



Editor's message: highlighting research relevance

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The aims and scope of a journal are more than a requirement to the authors, they also build the expectations of the readers that finally act as a tough jury, after the reviewers have provided the necessary elements to have an editorial decision regarding acceptance of a submission.

It is generally accepted that every author wishes that their research is validated and shared to other interested people by publishing it in prestigious journals; reviewers are chosen based on their good reputation and expertise, so that there is no doubt about their ability to judge a research and find the relevance and novelty in a manuscript, but it could be a mistake to assume that they would dig into a submission to find those elements. Then, it is very important that the contribution of the papers is stated clearly.

Nowadays, there are several sources of advice to write papers properly, as well as proof-reading and manuscript editing services, but some care more about good writing style, than ensuring that relevance of the hypothesis, pertinence of the literature review, that the research is conducted adequately, interpretation and analysis of the results are correct, and that, indeed, the papers contribute to the advance of the science and the art of the study subject. There are also tips about how to select a suitable journal based on a comparison of published papers in them against a possible submission, and a careful selection of titles and keywords to match the aims and scope of the journal, preferably one with high impact factor.


However, these strategies do not always lead to improve the chance of acceptance of a work, but they do increase the load over the journal that would justify every decision made. To overcome these strategies and to not indiscriminately dismiss cases where the journal may receive manuscripts that do not seem to be within its aims and scope, but that actually are, two items were added to the Journal of Microwave Power and Electromagnetic Energy's submission form to retrieve more information that can help in the decision of choosing a manuscript for publication. In the first one, the authors confirm that they have read the aims and scope of the journal, while the second item asks them to provide a few sentences on why the submission is relevant to the journal, as a follow-up to the first item.

While all the submitters express their confirmation, many authors dismiss the opportunity to emphasize the importance of their research work when they just post the abstract, provide a self-expertise description, or make unjustified claims of similarity with papers already published, rather than stating clear explanations about why they consider that it is worth to the journal and the readers to publish their papers.

Authors seeking for a suitable journal must observe that quality level of a publication is owed to the authors themselves as well as the reviewers, whose criticism, help to solve editorial controversy that might emerge when authors do not strictly follow the instructions

for preparing the manuscript or when their matching of their papers to the journal seems to be a simple coincidence of keywords.

It is imperative to keep in mind that the most essential issues for acceptance of manuscripts under a peer-review system are quality and relevance. Hence, it is advisable that once that good quality research has been performed, the authors take the time to objectively review their submissions and explain why they are relevant to a chosen journal. This action would be of great help to the authors for validating pertinence and obtaining self feedback that might be considered in the redaction of the manuscript as well, while it is an opportunity in really evaluating suitability of their research related to the journal. Even rigorous and pertinent work might not be admitted if its contribution to the area of knowledge covered by the journal is not well understood. Therefore, it is fundamental to highlight its relevance, so that it would be easier for the reviewers to appreciate such contribution, and improve the chance of acceptance of the manuscripts.

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