¿Cómo publicar artículos científicos?

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Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa
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UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE VALÈNCIA

SOA
SISTEMAS DE OPTIMIZACIÓN APLICADA

Contents

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1. Introduction and Motivation

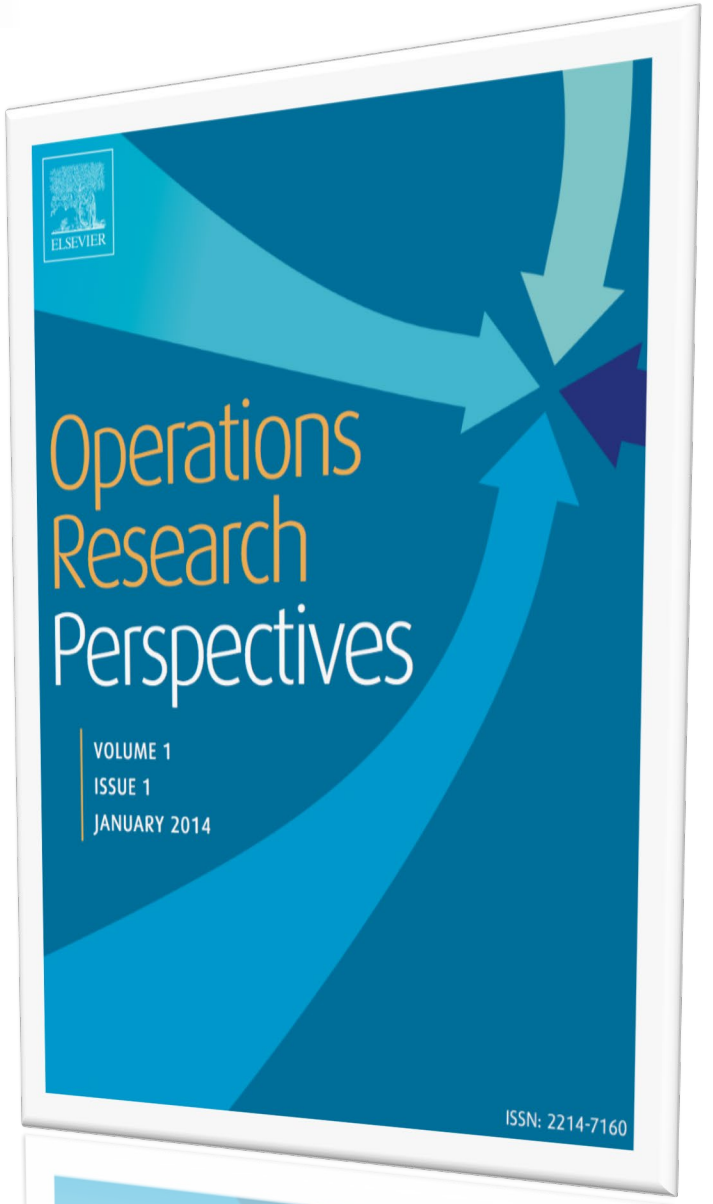
- Head of the research group Sistemas de Optimización Aplicada (SOA)

1. Introduction and Motivation

- I am co-founder and co-editor of the European Journal of Industrial Engineering
- Launched in 2006
- In 2009 already had IF

2. The professor

- Editor in chief of a new Elsevier Journal
- Started 2014
- Indexed in SCOPUS
- Thomson-Reuters Emerging contents



1. Introduction and Motivation

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Other name formats: García, Rubén Ruiz | Ruiz, Rub Én | Rubén, Ruiz García | Ruiz, Ruben | Garcia, Rubén Ruiz | Ruiz, R.

Subject area: Decision Sciences | Computer Science | Mathematics | Engineering | Business, Management and Accounting | Social Sciences | Materials Science | Economics, Econometrics and Finance | Physics and Astronomy | Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology

Documents by author

106

Analyze author output

Total citations

5198 by 3179 documents

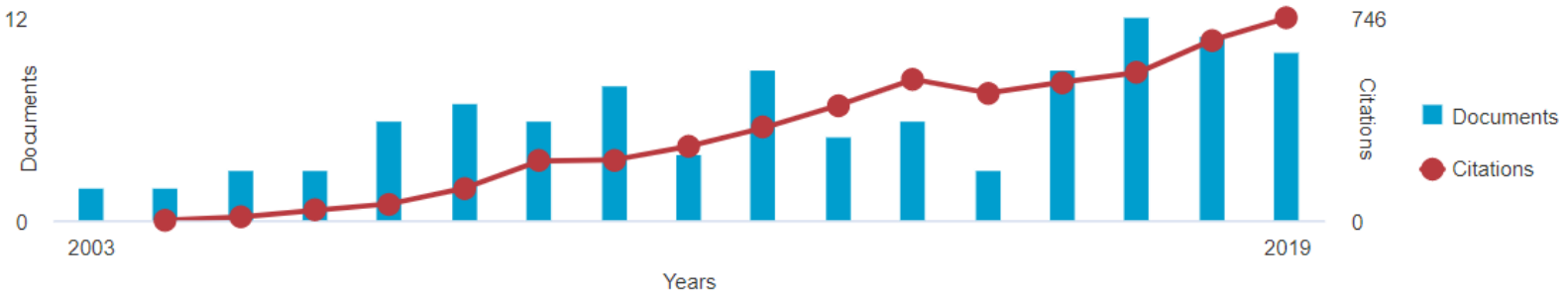
View citation overview

h-index:

38

View *h*-graph

Document and citation trends:



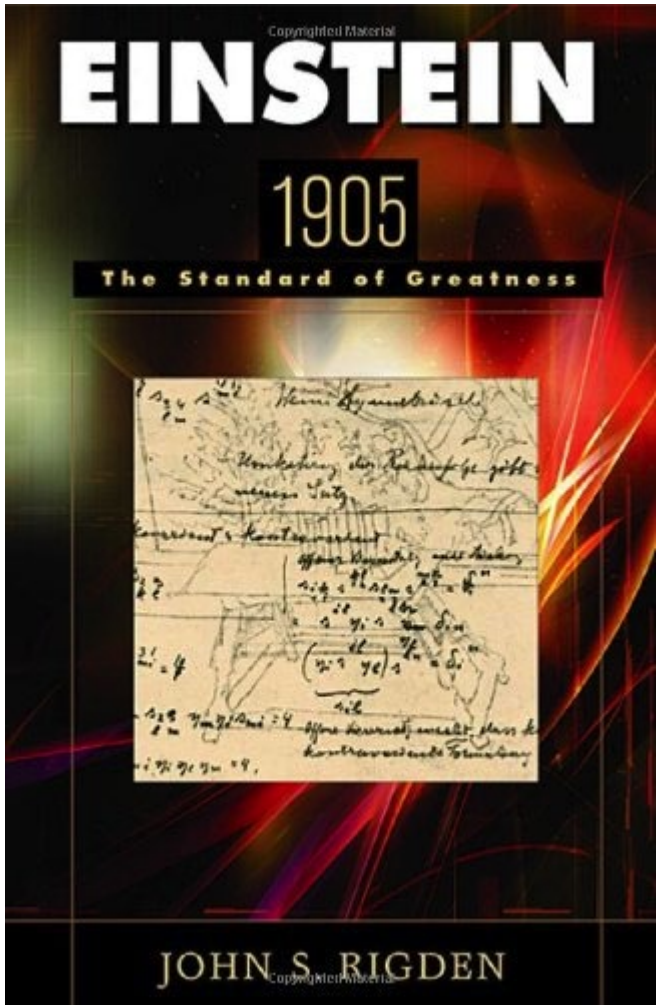
- Writing a good research paper is **much more difficult** than doing a very good research
- Do you think this is a strong statement?
- Really?

1. Introduction and Motivation

- Imagine a good research (cancer cure, cold fusion discovery, P=NP/P≠NP, Yeti discovered in the mountains)…
- …written in a very bad way (confusing structure, bad English, poor presentation of results, research question not clear…)
- Will be usually rejected by editors. In the best case publication will be delayed significantly
- Not sure this is true?

