



# Writing, Reviewing and Publishing Scientific Papers in Design

Tutorial with Four Journal Editors

**16 August 2011**

13:15–14:15

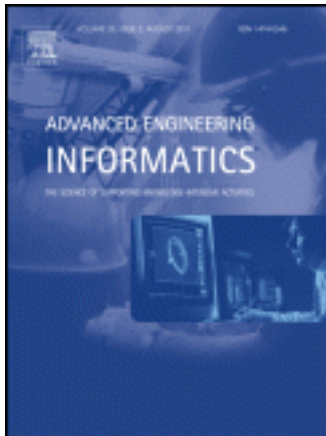
Glass Hall

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# Participants

- Moderator
  - Jean-Francois Boujut (Grenoble)
- Panelists
  - Tetsuo Tomiyama (Advanced Engineering Informatics, Elsevier)
  - Yoram Reich (Research in Engineering, Springer)
  - Alex Duffy (Journal of Engineering Design, Taylor & Francis)
  - Panos Papalambros (Journal of Mechanical Design, ASME)



# Agenda

- Participants (Boujut)
- Introduction to This Tutorial (Tomiyama)
- For Each Journal (Tomiyama, Reich, Duffy, Papalambros)
  - Basic Information about Each Journal
  - Essential Elements for a Paper To Be Accepted By Each Journal
  - Essential Elements of an Excellent Review
- Summary, Discussions, Q&A



# **INTRODUCTION TO THIS TUTORIAL**

# Editors' Concerns

## On the Authors Side

- Increasing Pressure on Scientific Publications
- Journals are Receiving Significantly More Papers
- Has Paper Quality Improved Significantly?
  - A Big Number of Papers Are Rejected by the Editors-in-Chief (Not Even Sent Out for Review)
  - Many Papers Don't Pass in One Cycle
- Authors Need to Understand "Aims and Scope"
- Authors Need "Better" Training
- Authors Need to Spend More Time

# Editors' Concerns

## On the Reviewers Side

- It is Not Easy to Find Reviewers Who Can Write
  - Concise, Useful Reviews
    - For Authors
    - For Editors
  - Within a Given Time Framework
- Good or Bad?
  - Only Multiple Choice Evaluations without Comments?
  - Correction of Grammatical Mistakes and Typos?
  - For a 10 Page-Long Paper, a Six-Page Review?
- Reviewers Also Need Training
- Reviewers Need to Spend More Time

# “Reviewing a Paper” is the Opposite Side of “Writing a Paper”

- Reviewing is to Check Whether or Not the Paper Satisfies the Criteria
  - Fit to the Journal (Aims and Scope)
  - Originality
  - Importance
  - Structure
  - Language, Layout
- The Paper Must Be Self-Contained
- Reviewing is Not to Challenge the Author with Your “Opinions”



# Elsevier's Reviewer Guidelines

## Purpose of Peer Review

- Acts as a Filter
  - Ensures Research Is Properly Verified Before Being Published
- Improves the Quality of the Research
  - Rigorous Review by Other Experts Helps to Hone Key Points and Correct Inadvertent Errors

# Elsevier's Reviewer Guidelines

## On Being Asked to Review

- Does the Article You Are Being Asked to Review Truly Match Your Expertise?
  - Only Accept an Invitation, If You Are Competent to Review the Article
- Do You Have Time To Review The Paper?
  - On Average, an Article Will Take About **5 Hours** to Review
- Are There Any Potential Conflicts of Interest?

# Elsevier's Reviewer Guidelines

## Conducting Review

- Review Confidentially
  - If You Elicit an Opinion from Colleagues Or Students, You Should Let the Editor Know Beforehand
- Don't Contact The Author
- Review Criteria
  - Fit to the Journal (Aims and Scope)
  - Originality
  - Importance
  - Structure
  - Layout, Language

# Elsevier's Reviewer Guidelines

## Originality

- Is the Article Sufficiently Novel and Interesting to Warrant Publication?
- Does It Add to the Canon of Knowledge?
- Literature Review (References) Must Be Adequate
  - To Distinguish Your Work from Past Work
  - To Position Your Work in the Entire Body of Knowledge-Previous Research
- If the Article Builds Upon Previous Research, Does It Reference That Work Appropriately?
- Are There Any Important Works that Have Been Omitted?

