Data Editor's Report 2024

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This report covers the period between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024. In this period, 79 replication packages have been submitted and 90 packages have been accepted.

We now have four complete years of data under the new Data Availability Policy. This makes it possible to make comparisons and identify changes.

Turnaround times

A key performance indicator is the number of revisions a package goes through before acceptance.

The majority of packages are accepted only after revisions, but the number and share of packages accepted without revisions have increased. This year, 13 packages were accepted without revisions. Most packages are accepted on first revision. The Figure plots the number of packages by revisions over time. Around 78 percent of packages are accepted after at most one revision (approximately same as last year).
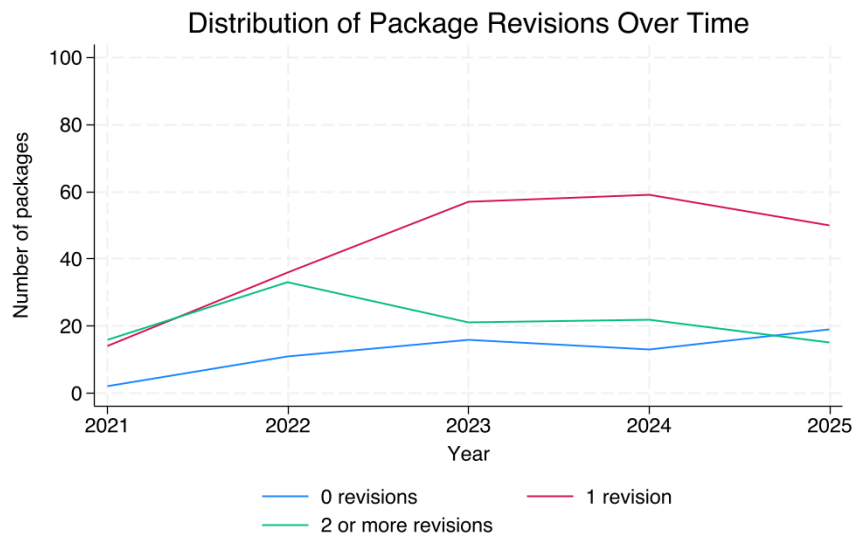

Figure 1: Three quarters of packages are accepted after at most one revision

The average package accepted this year received their first response from the Data Editor in 24 days (same as last year). This statistic excludes papers where the Data Availability Policy does not apply. For revisions, the mean response time is 8 days (same as last year), with the majority of packages decided in much shorter time (see Figures).

The operations have matured to a constant pace. The number and speed of processed packages are stable over time. We still struggle, however, with trivial mistakes in packages that slow down the process unnecessarily.
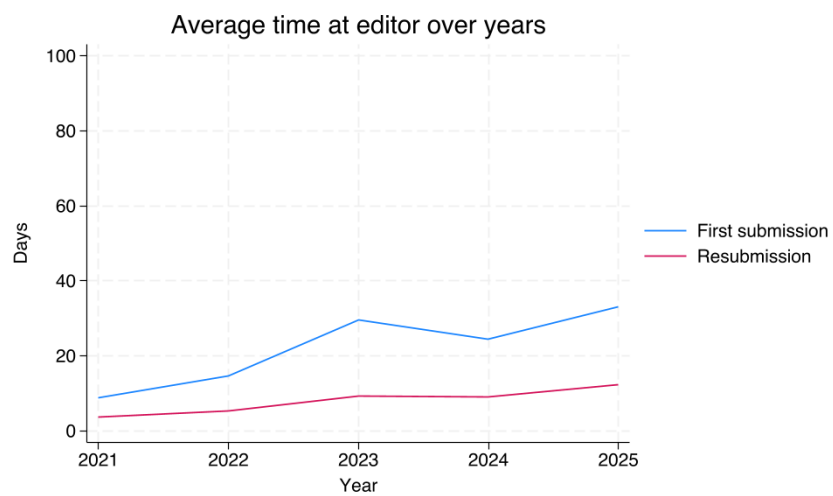
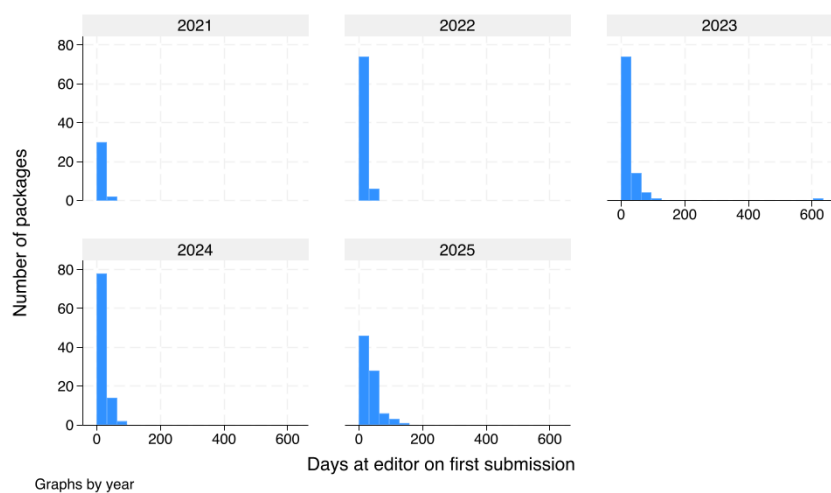Figure 2: Average time at editorial team