1. Introduction and Motivation

1. Introduction and Motivation



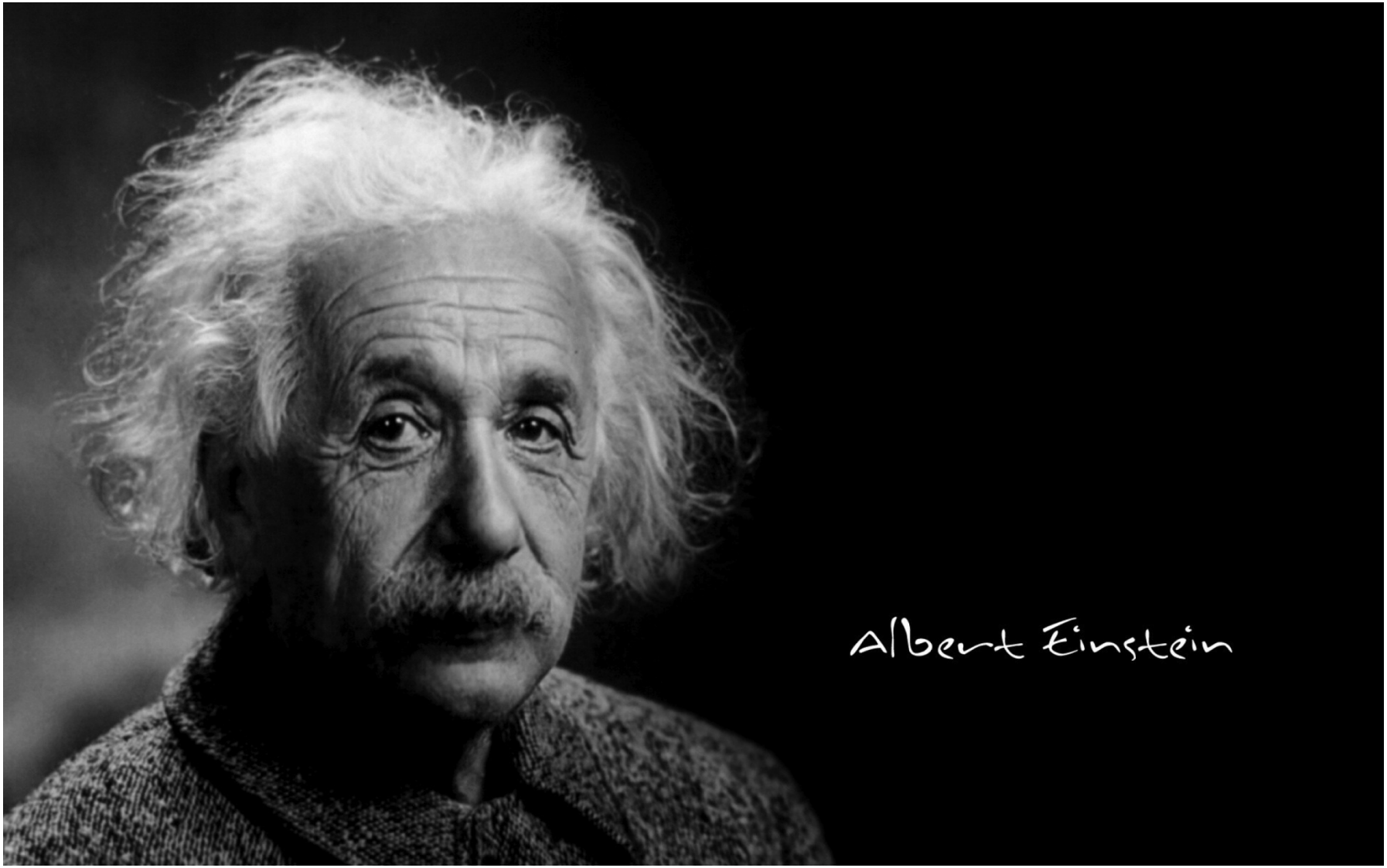
- One of the many biographies of Einstein
- Authored by John S. Rigden
- Published by Harvard University Press in 2006

1. Introduction and Motivation

- Einstein's first PhD dissertation attempt was a failure
- March 1905, Einstein proposed that light was not a continuous wave but consisted of localized particles (to be later called photons)
  - The paper was rejected in 1906 by (to be Nobel prize) Max Laue
  - Particle theory not accepted until two decades later

- Many other papers were rejected when Einstein was still not widely recognized
  - Some biographies point out at his unorganized writing and lack of details in his papers, together with the fact that his ideas were far too revolutionary at his time

1. Introduction and Motivation



1. Introduction and Motivation

- Many other glaring examples more related to our field:
  - E.W. DIJKSTRA. "Goto Statement Considered Harmful." This paper paved the way for object oriented programming
  - A. TURING. "On Computable Numbers, with an Application to the Entscheidungs Problem." A seminal paper on cryptography
  - An many more examples!!

1. Introduction and Motivation

Jointly published by Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest and Springer, Dordrecht

Scientometrics, Vol. 81, No. 2 (2009) 549–565
DOI: 10.1007/s11192-008-2141-5

Rejecting and resisting Nobel class discoveries: accounts by Nobel Laureates

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I review and discuss instances in which 19 future Nobel Laureates encountered resistance on the part of the scientific community towards their discoveries, and instances in which 24 future Nobel Laureates encountered resistance on the part of scientific journal editors or referees to manuscripts that dealt with discoveries that later would earn them the Nobel Prize.

Lack of progress in science is never so much due to any scarcity of factual information as it is to the fixed mindsets of scientists themselves.
[SCHRAM, 1992, P. 357]

1. Introduction and Motivation

- Now imagine a borderline research:
  - Mediocre results
  - Not very original problem setting
  - Standard and unoriginal methodology
- But written in a strong, convincing and beautiful way
- Most of the time papers like this are published

1. Introduction and Motivation

- So the answer is yes: writing a good research paper is **much more difficult** than doing a very good research

- In this talk I will overview many aspects that will help in this herculean task
- Some dirty editor's secrets!

2. Before you begin

- Before starting your research you have to do research:
  - Select a problem that has applications or that is general for many other problems (**INTEREST**)
  - Select a problem that has a wide readership (**INTEREST**)
  - And journals that publish related works (**INTEREST**)

2. Before you begin

- Select a problem that is not very hard (**FEASIBILITY**)
- Select a problem for which you think additional discoveries are possible (**FEASIBILITY**)
- With a workable and realistic methodology (**FEASIBILITY**)

2. Before you begin

- Select a problem that is not so easy (**CONTRIBUTION**)
- Make sure you answer a research question/s and advance in the state-of-the art (**CONTRIBUTION**)

2. Before you begin

- Do not reinvent the wheel, make sure you know the current state-of-the-art and that you innovate (**ORIGINALITY**)
- Improve the methodology, propose something new (**ORIGINALITY**)

2. Before you begin

- Study a problem of **INTEREST** with a clear research plan that is **FEASIBLE**, and write a paper that has **CONTRIBUTION** and at the same contains **ORIGINALITY** in the methodology, results or approach

2. Before you begin

- You need all four items. You can have a feasible original contribution of no interest: NO PUBLICATION
- An interesting feasible and original research that does not really contribute: NO PUBLICATION
- So make sure the selected problem includes all four items

2. Before you begin

- Imagine you have finished your research and you are about to write the paper
- BE HONEST WITH YOU and ask yourself the following questions:
  1. Did I obtain very good results?
  2. If my results would be published by somebody else, would I consider those results/paper sufficiently good or innovative?

2. Before you begin

3. Is my methodology innovative enough?
4. If I received a nice written paper with these results as a referee, Would I accept the paper?
5. Do you honestly think a nice written paper with these results will be cited?

2. Before you begin

- If you answer negatively to any of those questions go back to your research or scrap it
- If you are not impartial ask a colleague unrelated with the research for opinion
- Sometimes a retreat in time can save lots of time and frustration

2. Before you begin

- Before you write the first line of your paper:
- SELECT THE JOURNAL
- Why so soon?
- Some journals have complicated instructions for authors and it might be easier to consider them from the start

2. Before you begin

- Some journals have some specific topics, styles and "types of papers" that are usually published
- Some journals are generalistic, others more specific
- Some accept qualitative research others don't
- So knowing the journal is going to determine your WRITING

