

Journal Editorial Workflow

Hamid Mehmood

*Ph.D. (Bio Chemistry) Spain, Ph.D. (Medical Education), Head & Professor of Bio Chemistry
Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad
Email: drhamidmehmood373@gmail.com*

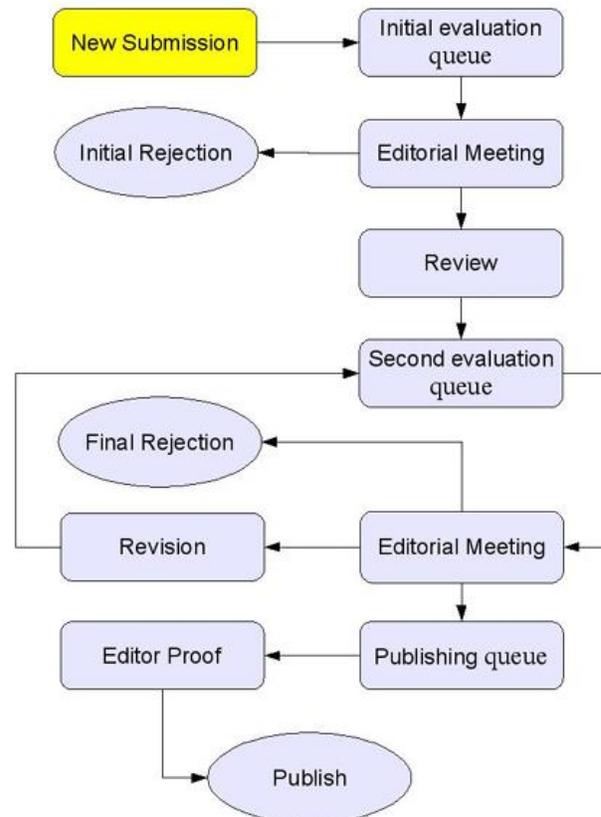
The Annals of PIMS is a general medical journal with an international editorial board. The bulk of input to this journal originates mainly from regional authors and a few international contributions in 2014 the journal switched completely into the Medical with approximately half of the editorial team consisting of international experts in different medical subspecialties when Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University took it as an Official Journal of the University.

Every Medical university has several journals published in the Medical sciences. These journals are mainly funded by the universities and they rarely have independent economic flow. The main reason of publishing these journals is for promotional purposes of individuals and universities. These journals are evaluated annually by some governmental organizations according to some arbitrary rules. There are two major governmental bodies responsible for journal supervision, one for medical journals, Pakistan Medical AND Dental Council, and the other one for non-medical journals, Higher Education Commission (HEC).

As illustrated below, the paper-based system of this journal was a mixture of peer review and editorial meeting-oriented systems.

Apart from numerous disadvantages inherent in such systems, the following problems should be pointed out:

1. Difficulty in tracking the current status of the papers;
2. Long delays in the article processing time;
3. High rate of inaccuracies, inadvertent articles interference and loss of some articles or reviews;
4. Inefficient editorial workload with the consequence of fatigue and errors.



OJS was unknown in Pakistan until late 2005. The main limiting factor was economic, not only for the software but also for additional software and hardware requirements (operating system, databases, or certain frameworks within a given operating system). After some consultation with university officials on the practicality of installing OJS, we decided to convert our journal to OJS.

The validity of the whole process may not be ascertained without taking the following into account: editorial background, economic support and user experiences. Usually a third world journal, especially in the field of medicine, may not have much chance of receiving international submissions without being read

and reviewed outside its region and devoting extra editorial time and effort

Based on the experiences of the Annals of PIMS a migration of a paper-based editorial system to online should be started with a minimum group of users with other roles proxies. A possible sequence for opening roles may first involve authors, then section editors followed by reviewers. We recommend using a

hybrid editorial system during this phase provided there are sufficient resources on hand because the editorial work load may nearly double during the transitional period. Finally, editorial professionalism is a vital requirement in migration to an online system

May ALLAH bless us the determination to promote this journal to be the best journal in Pakistan.