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Introduction. *Information Research* is a *freely available*, international, scholarly journal, dedicated to making accessible the results of research across a wide range of information-related disciplines. It is privately published by Professor T.D. Wilson, Professor Emeritus of the University of Sheffield, with in-kind support from Lund University Libraries, Lund, Sweden and from the Department of Information Science, Loughborough University, UK.

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- LISA: Library and Information Science Abstracts

It is also indexed for ISI's Web of Knowledge, for listing in:

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Editorial Policy. *Information Research* publishes both refereed papers and working papers in the fields of information science, information management, information systems, information policy and librarianship.

Papers, reporting original research, may be of any length, and should be submitted in XHTML format according to the <u>Instructions for Authors</u> (if an author experiences problems, he or she should contact the Editor). Each paper should be submitted with an abstract and with the figures as separate .gif or .jpg files.

All papers are submitted to referees who are acknowledged authorities in the various fields of specialization of the journal. Where referees

disagree over the quality of a submitted paper, the Editor will obtain an opinion from a third referee.

Information Research also publishes book reviews and software reviews and its 'parent' site <u>InformationR.net</u> has a page devoted to <u>electronic journals and newsletters</u> in fields within the scope of the journal.

The Peer Review Process. Papers are first reviewed by the Editor who receives the paper and, if it is considered to be within the scope of the journal, it is then circulated to two referees, selected for their expertise in the area of the submitted paper. Members of the Editorial Board also act as referees, where appropriate. Refereed papers, in other words, will be subject to the full rigour of peer review as it is exercised by scholarly *printed* journals. The majority of papers submitted usually require revision before publication and, overall, the acceptance rate of the journal is approximately 35% of submitted papers..

The difference between the peer-review process for *Information Research* and that of printed journals is one of speed of review—although the main determinant of this is the speed with which referees respond. If a paper is received at the beginning of the quarter within which an issue is published, we normally expect to publish it in the next quarter (unless revision is required) - this is unlikely, however, if the paper is received in the second half of the quarter, when the paper is more likely to be reviewed in time for later issue of the journal. Normally, however, we expect to publish papers within three to six months of submission. The journal is not restricted by needing to limit its output in any way: an issue may contain only three papers, or it may include fifteen or twenty - 'page limitations' do not affect an electronic journal.

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