# Elsevier's Reviewer Guidelines

## Importance (Significance)

- Does the Article Adhere to the Journal's Standards?
- Is the Research Question an Important One?
- Is It in the Top 25% of Papers in This Field?
  
- How Good/Better?
  - Qualitative Comparison with Other Methods
    - "Mission Impossible" Has Become "Possible"
  - Quantitative Comparison with Other Methods
    - Wider, Faster, Lighter, Cheaper, Easier
    - Scalability (Computational Complexity)

# Elsevier's Reviewer Guidelines

## Layout, Language

- Are All The Key Elements (Where Relevant) Present and Appropriate?
  - Title, Abstract, Key Words, Introduction, Theory, Methods, Results, Conclusions
- Is Research Question Clear?
- Conclusions Are Not a Summary
  - Does the Conclusion Explain How the Research Has Moved the Body of Scientific Knowledge Forward?
- Is the Article Clearly Laid Out?
  - Language (=Author's Responsibility)
    - You Do Not Need to Correct the English, But Report to the Editor
  - Figures, Tables, Equations, Appendix

# Elsevier's Reviewer Guidelines

## Ethical Issues

- Plagiarism
  - Serious, Increasing Problems
  - There is an Electronic Checking System (iThenticate/CrossRef)
    - No Definite Percentage for "Plagiarism"
- Fraud
- Other Ethical Concerns
  - Confidentiality, Privacy
  - Human Rights, Animal Rights

# Elsevier's Reviewer Guidelines

## Communicating to Your Editor

- A Quick, Concise Summary of the Article
- Major Findings
  - Courteous and Constructive Commentary
  - Insight into Any Deficiencies
  - Distinguish Whether Comments are Your Own Opinion or Are Reflected by the Data
- Recommendation
  - Reject Due to Poor Quality, or Out Of Scope
  - Accept Without Revision
  - Accept But Needs Revision
    - Specify Where And How Concretely



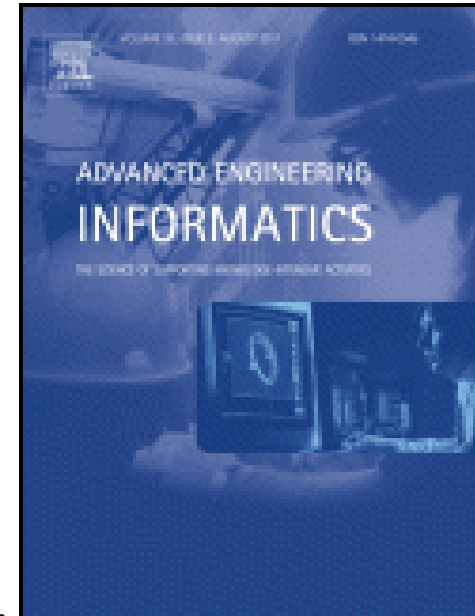
# **BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT EACH JOURNAL**



# **ADVANCED ENGINEERING INFORMATICS**

# Advanced Engineering Informatics

- Published by Elsevier
  - <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/aei/>
  - Quarterly
  - Vol. 25 in 2011
- Editors-in-Chief
  - Mechanical/Manufacturing Areas
    - Tetsuo Tomiyama (TU Delft)
    - Chun-Hsien Chen (Nanyang TU, Singapore, Associate)
  - Architecture/Civil Areas
    - Ian Smith (EPFL)
    - William O'Brien (U Texas Austin, Associate)



