- limit on number of papers which can avail of the TA every year

- deposit in subject-specific or general repository (Zenodo), or an institutional repository

- **Author Accepted Manuscript** (after peer-review but might look different to publisher version)

- no extra cost

- publisher usually imposes **embargo** of 6-24 months

Altmetrics

- Altmetrics (alternative metrics) are non-traditional metrics that measure the impact and reach of scholarly work beyond traditional citation counts. They track how research is being discussed, shared, and used across various online platforms.

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? About this Attention Score

In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric
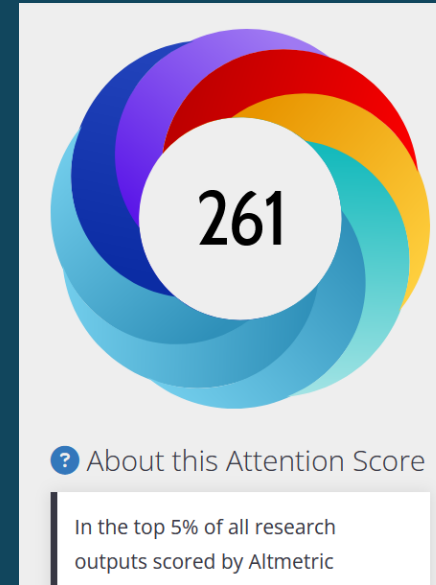
Use Scopus to view article-level altmetrics

Metrics ∧

Scopus metrics

10   79th percentile
Citations in Scopus

1.40
Field-Weighted citation impact ?

More metrics >

PlumX metrics ?

Captures

32

Readers
View PlumX details >

Mentioned by

- 8 news outlets
- 4 blogs
- 1 policy source
- 268 X users
- 5 Facebook pages
- 1 clinical guideline source
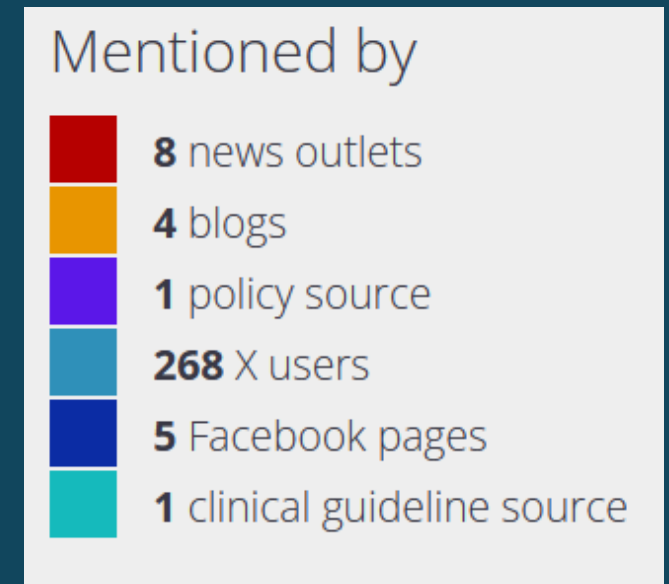
Social media and sharing

Open Science practices like OA publishing and preprints allow you to maximise the benefits of sharing your work widely on social media.

Bluesky: Allows you to make a 'thread' to share the findings of your research. You can also add a 'pinned post' to keep your latest work at the top of your profile.

ResearchGate: New 'Spotlight' feature allows you to broadcast your latest work in other peoples' news feeds. Also lets you see who has read your work, which is great for networking.

Article   Full-text available

Assessing the physiological effect of non-driving-related task performance and task modality in conditionally automated driving systems: A systematic review and meta-analysis

August 2023 · Accident Analysis & Prevention 192:107243 · Follow journal
DOI: 10.1016/j.aap.2023.107243

Rory Coyne · Leona Ryan · Mohamed Moustafa · Show all 6 authors ·
Jane C. Walsh

Overview of the Publication Process

Preparation & submission of manuscript

Assessment

Send for peer review

Desk rejection

Peer review

Editorial decision

Minor/major revision / reject & resubmit

Accept

Reject

Revise based on editorial/peer reviewer comments

Proofs

Select different journal
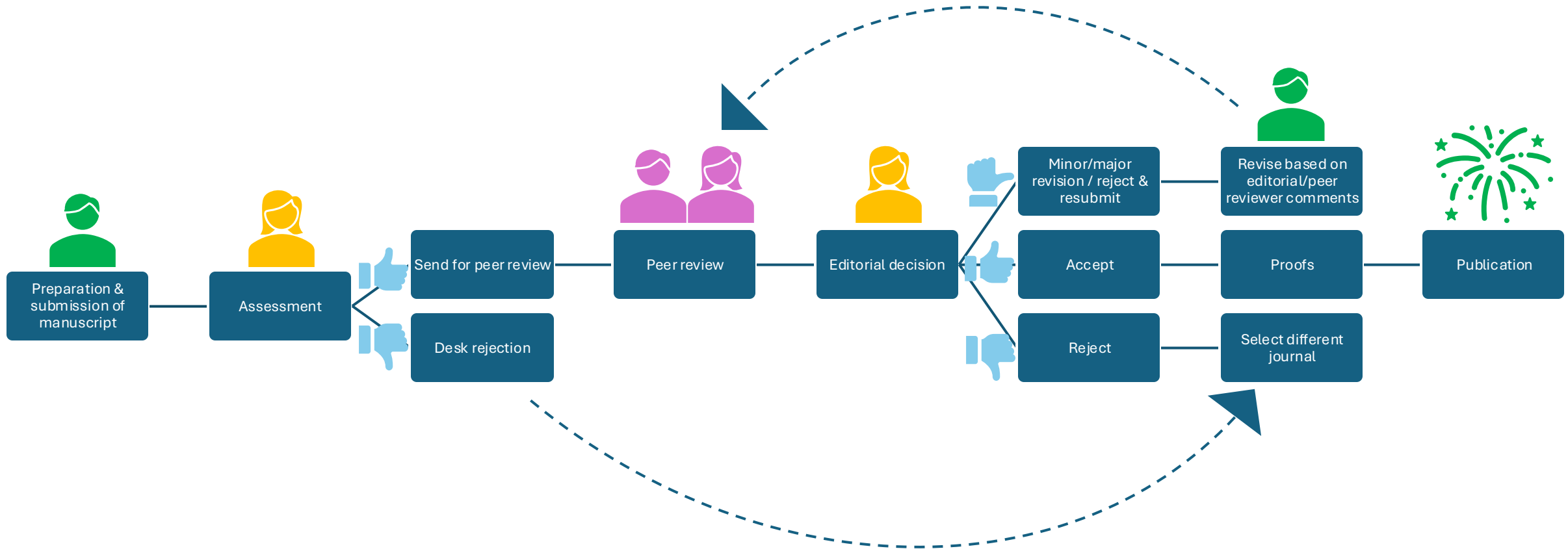
Publication

Authors

Editor

Peer Reviewers

5. Acceptance and Publication

Q&A