2. Before you begin

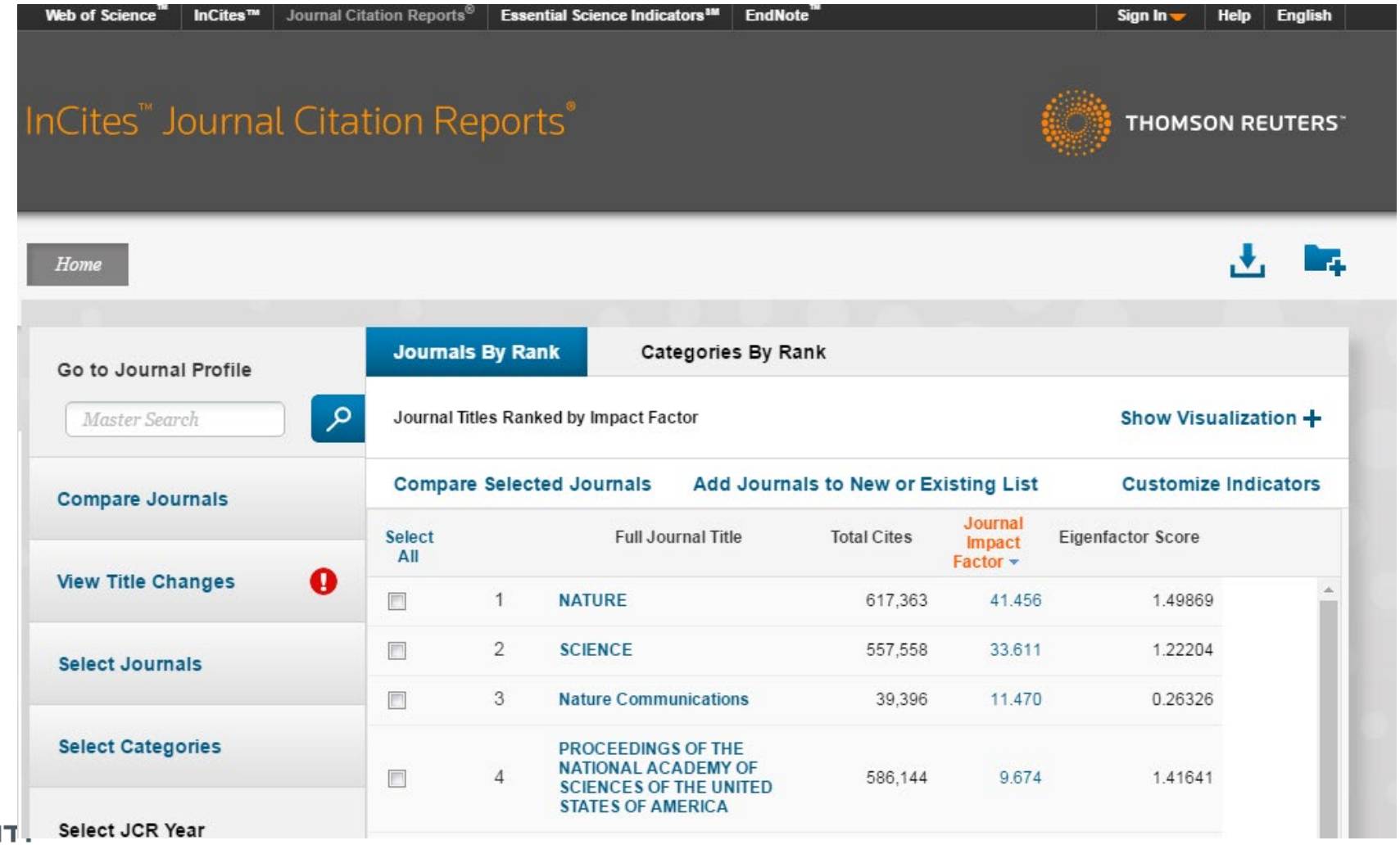
- How to select a good journal?
- I wish I knew the answer… it is very difficult to select a good journal
- Some indications to consider:
  - IMPACT FACTOR: Average number of times published papers are cited up to two years after publication
  - IMMEDIACY INDEX: average number of times published papers are cited during year of publication

2. Before you begin

- 5 YEAR IMPACT FACTOR: Average number of times published papers are cited up to five years after publication
- ARTICLES: Number of papers published per year
- Also consider previous experience
- Ask experienced researchers for past experience on publication speed, professionalism of editor, etc.