# Advanced Engineering Informatics

## Aims and Scope

- Engineering Informatics
  - Explicit Knowledge Representation Formalisms and Reasoning Techniques
- Two Important Components for a Paper to Be Accepted
  - Knowledge (= Engineering Informatics)
    - No Soft Computing Papers, No Optimization, No Numerical Computation, No Control Engineering
  - Engineering Applications
    - Physically Oriented Engineering (Mechanical, Architecture, Civil, Electrical, Manufacturing, Chemical, etc.)
    - No Software Engineering, No Financial Engineering, No Medical Engineering

# Advanced Engineering Informatics

## Facts

- Publication
  - Quarterly, 524 Pages in 2010
  - 4 Special “Sections”
  - 48 Papers (38 Special Issue Papers, 10 Regular Papers)
- Submission in 2010
  - 192 Submitted, 61 Accepted (68% Rejection Overall)
    - Truly International Submissions
  - 30% Mechanical/Manufacturing, 30% Civil/Architecture, 40% Rest
  - Not Only Design But Over Whole Life Cycle Issues
    - Production, Operation, Diagnostics, Planning, LCM, etc.
- Impact Factor
  - 1.730 (2010), 1.400 (2011)

# Advanced Engineering Informatics

## Review Process

- Technical Screening (Organized by Elsevier)
  - Country-Wise
  - Mostly Language and Format
- Initial Screening by an Editor-in-Chief
  - 70–80% Outright Rejection for “Regular” Papers
    - Out of Scope (Like Soft Computing), No Engineering Applications
    - Conference Paper Quality (in IEEE/ASME Format)
    - Acceptance Ratio Is Higher than 50% After Initial Screening
- Review
  - Minimum 3 Reviewers
  - Average Two Review Cycles
  - Average 6.3 Weeks for the 1st Decision
  - Average 13.1 Weeks Until Final Deposition

# Essential Elements for a Paper to Be Accepted by Advanced Engineering Informatics

- Correctness
  - Logically Correct
  - Scientifically Correct
- Novelty (Originality)
  - “Never Heard of”
  - How Good/Better?
    - Literature Study
    - Comparison with Existing Methods
- Usefulness
  - To Industry (Designers, Developers)
  - To Scientists

# A Typical Rejected Paper

- What is Wrong?
  - Introduction
    - I Developed a System to Support Designers for Gear Box Design
  - My System
    - Architecture, Algorithm
  - Experiments
    - Case 1 (Toy Problem)
      - My System Could Solve It
    - Case 2 (Industrial Problem)
      - My System Could Solve This Difficult Problem
  - Summary
  - References

# Advanced Engineering Informatics Requires a Paper to Have...

- Does Your Paper Have
  - Explicit Knowledge Representation Formalisms And Reasoning Techniques
  - Engineering Applications
- Does Your Paper Substantially Describe
  - Techniques & Results
  - Comparisons
  - Discussions
- Is the Quality More Than Just “Incremental Improvement”?



# Essential Elements of an Excellent Review

- Since Reviewing is the Opposite Side of the Same Coin, Good Reviews Should Contain the Same Information as “Good Papers”
- Additionally
  - Concise
  - Informative
  - Constructive
  - Consistent

# Reviewers Have to Answer...

- Does the Paper Have
  - Explicit Knowledge Representation Formalisms And Reasoning Techniques
  - Engineering Applications
- Does the Paper Substantially Describe
  - Techniques & Results
  - Comparisons
  - Discussions
- Is the Quality More Than Just “Incremental Improvement”?



# RESEARCH IN ENGINEERING DESIGN

International Conference on Engineering  
Design

*15-18 August 2011 - Copenhagen*



# Research in Engineering Design

Yoram Reich  
Editor-in-Chief



# RED's Numbers

- ❑ Over 100 yearly submissions
- ❑ 85% rejection rate
- ❑ Pages
  - *Was: 4 issues/year, 65 pages each*
  - *Since July 2011: 4 issues/year, 80 pages each*