Figure 3: Distribution of time at editorial team: first submissions
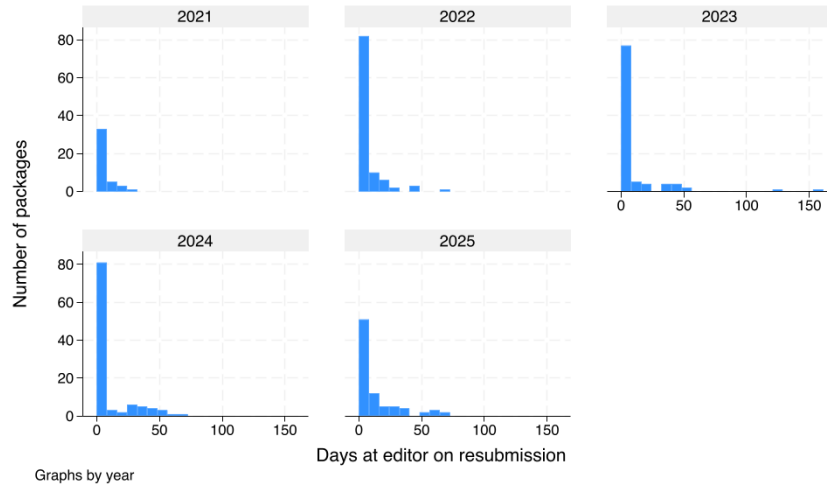
Figure 4: Distribution of time at editorial team: resubmissions

This suggests gap in my communication with authors about what is expected in a replication package. We are working on improving this by author education (website, mini-courses) and automation (checklists, templates).

Impact

The median replication package is downloaded from Zenodo 2.8 times a month (up from 2 last year). We excluded the first six months of the package to control for views by the authors and the editorial team. As the figure shows, there is substantial heterogeneity across packages in their download statistics, with some being very successful. All packages have some visibility.
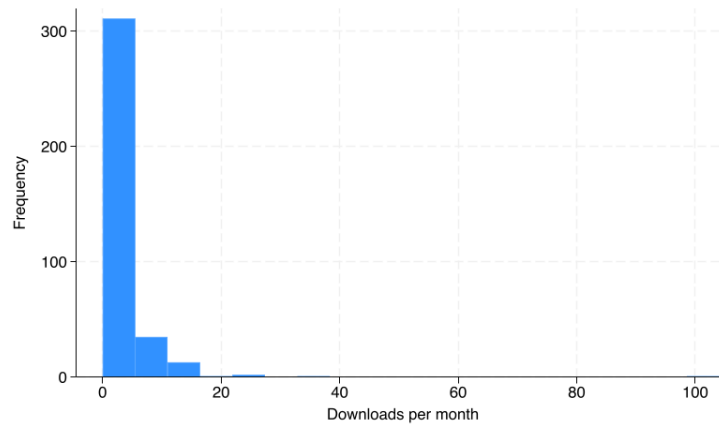

Figure 5: Unique downloads of packages from Zenodo