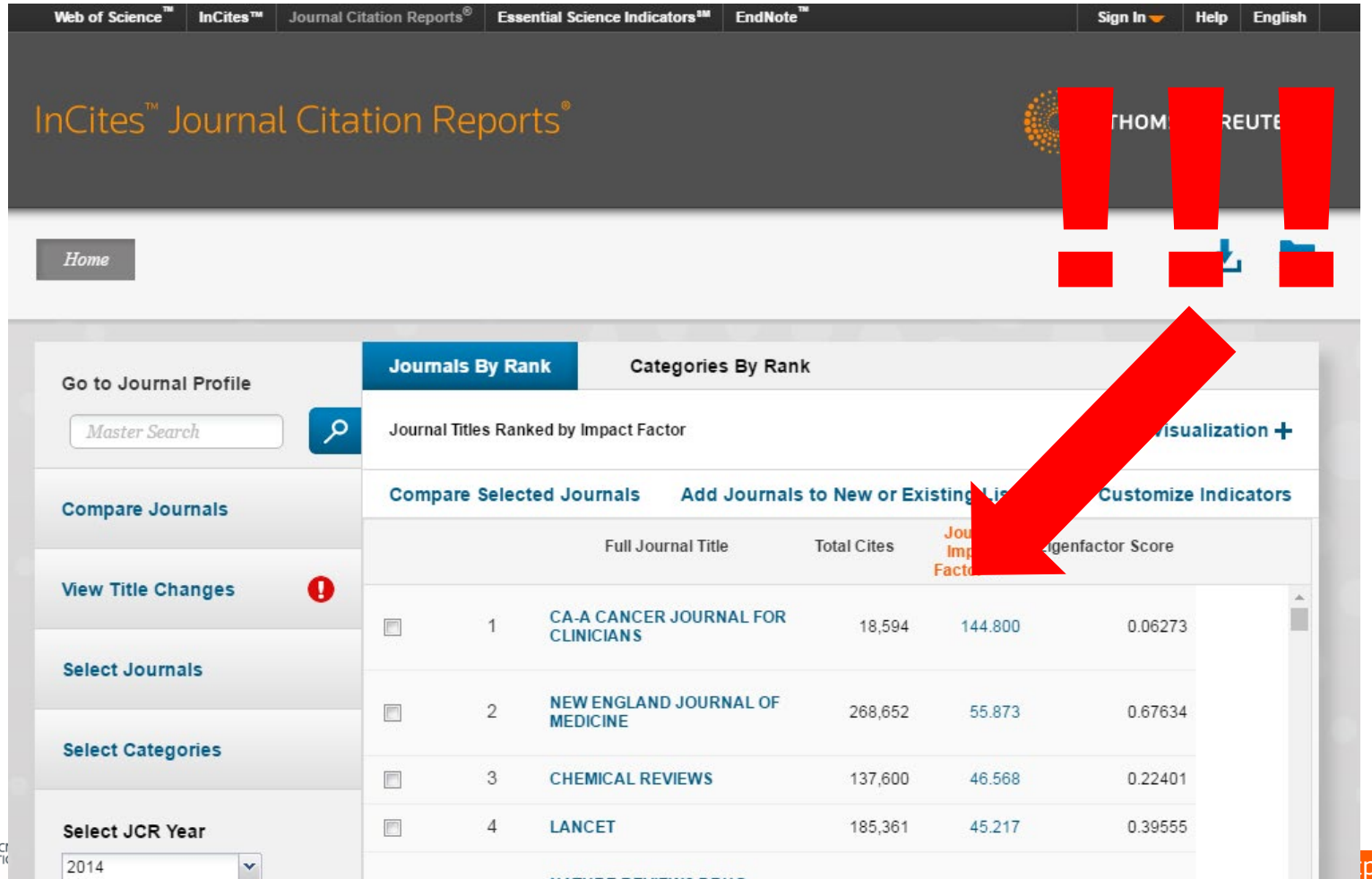
2. Before you begin

- Some Impact Factors



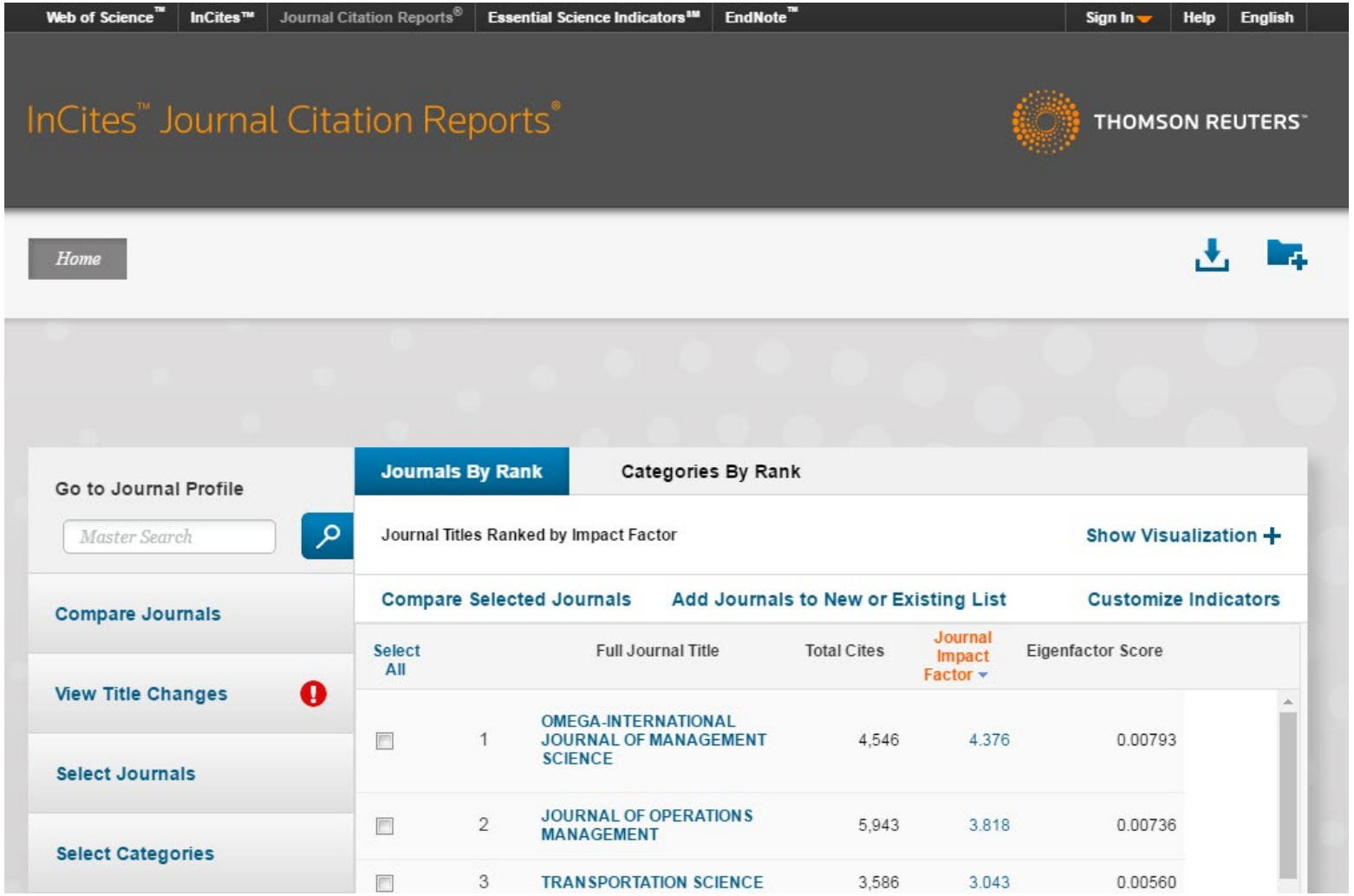
2. Before you begin

- Nature or Science are not the largest in Impact Factor!



2. Before you begin

- Our field is a lesser science ☹



2. Before you begin

- IMPACT FACTOR > 5 YEAR IMPACT FACTOR: Journal on the rise
- The contrary also true
- A good indicator is how many papers from each journal you plan on referencing in your references: Most cited journal is usually an indicator of the target journal

2. Before you begin

- Sometimes the best advice is previous experience
  - Be careful when editors change
    - Journals on the rise get avalanches of new papers (same with journals that leaped in the IF list) and are best avoided
  - If in doubt ask editor or members of the editorial board

3. While you are at it

- You have finished your research and selected the journal
- Writing process starts
- First write a skeleton/outline of your paper:
  - All sections and subsections
  - For each section and subsection 2-3 quick sentences explaining what goes there

3. While you are at it

- The skeleton is to the paper like a blueprint is to the final construction of a house
- It helps also the author to divide the task of writing in smaller pieces of work
- Helps also in organizing the logical flow of the paper
- DO NOT write a paper fully section by section. Have a plan!

3. While you are at it

- Make sure the originality and novelty is in the skeleton, you need to have a section defending the contribution of the paper
- Make sure literature review, problem definition, methodology, results, discussion, conclusions and future research sections are present
- After writing the skeleton read it and make sure it makes sense, it has a logical flow and you are not forgetting anything

3. While you are at it

- Then start filling in the gaps of the skeleton
- TITLE: Very important, like the title of a movie. Title in a research paper should be:
  - Short. Think that the shorter the more easy to remember (you will get more citations)
  - Not too short. It should be descriptive of what you do in the paper
  - Punchy!!! Makes readers want to read it

3. While you are at it

- TITLE (cont)
  - Use as few words as possible
  - An effective title “sells” your paper immediately
  - Your title will be read by far more people than the rest of the paper: publication alerts, emails of table of contents and also by readers of other papers that cite your paper in the references section
  - Do not use abbreviations

3. While you are at it

- TITLE (cont)
  - Do not use adjectives “strong”, “important”, “advanced”
  - Eliminate redundant words
  - Once you are happy with the title change it
  - Then change it again
  - Ask to colleagues
  - When the paper is written revise the title again

3. While you are at it

- ABSTRACT: Also very important
- In my opinion is, by far the hardest part to write in the paper
  - Usually limited in length in the instructions to authors (300 words)
  - Needs to be really short
  - After the title, the abstract is what is read the most

3. While you are at it

- ABSTRACT (cont)
  - Authors, when doing literature reviews read titles of potentially related research
  - From the title they decide to “click” or not
  - After clicking they read the abstract
  - In this moment they decide if the paper is downloaded or not
  - So your abstract is like a TV commercial. It is your time to sell the product!

3. While you are at it

- ABSTRACT (cont)
  - An abstract is a condensed version of the manuscript, which highlights the major points covered, concisely describes its content and scope, and reviews its material in abbreviated form
  - It is usually the first section read and sets the tone of the paper for the **REVIEWER**
  - Write it for authors but always have the **REVIEWER IN MIND**

3. While you are at it

- ABSTRACT (cont)
  - WAIT UNTIL THE PAPER IS WRITTEN AND THEN WRITE THE ABSTRACT
  - Identify the major objectives and conclusions
  - Identify phrases with keywords in the body of the paper
  - Identify the major results from the discussion or results section
  - Assemble the above information into a single paragraph
  - State your hypothesis or method used and the obtained results
  - Omit background information, literature review, and detailed description of methods

3. While you are at it

- ABSTRACT COMMON MISTAKES
  - Too much information
  - Giving too much detail about the methodology
  - Using equations
  - References to literature
  - Using abbreviations
  - Unclear message
  - Unclear contribution of the research

3. While you are at it

- ABSTRACT (cont)
  - Remove extra words and phrases
  - Revise the paragraph so that the abstract conveys only the essential information
  - Make sure you sell the product. State in the abstract the **ORIGINALITY** and **CONTRIBUTION** of your paper
  - But be honest and humble
  - Check to see if it meets the guidelines of the targeted journal
  - Give the abstract to a colleague (preferably one who is not familiar with your work) and ask him/her whether it makes sense

3. While you are at it

- ABSTRACT (cont)
  - Writing an effective abstract will improve the chances of your manuscript being accepted, encourage people to read it, and increase its impact
  - Did I say abstract is important? ☺

3. While you are at it

- I started learning English when I was 7 years old
- I've always attended additional English lessons apart from school
- I lived 14 months in USA and got the high school degree there
- I got a "PASS AT GRADE A" in the CPE Exam (Cambridge Proficiency). The highest grade in the highest level

3. While you are at it

- Even after all this I had for 10 years one hour of one-to-one English class with a native professor EVERY WEEK…
- Still I get my papers revised and proof-improved by an editorial service
- Many times I still get “The paper should be revised by an English native”

3. While you are at it

- Now write all main sections of the paper
- Some pieces of advice:
  - You need concentration to write. Avoid distractions
  - Focus on contents, not on style or format, you will deal with that later
  - That's why I like LaTeX

3. While you are at it

- Don't worry about words, spelling or punctuation at all at this stage, just ideas. Keep going. Leave gaps if necessary. Try to write quickly, to keep the flow going. Use abbreviations and leave space for words that do not come to mind immediately
- Don’t edit now… it interrupts your flow

3. While you are at it

- When you're done writing the main sections of the paper PUT IT ASIDE
- Let a few days pass. You need to forget what you wrote
- Then take it again and read it entirely. Read it with high criticism
- You will easily find missing items that impede the understanding

3. While you are at it

- INTRODUCTION of the paper is not to be overlooked
- It is also a frequently read part of the paper
- It is important to write it for **REVIEWERS**
  - The purpose of the Introduction is to stimulate the reader's interest and to provide pertinent background information necessary to understand the rest of the paper

3. While you are at it

- INTRODUCTION (cont)
  - It is like extending the abstract. Explain in details what this research is studying
  - Cite the relevant literature to start with (but not in detail, this is to be done in the literature review section)
  - MOTIVATE the research. Why the problem is important, why needs to be studied and why your research is original

3. While you are at it

- INTRODUCTION (cont)
  - DO NOT talk badly about previous research. You do not need to state how bad the previous research is to sell your paper (more on this later)
  - Cite also the main results you have obtained in the paper
  - Remember to write at the end of the introduction a reading guide “The rest of the paper is organized as follows…”

3. While you are at it

- INTRODUCTION COMMON MISTAKES
  - Too much information (should be in later sections)
  - Unclear purpose of the paper. After the introduction the reader should have 100% clear what the paper is about
  - Listing/bulleting
  - Unclear paper structure

3. While you are at it

- LITERATURE REVIEW
  - I like to start citing old and most cited work (then the referee knows what you are doing)
  - Try to cite all the relevant work even if with little details to save space
  - Cite in detail and give explanations about the previous papers about the same problem
  - Be courteous and compliment past research (more on this later)