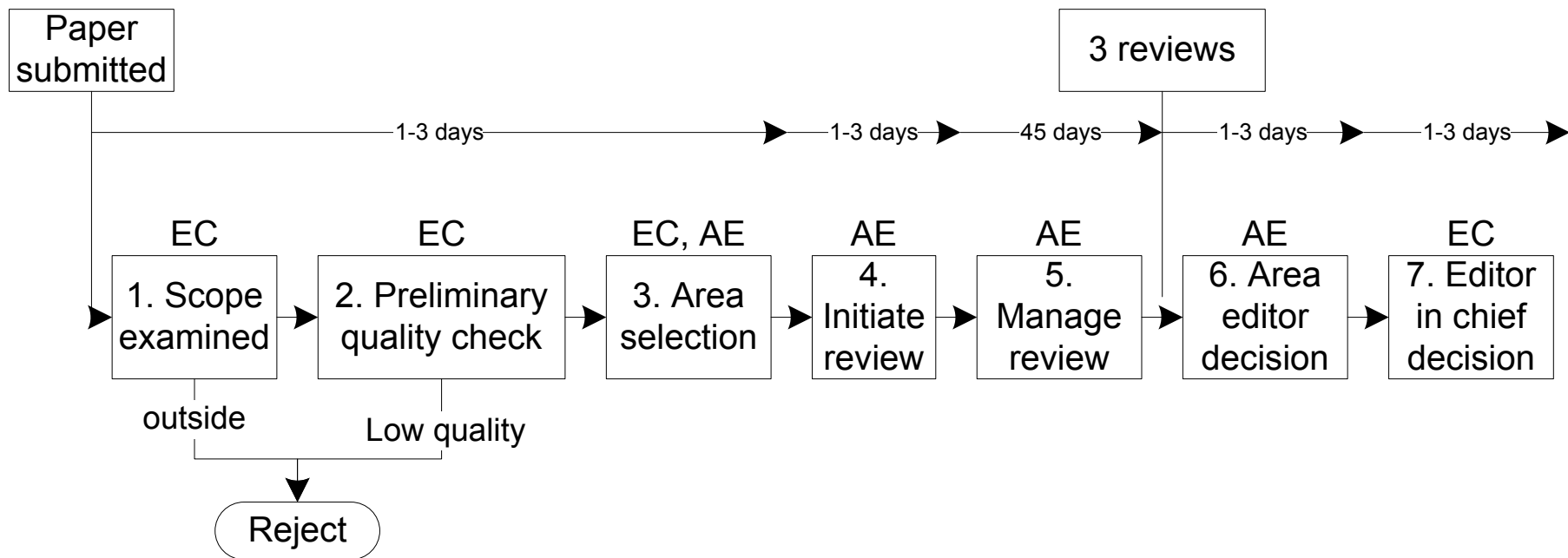
# Journal Policy

- Looking for the **best papers** that make a **fundamental / theoretical** contribution to **understanding engineering design** with some impact on practice
  - *Leads to complex research studies*
  - *Sound scientific practice*
  
- Improve prestige of design journals in th
- No articulation of a priori topics –
  - *Everything goes!*
  - *Its your task to convince about the contribution*

# Main stages of the peer review process

## □ Review process described in 2 editorials

- *Review process: 21(2), 2010*
- *Reasons to rejection: 21(4), 2010*



# Selection rate at each review stage

- ❑ Steps 1-2: **30% rejected** by EIC and AE
- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> review (but some also in 2<sup>nd</sup> review): **50% rejected** (out of initial 100%)
- ❑ **More** than half of the **20%** that survive after at least one round of review are accepted
- ❑ Some are withdrawn by authors, failing to correct them according to reviewers' comments

# Failing at the 1<sup>st</sup> stage

## ❑ Out of journal scope

- *Not advancing our knowledge about engineering design*

## ❑ Below journal quality

- *Proceeding quality and bellow*
- *Entry level quality is constantly increased*
- *Average quality of papers is increasing*

