

I. Submissions and Decisions: 2018

Number of Original Submissions in 2018

406 (206 regular manuscripts, 40 Point of View manuscripts, 9 Software for Systematics and Evolution manuscripts, and 5 Book Reviews; includes resubmissions)

This is an increase of 15 (~6%) compared to 2017.

Of the decisions made on original manuscripts in 2018, 65 were rejected as “not appropriate for journal”. As is usually the case, many of these papers were simply inappropriate for the journal (i.e., they focused on topics in medicine, genomics or molecular evolution without a systematics component, or were really “systems biology”). Associate editors weighed in on a number of these “not appropriate for journal” editorial decisions. The main goal of editorial rejection is to reduce the burden on the AEs, Editorial Board members, and reviewers.

Thomas Near in 2018: 406. Broken down by decision category.

Accept: 4 (1.5%)

Accept pending receipt of final changes: 13 (5%)

Accept with minor revisions: 21 (8.1%)

Accept with major revisions: 51 (19.6%)

Reject, encourage/permit resubmission: 52 (20%)

Reject: 53 (20.4%)

Not Appropriate: 65 (25%)

Final Decisions

Overall acceptance rate: 85/204 (41%)

Overall rejection rate (including reject/resubmit): 119/204 (59%)

II. Manuscript Handling

Please refer to the Publisher's and Virtual Editorial Office report for details on how OUP handles accepted manuscripts, data on manuscript submissions, turnaround time, etc. In short, accepted manuscripts are made available via the journal web site's "Advance Access" section in less than a week once the authors complete the copyright form.

The average for 2018, not including “not appropriate for journal” and “accept pending receipt of final changes” is 50.1 days.

The breakdown by decision category for 2018 (which includes manuscripts initially submitted prior to 2018):

Accept: 14.25 days
Accept pending changes: 50.1 days
Accept major revisions: 81 days
Accept minor revisions: 74 days
Not appropriate: 7.6 days
Reject: 53 days
Reject, resubmission encouraged: 62 days

III. OUP

Julia McDonnell continues in her position as Publisher at OUP for *Systematic Biology* and is doing an excellent job in working with Tom and Bryan. Paula Potter is our primary contact at OUP and provides excellent support (and training) for the editors of *Systematic Biology*.

IV. AE news and work loads

There were 47 Associate Editors on the roster in 2018. They handled an average of 4.1 (STDEV 2.4) manuscripts in 2018.