3. While you are at it

- METHODOLOGY
  - In our field we usually propose methods/algorithms/techniques for solving problems
  - Your explanations should allow for an independent **REPRODUCTION** of results
  - Give sufficient details
  - Explain and motivate each step
  - DO NOT give opinions, **GIVE FACTS**

3. While you are at it

- METHODOLOGY (cont)
  - Be convincing. If you choose this or that operator motivate why and how
  - EXPERIMENT a lot and **EXPERIMENT WELL** (a full presentation could be done on this)
  - It has to be complete, but also brief (no unnecessary details)
  - Should be the easiest section to write
  - DO NOT reiterate items from other sections

3. While you are at it

- RESULTS
  - Make sure you are sound in the analysis
  - Use lots of samples, use statistical analysis
  - You have to be convincing
  - Be honest, do not fabricate data, do not hide information
  - Be convincing. If the results are not convincing your paper is out
  - Being frank is a plus… identify the potential shortcomings of your experimentation

3. While you are at it

- CONCLUSIONS
  - Another very important part of the paper
  - Must be also written at the end
  - It is not only summary of what you have done, it is another chance at selling your paper
  - Be assertive of what you have accomplished and what you have done. Take the chance, now supported by the other sections, to sell the originality and contribution of the paper

3. While you are at it

- CONCLUSIONS (cont)
  - Do not reiterate the results
  - Insist on the findings
  - Close the research questions
  - Make sure you open future research issues
  - Be humble and honest

3. While you are at it

- Start editing
- Each sentence, each paragraph should have a purpose
- Try to reduce every sentence so that it is as simple as possible and still retains the meaning
- If you are having doubts about a section/paragraph is probably because it is not needed!

3. While you are at it

- Again make sure you follow instructions to authors
- Carefully craft every table and figure. Perfection shows editors and referees that you have done a good job
- On the contrary, sloppy figures and tables cast doubts on the entire paper

3. While you are at it

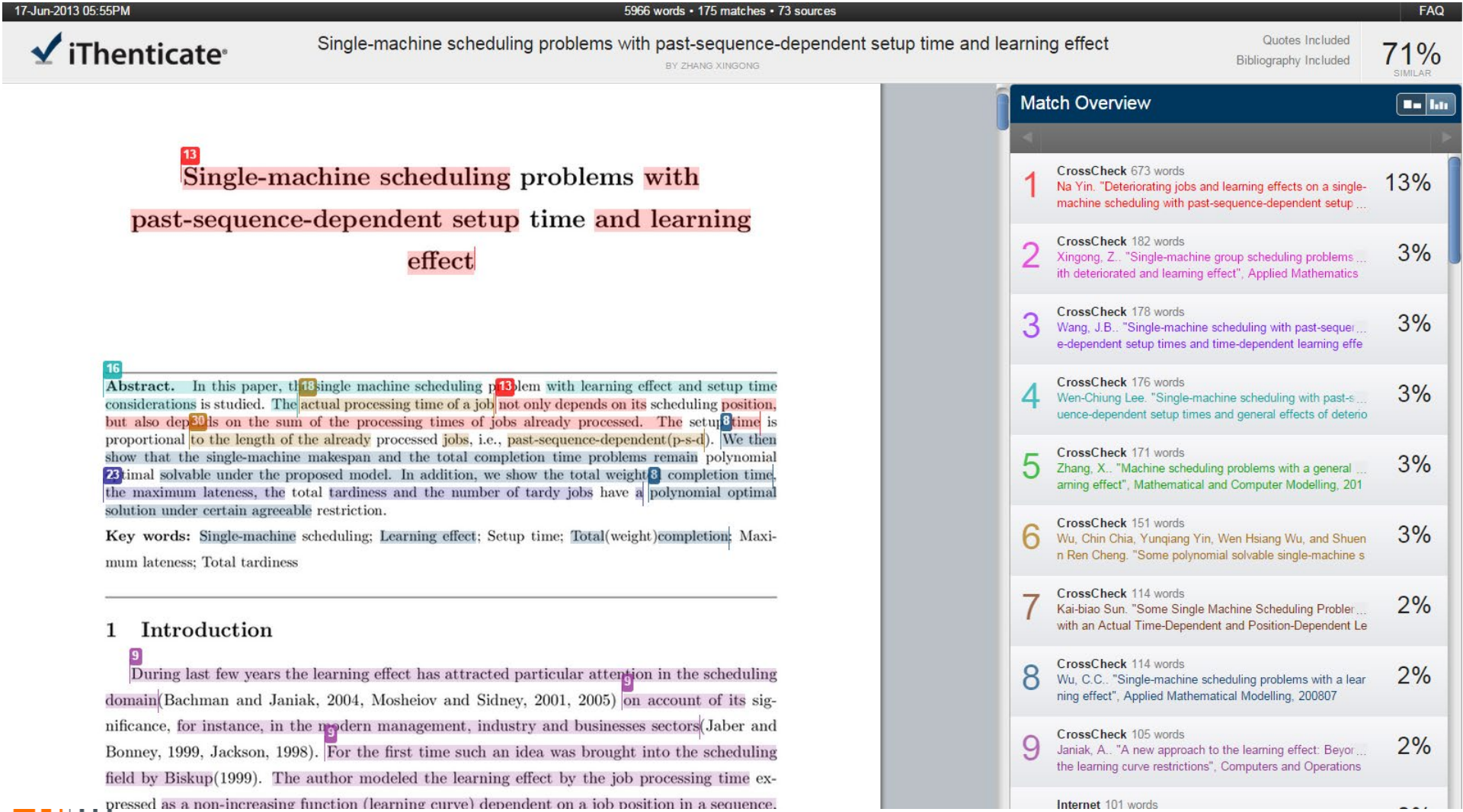
- Tables and figures should be self explanatory (newspaper reading effect)
- Legible legends, axis and captions
- SIMPLE
- High resolution, use vector plots and figures

3. While you are at it

- Other useful advices
  - Cite all the important stuff
  - Cite your own work
  - DO NOT COPY AND PASTE FROM ANY SOURCE, NOT EVEN YOUR OWN PAPERS
  - PLAGIARISM AND SELF-PLAGIARISM IS SEVERELY PUNISHED

3. While you are at it

- Today plagiarism is easy to detect:



3. While you are at it

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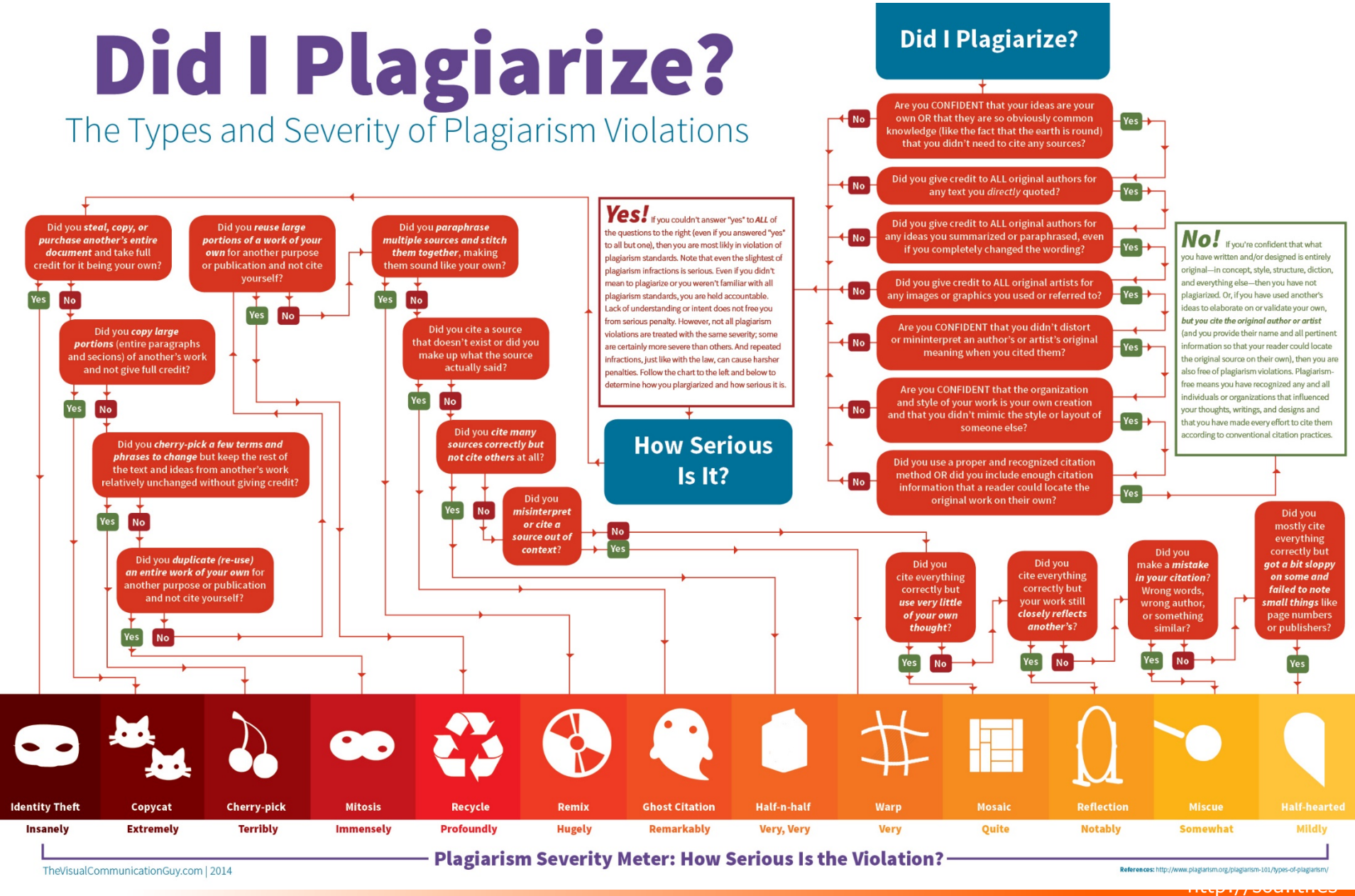