## ❑ Too similar or even duplicate of other papers (minor number, **serious ethical problem**)

# DNA of a Good Paper

- ❑ **Your paper is a product! Design it properly!**
- ❑ Clear identification of **gap** = Need - State of art
- ❑ **State of art**
  - *Includes complete set of relevant work, especially in the target journal*
  - *= serious analysis in a consistent language*
  - *≠ list of disconnected statements*
- ❑ Clear articulation of **research method** and its *relevance* to research question (gap)
- ❑ **Convincing demonstration**
- ❑ **Limitations** are clearly and honestly discussed
- ❑ Abstract & conclusions match what was *actually demonstrated*

# DNA of a Good Review

- ❑ **Your review is a product!**
- ❑ Anonymous reviewing is an ungratifying job.
- ❑ Reviewing is a critical role in the process of science
  - *Reviewers perform service to the community*
  - *Being a reviewer reflects a standing in the community*
  - *Writing a paper means you agree to perform a review!*
- ❑ Most people know
  - *how to rate papers (analysis) better than*
  - *how to write papers (synthesis)*
- ❑ Know the baseline
  - *Understand the journal scope and culture*
  - *Familiarize yourself with journal guidelines fro writing and reviewing*

# DNA of a Good Review

## □ Know your customers

- *Editor*
  - Help him reach a conclusive decision
  - Make your recommendation aligned with your comments
- *Authors!*
  - Respond to invitation, if you cannot accept, refuse and not drag it
  - Perform review on time
  - Be their mentor, not their enemy

## □ Customer = Editor: Reviewing = Decision

- *Do not be afraid to be critical*
- *Do not believe what the authors are saying, check it!*
- *Ask for clear evidence for each statement*
- *Ask yourself whether you'd be willing to continue working based on the conclusions of the paper*
- *Ask yourself whether the paper could be fixed or not [you will review it again...]*
- *Ask yourself whether you would cite the paper*

# DNA of a Good Review

- Customer = Author: Reviewing = Mentoring
  - *When you make comments, suggests ways they could be addressed*
  - *Comment on missing literature better be accompanied with suggestions of references*
  - *Do not write the paper yourself*
  - *Do not change the topic of the paper to your liking*
  - *Give the authors an honest impression if they can fix the paper to your approval*
  - *Point to good examples in other papers*
  
- Polish your reviewing capability
  - *Read other reviewers' comments*
  - *Refine your own judgment based on reviewers and editor judgment*



# **ASME JOURNAL OF MECHANICAL DESIGN**



# Journal of Mechanical Design

## ASME JMD

Panos Y. Papalambros  
Editor (2008-2012)

# JMD Mission

The ASME Journal of Mechanical Design (JMD) serves the broad design community as the venue for scholarly, archival research in all aspects of the design activity.

JMD has traditionally served the ASME Design Engineering Division and its technical committees, but it welcomes contributions from all areas of design with emphasis on synthesis.

JMD is a non-profit organization journal.

# JMD Scope

Design automation, including design representation, virtual reality, geometric design, design evaluation, design optimization, risk and reliability-based optimization, design sensitivity analysis, system design integration, ergonomic and aesthetic considerations, and design for market systems

Design of direct contact systems, including cams, gears and power transmission systems

Design education

Design of energy, fluid, and power handing systems

Design innovation and devices, including design of smart products and materials

Design for manufacturing and the life cycle, including design for the environment, DFX, and sustainable design

Design of mechanisms and robotic systems, including design of macro-, micro- and nano-scaled mechanical systems, machine component, and machine system design

Design theory and methodology, including creativity in design, decision analysis, design cognition, and design synthesis.

# JMD Philosophy

The connecting thread among all these topics is the emphasis on design, rather than just analysis.

Design scholarship is based on careful analysis models, whether physical, computational or behavioral, and has *design intent*:

Creating something in the physical world we live in, rather than just analyzing what is happening in it.

