**TOCE Decision Categories**

Last modified 20 October 2020

The journal has received feedback that the “Major Revisions” category is misleading because it implies that a paper will eventually be accepted if major revisions are made. In fact, we know this is not the case: Under current TOCE policy, a revised submission of a paper that received a decision of “Major Revisions” is subjected to a second round of peer review. If that second round of peer review also yields a decision of “Major Revisions,” the paper is removed from the peer review process—i.e., it is rejected.

To bring TOCE's paper decision categories more into alignment with those of other journals, we propose to change the decision categories to "Revise and Resubmit," "Accept with Revisions," "Reject," and "Accept.".

**Replace “Major Revisions” with “Revise and Resubmit.”** "Revise and Resubmit" is a category that many journals use. We propose to use the category to mean the following: “If you take the peer reviews seriously and do all of the work the reviewers are asking of you, we will give the paper a serious second look and there is a chance it will be accepted.” Authors have one year to revise and resubmit from the date of the decision. AEs will make every effort to have the same set of reviewers re-review the revised submission. If the revised submission does not receive at least a "Accept with Revisions" decision in the second round of peer review, it is rejected and removed from the review process. Rationale: This new category brings TOCE into better alignment with other journals and clearly indicates that a paper that receives this decision is not guaranteed to be eventually accepted.

**Replace "Minor Revisions" with "Accept with Revisions."** The "Accept with Revisions" category is meant in the following way: “Your paper WILL be accepted by the journal if you address the concerns of the reviewers and AE. It’s just a matter of you following through. Accordingly, revisions to papers that receive "Accept with Revisions" will NOT be sent out for another round of peer review. Rather, the AE will verify that the requested changes have been made. Authors have two months from the date of the decision to resubmit their paper. Authors may receive a decision of "Accept with Revisions" only once. If they fail to adequately revise their paper after the resubmission, this may be grounds for rejecting the paper. However, AEs may apply this policy at their discretion: If they feel the authors are making sufficient progress, AEs may allow additional resubmissions. Rationale: Because of inevitable differences in perceptions between “major” and “minor” revisions, removing the qualifier from the category will clarify what is meant.

**"Reject" stays the same**. We retain the "Reject" category as it is currently defined. Papers that are not suitable for publication, or that have not made sufficient progress in the review process, as described above, should receive this decision.

**"Accept" stays the same**. We retain the "Accept" category as it is currently defined. Papers that are acceptable for publication "as is" should receive this decision. The AE is free to suggest minor fixes (e.g., fixing typos or changing wording) for the final submission; however, if the decision is "Accept," the authors are not obligated to make these changes.