3. While you are at it

- Even in a follow up paper do not copy and paste, do not use the previous paper as a template to modify as you risk on leaving entire paragraphs copied
- Plagiarism can get you banned from the business entirely!
- It is considered a serious academic offence

3. While you are at it

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- Continue editing
- Read as many times as possible to iron out typos
- Too many typos make you look bad and cast again doubts on the rest of your paper. If you cannot write correctly why should we trust your results?
- Referees are not secretaries to correct typos

3. While you are at it

- Write the references carefully. Writing some author last name incorrectly is disrespectful
- Stop only when you do not know honestly how to improve your paper any further
- Go for perfection
- Not a bad idea to let the paper rest for a few days before calling it a go

3. While you are at it

"Perfection is not achieved when there is nothing left to add, but when there is nothing left to take away"

Atoine de Saint-Exupéry

4. After you're done

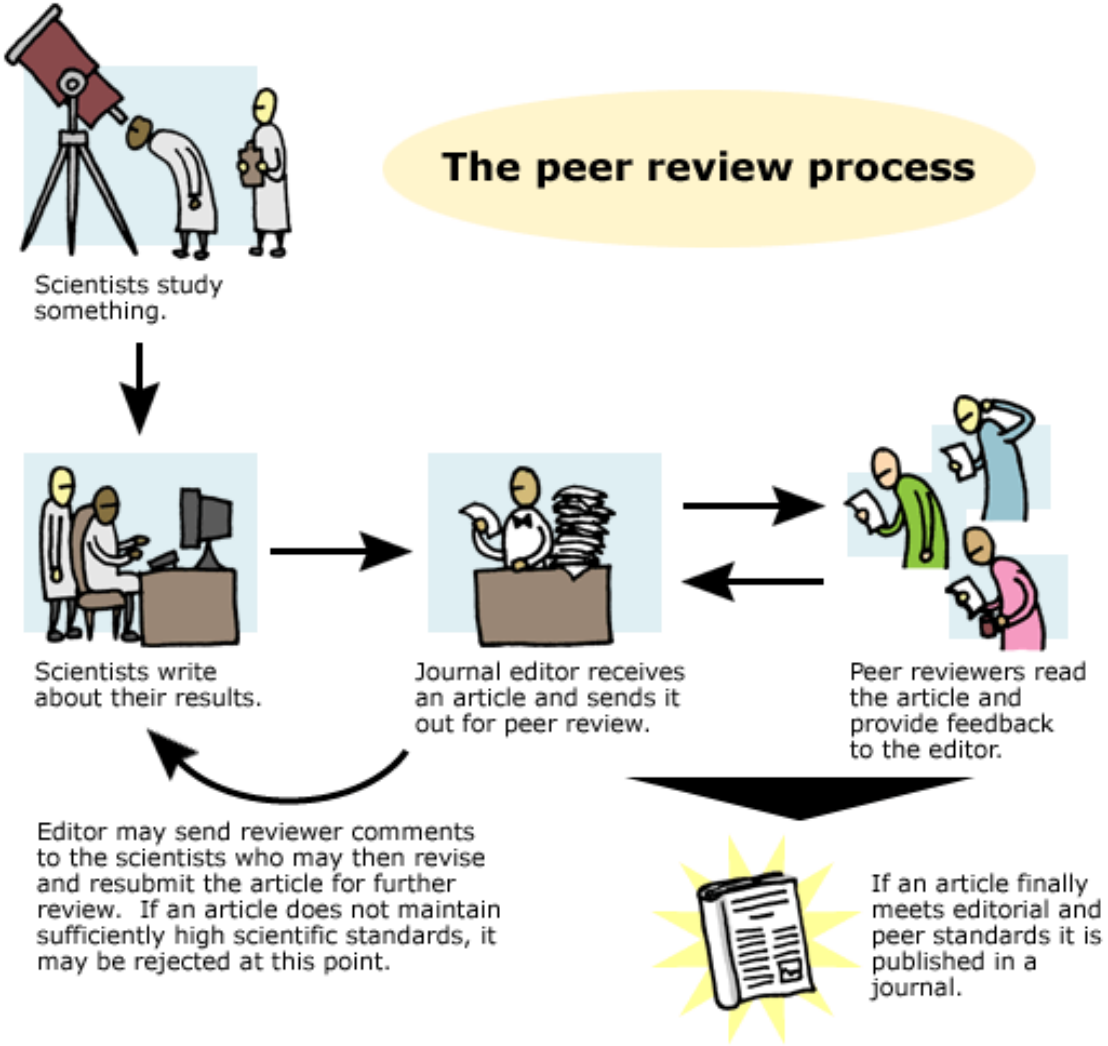
- OK, so you have written a flawless, sound, original and perfect paper
- Congratulations!
- But you are only 50% done
- WHAT??!!!
- Sorry, but you have so submit and to endure the peer review process!

4. After you're done

- It is important to understand the peer review process entirely
- Know your "enemy"
- Submission online. Follow rules

4. After you're done

- Peer review process rather simple:



4. After you're done

- Researchers
  - 1st objective: publish
  - 2nd objective: in high quality journals
  - 3rd objective: get citations
- Editors
  - 1st objective: increase impact factor of journal
  - 2nd objective: increase impact factor of journal
  - 3rd objective: increase impact factor of journal
- Publisher: Give me the $$!!!

4. After you're done

- Try to fill in all fields when submitting the paper
- If asked for proposed referees:
  - Do NOT propose past co-authors or friends or people you know
  - Editors have tools to get all co-authors of an author
  - Try not to propose people even from your own country!

4. After you're done

- There are many steps in the peer review process:

1. In many journals your paper is technically screened. It will be returned to you if poor English or if the paper is not in the required format (author's guidelines). This is NOT a rejection.
2. After technical screening the paper is received by the editor in chief/handling editor

4. After you're done

3. Editor usually scans the paper. Might decide to return the paper to the authors if some solvable deficiencies are found. Again this is NOT a rejection (called return to authors)
4. DESK-REJECTION. The editor might reject the paper if out of scope or if the editor is confident in that the paper will not survive the peer-review process (most likely to get rejected)
   - If this happens it is very bad. Either you did a bad journal selection or your paper is not ready for submission!