# Peer Review Process - Main Stages

1. AU submits manuscript, TE agrees to review and assigns AE (1-2)  
RR=20
2. AE assigns REVs (2-4), REVs perform reviews (4-8)
3. AE recommends action (1-3), TE decides on rejections RR= 50
4. \*AU performs minor revisions (1-2) or \*AU performs major revisions (4-6)
5. AE requests re-review (1-2), REVs perform re-review (4-6)
6. AE recommends acceptance (1-2), TE decides (1-2) RR=10
7. \*AU submits production manuscript (1-2), \*AU submits 1903 Form
8. TE checks manuscript for minor revisions and production quality (1-2)
9. \*AU performs any needed final revisions (1-2)
10. TE approves manuscript for production (1)

AU: author, TE: technical editor, AE: associate editor, REV: reviewer.

Numbers in parentheses indicate + duration in weeks.

Asterisk \* indicates stage duration with little editorial control

RR =rough rejection rate in percent

# Rough Selection Rates at Each Stage

- Editor rejects for quality or scope or both (20%)
- AE recommends and Editor rejects after 1-3 peer review cycles (50%)
- AE recommends and Editor rejects after 1 peer review cycle of a complete resubmission (10-20%)

# What might make papers fail at the triage stage?

- Inadequate scholarship -- the dominant factor.
- Out of scope, poor linking with JMD constituency.
- Failure to comply with revision requests by reviewers, associate editors or chief editor.
- Poor English language usage.

# Emergent Topics (Annual Special Issues)

- ❑ design education
- ❑ design of smart systems and devices
- ❑ sustainable design
- ❑ design of complex engineered systems
- ❑ uncertainty in design
- ❑ design geometry

## JOURNAL INFO

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## Journal of Mechanical Design

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Design theory and methodology (including creativity in design and decision analysis), design automation (including risk and reliability-based optimization, design sensitivity analysis, geometric design, and integration of engineering design with market, economic, and aesthetic considerations), design for manufacturing, design of direct contact systems (including cams, gears and power transmission systems), design of mechanisms, design of macro-, micro- and nano-scaled mechanical systems, machine component and system design, and design education.


**Accelerated Articles Issue (Open)** June 2011
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**Editor:**

[Panos Y. Pappas](#)  
 University of Michigan

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**Frequency:**

Monthly

**Title History:**

The *Journal of Mechanical Design* was originally published as the *Journal of Mechanisms, Transmissions, and Automation in Design* (ISSN: 0738-0666) from 1983-1989

 For the title history of all journals click [here](#).

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Welcome to the ASME Journals Digital Submission Site!

This site has been created to assist authors in submitting their work for publication consideration in one of the **25 ASME Journals** (**25 journals are accepting digital submissions** at this time). Both technical and non-technical submissions can be accepted at this site. For a [listing](#) of submission types and their definitions, [click here](#).

▶ Technical submissions, which undergo rigorous peer review, include:

- Full-length research papers
- Technical briefs

▶ Non-technical submissions, which undergo editorial review, may include:

- Book reviews
- Technology reviews
- Discussions
- Closures
- Announcements
- Editorials

📖 **Journals Information?** Click the journal name at the left to review the purpose and scope, including the areas of specialty for each journal.

📄 **New Authors?** [Click here](#) to initiate the submission process.

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❓ **Questions?** [Click here](#) to contact the individual Journal Editors. You may also contact us at [journals@asme.org](mailto:journals@asme.org)

<http://journaltool.asme.org>

## Welcome from the Editor

The ASME Journal of Mechanical Design (JMD) serves the broad design community as the venue for scholarly, archival research in all aspects of the design activity. JMD has traditionally served the ASME Design Engineering Division and its technical committees, but it welcomes contributions from all areas of design with emphasis on synthesis.

Example topics include:

- Design automation, including design representation, virtual reality, geometric design, design evaluation, design optimization, risk and reliability-based optimization, design sensitivity analysis, system design integration, ergonomic and aesthetic considerations, and design for market systems
- Design of direct contact systems, including cams, gears and power transmission systems
- Design education
- Design of energy, fluid, and power handling systems
- Design innovation and devices, including design of smart products and materials
- Design for manufacturing and the life cycle, including design for the environment, DFX, and sustainable design
- Design of mechanisms and robotic systems, including design of micro-, micro- and nano-scaled mechanical systems, machine component, and machine system design
- Design theory and methodology, including creativity in design, decision analysis, design cognition, and design synthesis.

