

JACR NCA Report 2024

Editor: Heather Zoller

MANUSCRIPT ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION RATE: Aug. 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024.

- (1) Number of new manuscripts received during this period: 349
- (2) Number of revised manuscripts received during this period: 87
- (3) Total number of manuscripts accepted for publication: 50
- Manuscripts with a decision date in the chosen range NOT the number of manuscripts accepted out of those received during the chosen range)
- (4) Number of manuscripts returned for revision and resubmission: 53
- Not including reject & resubmits. Within decision date and not the number of manuscripts given revision decisions out of those **received** during the chosen range
- (5) Number of manuscripts rejected: 331
- Within specific range, and not out of those received during the time frame
- (6) Acceptance rate ((3) divided by (1+2)): 11.46%
- $[50 \text{ divided by } 349+87]= .11467 \text{ or } 11.46\%$

EDITOR'S GOALS AND PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THOSE GOALS:

STRENGTHS:

- I have significantly reduced time in review for authors. Authors have been appreciative of feedback from me and from reviewers. I have also reduced publication backlogs.
- I have engaged a media team to promote the journal, article downloads, and recognize board members and reviewers. That team has also helped me to begin a newsletter to create stronger relationships with board members and share insights with potential contributors.
- I am working to establish stronger relationships with the Applied Division at NCA, along with several other divisions.
- I have two Associate Editors with expertise in quantitative and computational methods in order to maintain the journal's broad appeal.
- I created the "Field Reports" section as a way to gain traction with practitioners and attract scholars from outside the U.S.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

- Post-acceptance: It is challenging to keep track of papers as they go through final copy editing processes outside the system. I also need to continue to balance the length of issues in terms of reducing backlog versus maintaining a cushion of accepted pieces.
- The journal still needs more traction in attracting papers from outside the U.S. and particularly in the global South.
- I am working to increase engagement and downloads.
- It can be very challenging to maintain focus on journal promotion (social media, newsletter, special issues, NCA sessions, etc.) because the volume of submissions at JACR is so high it overwhelms these other activities.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:

- My editor's call highlighted the need to diversify and decolonize research processes.
- I have re-written the evaluation criteria, call for papers, and author instructions to highlight the need for inclusive research practices including data gathering (e.g., representative samples) and writing (e.g., recommending APA inclusive writing standards).
- I am using the "reject and resubmit" function to encourage quality work from the global South that does not comport with journal criteria in some way (e.g., clear statement of theoretical contribution is missing, language challenges).