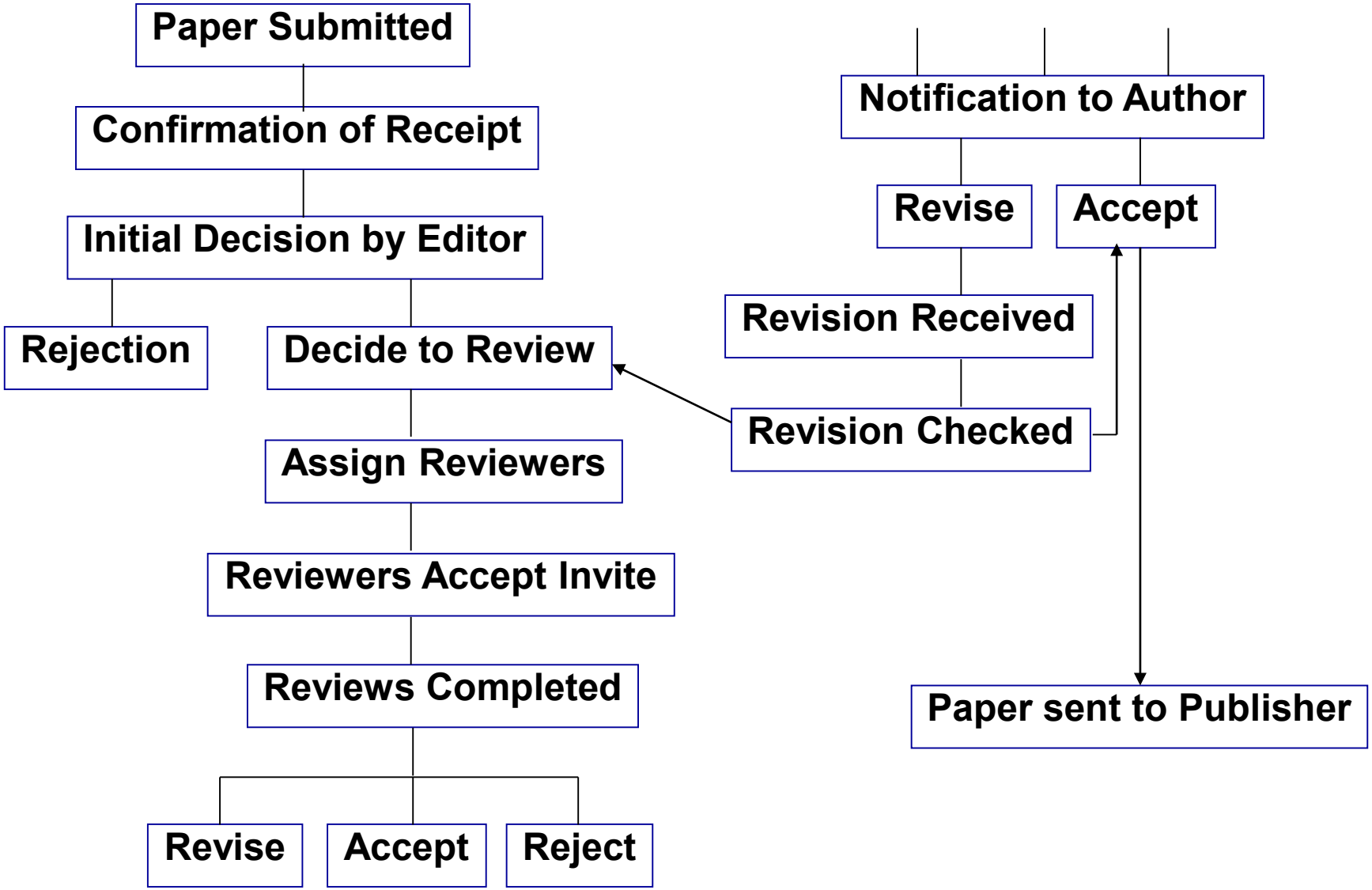
4. After you're done

5. If the paper passes the editor screening it is usually sent to referees
6. Some journals use double blind, others single blind. Some journals use two referees, others three… there are many situations
7. After some weeks (or months) the reports of the referees arrive
8. Editor checks the reports and if they are not convincing/not detailed might need to appoint some new referees (more wait)

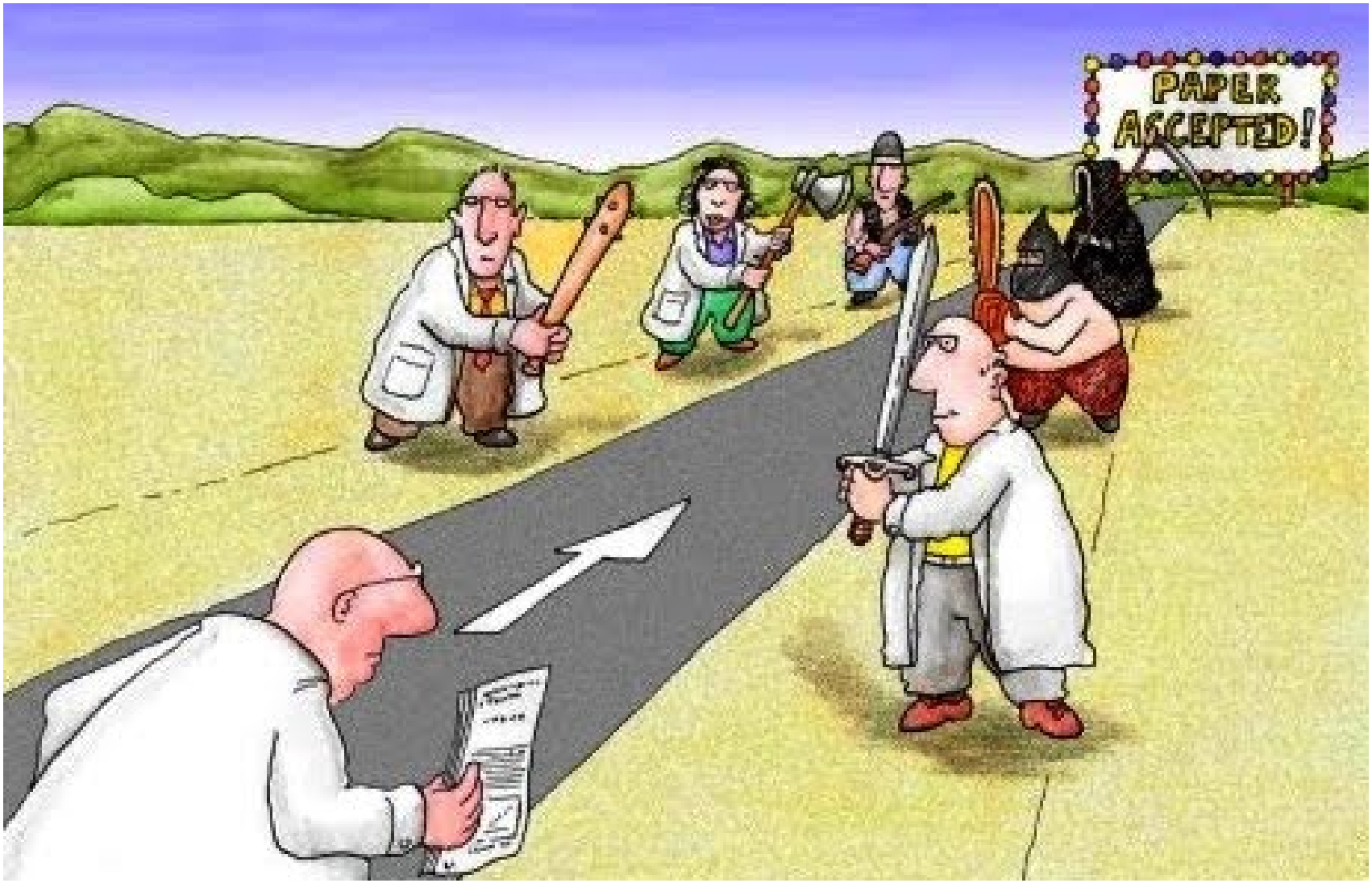
4. After you're done

9. With one or more rejection reports usually the paper is rejected
10. Depending on the journal with one or two major revision reports the paper can also get rejected
11. If not rejected authors might be asked for modifications
12. The paper is finally accepted when referees accept the paper or when the editor decides