The connecting thread among all these topics is the emphasis on design, rather than just analysis. Design scholarship is based on careful analysis models, whether physical, computational, or behavioral, and has design intent: creating something in the physical world we live in, rather than just analyzing what is happening in it.

This site is a communication forum for the design community, and is a companion to the ASME Journals [Digital Submission site](#). We provide more information about the journal, its scope, practices, and philosophy; short biographies of the editorial board that serves our authors; a list of recent and upcoming issues for easy reference; and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs). We continue to update the site based on your input. Welcome to the JMD community!

- P.V. Papadimitriou, Technical Editor

## News and Updates

### Editorial Archive

#### Promotional Flyer for the JMD

This flyer provides a succinct description of the new ASME Journal of Mechanical Design and can be distributed at meetings and ...

#### Special Issue on Designing Complex Engineered Systems

The increasing complexity of engineered systems is causing schedule delays, driving up costs, and creating countless real problems for designers and engineers. Forbidding in the challenges associated ...

#### 2011 ASME Student Mechanism and Robot Design Competition

A part of the 35th ASME Annual Mechanisms and Robotics Conference and the IDETC 2011: The 2011 ASME International Design Engineering Technical ...

## Quick Links

**FAQ** - Many of your questions are answered here.

**JMD online journal** - Shortcut to the official site.

**Article submission** - Shortcut to the electronic submission site for new authors.

**Reviewer login** - Shortcut to the login page for reviewers (and previous authors).

**Abstracts** - The remote thread. Check it before submitting a new article. Contains abstracts for upcoming and recent (two year archive) articles.

**Manuscript templates** - Templates with the JMD format.

<http://asmejmd.org>



# **JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING DESIGN**



Writing, Reviewing and Publishing Scientific  
Papers in Design

*16<sup>th</sup> August 2011, ICED, Copenhagen, DK*



# Journal of Engineering Design

Editor: Alex Duffy  
Associate Editors: John Clarkson  
Steve Culley  
Imre Horvath  
Managing editor: Sophie Neal  
(stand next to DS)