4. After you're done



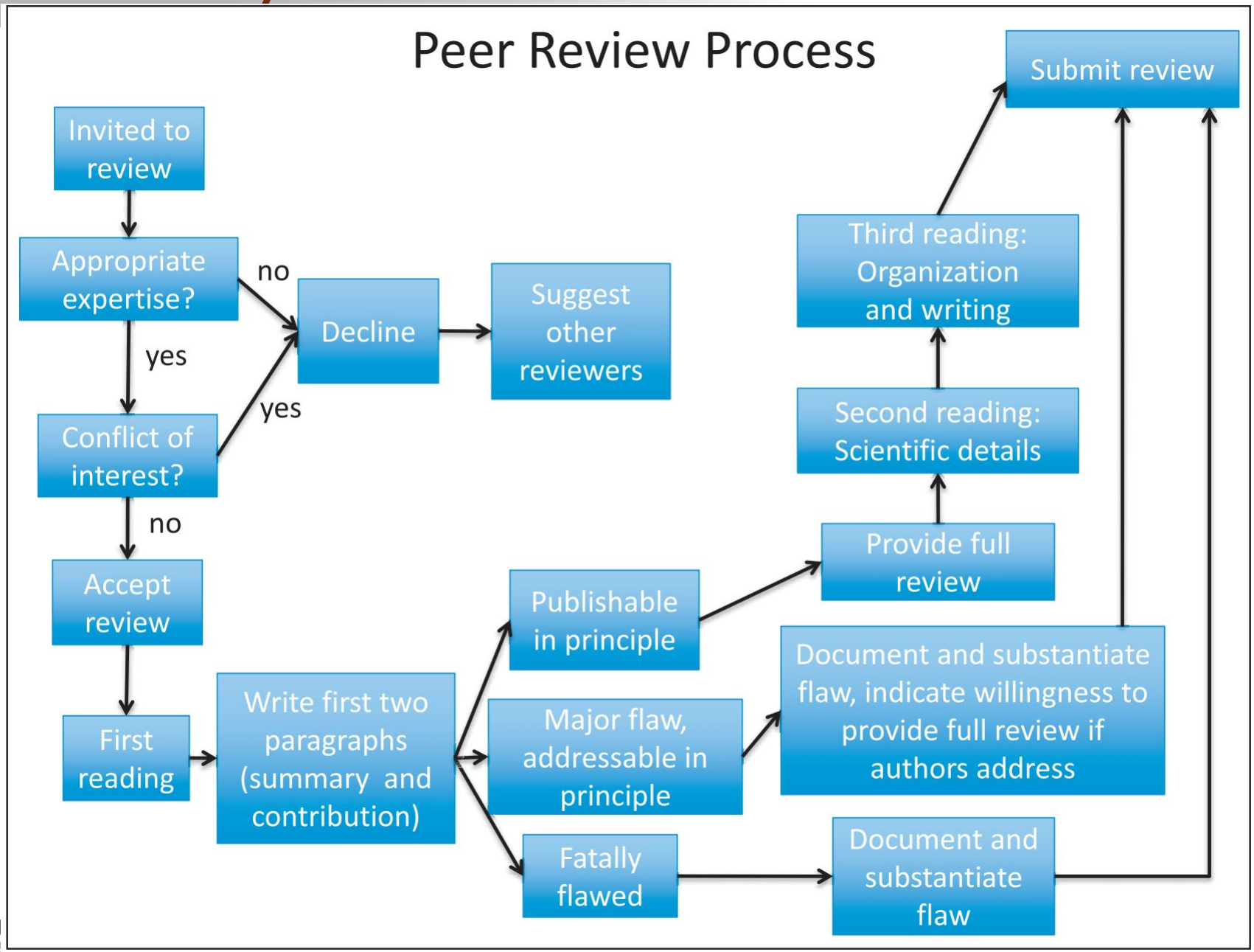
4. After you're done



4. After you're done

- Good to know the process from a referee perspective:

4. After you're done



4. After you're done

- 99% of the times you will have to revise your paper
- That is why I said that completing the paper is just 50% of the work
- Be prepared to revise the paper comprehensively and to write answers to referees

4. After you're done

- Do not argue with referees
  - Scientists are hard to convince
- Do what they say
- "It is too much work to do that" is not a valid excuse by a long shot
- If they ask you to do a lot of work is actually a very good thing
  - If you do it they will be compelled to accept afterwards

4. After you're done

- Referees are normal people
- Real comments by real referees (different sources)
  - You shoudl let a native english speaker reads the paper to checking the ortographe and gramar of the paper
  - Your contribution is so trivial that somebody must have published this somewhere already
  - I had a headache just by looking at the data structures of your linear-time optimal algorithm. No doubt an exhaustive algorithm would be more efficient in practice

4. After you're done

- Reject: Figure 3 is unclear
- This is a great idea- it was even better when it was first published in 1968
- Your research agenda is so outdated that your results are on a Wikipedia page already
- Being 37% better than a complete moron does not make you a genius
- This article does not deserve the paper and ink used to print it
- I can't believe the authors took the time to present, analyze and prove an algorithm for this middle-school problem

4. After you're done

- Honestly, I really wonder whether this article is a joke or not. Anyway, I can assure you it gave me a good laugh and put me in a good mood for the rest of the day
- This reviewer clearly spent more time reviewing the paper than the authors did writing it
- Some Monthy Python sketches are far more logical than this paper
- The used notations are unclear and confusing. Since clear writing leads to clear thinking, I doubt that the authors really understood their own article

4. After you're done

- The only merit of this paper is to demonstrate all what you have not to do when writing an article
- Had you considered maybe reading some papers in the field before writing one?
- An interesting & original paper; but the interesting bits are not original, and the original bits are not interesting
- A comprehensive list of the flaws in this paper would require a review longer than the paper itself
- I know your advisor wants you to submit papers, but you still need to do some decent research first

4. After you're done

- If referees are asking you to do such an amount of work that you just cannot do: withdraw the paper
- Write detailed answers to referees, indicating how the paper has been changed
- Do not write half-baked answers. Write in detail and to the point

4. After you're done

- Only argue with the referee if he/she is dawn wrong and rebut what they say elegantly, softly, cautiously and convincingly
- Try to do all requested changes and answer profusely. That way, referees will accept in the second round

4. After you're done

- If your paper is rejected:
  - Anger towards the editor
  - Writing angry emails
  - Anger towards referees
  - Anger towards the system
  - Stop doing research, quit your job
  - **Read the reports and improve your paper**

4. After you're done

- Only if you get stupid small reports or no reports at all you should submit the paper right away to another journal
- **DO NOT** submit the paper to another journal without paying attention to referees:
  - It is likely that you get again the same referees. They will not like that you ignored their comments

5. Editor's secrets

- Editors get hundreds (some thousands) of papers per year
- Do not expect them to remember your paper
- Do not expect a special treatment
- Try not to bother them unless absolutely necessary

5. Editor's secrets

- Editors are not experts in every possible topic covered by their journal
- Editors must respect referee's opinions:
  - Would you be a referee for a journal that ignores your advices?
  - Editors need reviewers
  - Therefore, do not expect editors to ignore referees and to take your opinion over theirs

5. Editor's secrets

- The processing of a paper by an editor (me):

1. Read the paper quickly (5 minutes)
2. First impression important. Sloppy figures, poor references, poor formatting, typos and poor English are 99% of the times a clear indication of the paper's quality
3. Unless I see an unpolished diamond, I desk reject poor papers right away

5. Editor's secrets

4. Run iThenticate for plagiarism-checking
5. Take a quick look at previous publications by the authors (Scopus)
   - My job is to increase the IF of the journal so it helps if the authors have previously highly cited papers
6. Take a look at the cited papers in the references
   - It also helps to see that papers in the same area get cited a lot: This means an opportunity to get citations for the journal

5. Editor's secrets

7. At this stage I have a more or less clear picture about the potential of the paper
8. I seek for help if I have a known expert in the Editorial Board
9. If not I carry on and select referees
   - Referees are well known COLLABORATIVE experts in the field
   - If I am not versed in the field of the paper I select referees from the cited papers mainly or from cited papers in the cited papers ☺

5. Editor's secrets

- Therefore, be kind with the papers you cite:
  - Be respectful. Do not state previous research is flawed or wrong or incomplete or be nasty. Those authors you cite are most probably your referees
  - If you are in conflict with an specific paper better NOT cite it! The editor will not select a referee from an uncited paper

5. Editor's secrets

10. Invite referees, as many as possible
11. Keep inviting until 2-3 of them agree
12. Watch out for deadlines
13. Send reminders if referees late
14. Collect reports and decide
15. Read reports carefully
16. Reject the paper if reports negative
17. Ask for changes if reports positive

5. Editor's secrets

18. Wait for author's responses
19. Read author's responses and if needed repeat the whole process again with referees
20. Only accept if I am confident the paper is ready and referees are happy about it
21. Inform referees about my decision
22. Send the paper to the publisher
23. END

5. Editor's secrets

- Some final advices:
  - Peer-review is sometimes a process of luck
  - But bad papers are most of the time detected
  - You can get away with a few bad papers but publish many bad papers and you will get a bad reputation: each time you will find it harder and harder to publish
  - Have a publication supply chain: always have as many papers submitted as possible

5. Editor's secrets

- Some final advices (cont)
  - Try to improve on each paper… try to get better each time
  - Know your field, try to meet the researchers at conferences
  - Try to meet editors also:
    - All things work better if people know you
  - ACCEPT REFEREE INVITATIONS! Editors remember authors that have been good referees (the contrary is also true)

5. Editor's secrets

- Some final advices (cont)
  - Do not research dead topics… if the most recent reference you have in your paper is 10 years old… you are in black waters. Editors will find it hard to locate referees
  - Overall dead topics indicate lack of interest from readers and researchers -> less citations -> Editors don't like

5. Editor's secrets

- Some final advices (cont)
  - Do not invent problems. New problems are scarce… there are thousands and thousands of papers… new problems are either strange or just not really interesting
  - Most interesting and/or important things have been researched already
  - Being "overly original" is usually not a good thing

5. Editor's secrets

- Some final advices (cont)
  - Do not be conflictive. Do not argue. Editors remember a lot those that complain
  - Do not send papers repeatedly to journals that reject your papers: Editors see easily the past track of an author… if an author has been rejected 10 times by 20 different referees why this time should be different?

5. Editor's secrets

- Some final advices (cont)
  - Peer-review times vary wildly from journal to journal
  - My experience: I had a paper accepted in two weeks in Computers & Operations Research…
  - …and I had to withdraw two papers from International Journal of Production Economics after 14 months waiting with no reports

5. Editor's secrets

- Some final advices (cont)
  - I usually do not say anything as an author to the editor before 6 months have passed
  - After 6 months I send a short and nice enquiry to know the status of my paper
  - If editor answers I do not insist until two more months have passed
  - If editor does not answer I send more reminders
  - If no answer I withdraw the paper

5. Editor's secrets

- Some final advices (cont)
  - Be honest
  - Be truthful
  - Be ethical
  - Work as hard as you can
  - Try to improve always
  - Be kind, supporting and collaborative