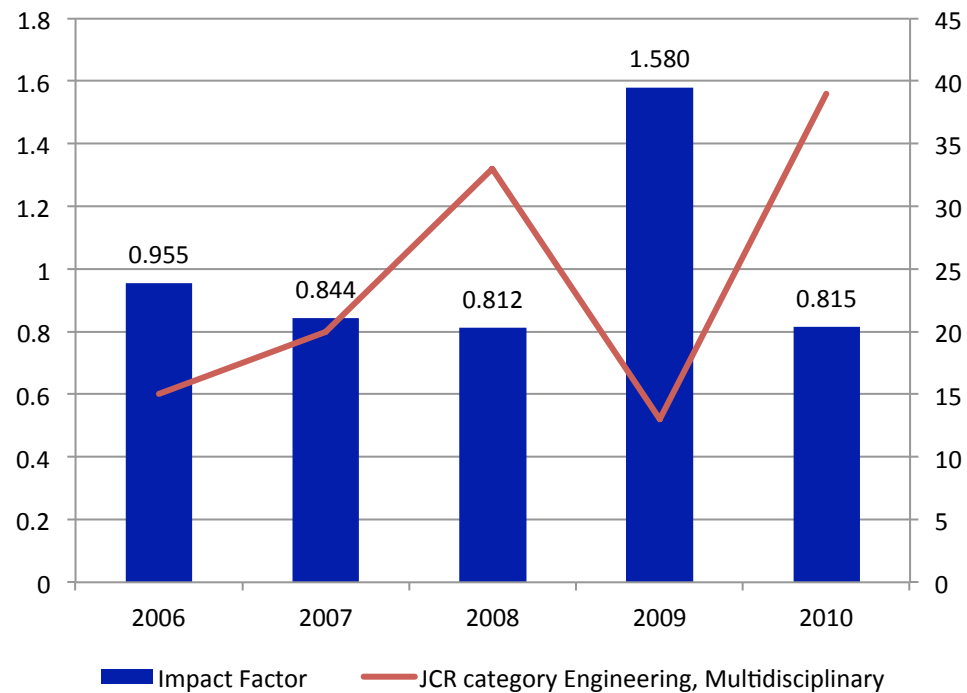
# Journal aim and scope

- ❑ Provides an essential forum for dialogue on insightful issues across all disciplines and aspects of the design of engineered products and systems.
- ❑ Publishes pioneering best industrial practice as well as authoritative research, studies and review papers on the underlying principles of design, its management, practice, techniques and methodologies.
- ❑ Target audience is academia.
- ❑ Aims to publish only the highest-quality original research.

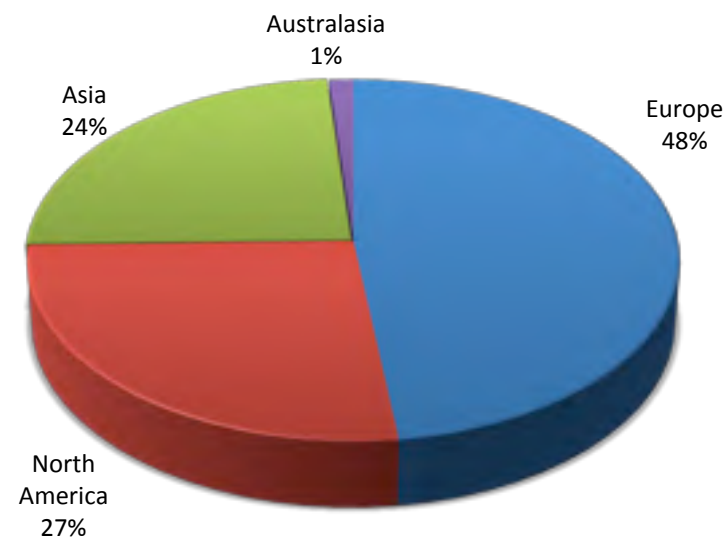


# JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING DESIGN

## CITATION ANALYSIS



Geographical distribution of published papers 2008-2009



# Stats



- ❑ Manuscripts submitted in 2010: 215
- ❑ Manuscripts pending in ScholarOne: 31
- ❑ Average time to 1st decision: 51 days
- ❑ Average time to final decision: 63 days

# Main stages of the peer review process



- ❑ Manuscript completeness, anonymity and appropriateness to journal check.
- ❑ Selection and invitation of a minimum of 3 reviewers.
- ❑ Recommendation (Guest Editor) or decision by Editor based on reviewer and Guest Editor recommendations.
- ❑ Decision either accept as is, minor modifications, major modifications, reject with opportunity to resubmit, reject.
- ❑ Repeat until either reject or accept as is.



# Why might papers fail

- ❑ Sent to the wrong journal and does not fit with the journal's aims and scope.
- ❑ Normally authors not responding sufficiently enough to the satisfaction of reviewers.
- ❑ Usually when significant reworking or further research required.
- ❑ Fails to provide anything of significance or states the obvious.



# Reviewer guidance

- As well as following slide, should include information by deleting or keeping the "not" text of the following bullet points:
  - *The paper did not have enough importance to warrant publication*
  - *The paper is not technically sound*
  - *The paper does not describe original work*
  - *The paper does not contain material that should be omitted*
  - *Additional material is not needed in the paper*
  - *The paper does not make adequate reference to earlier contributions*
  - *The abstract does not provide an adequate digest of the contents*
  - *The introduction does not give adequate background to the work*
  - *The summary and conclusion are not adequate*
  - *The authors do not explain clearly what was done*
  - *The authors do not explain clearly why this work was worth doing*
  - *The order of presentation is not satisfactory*
  - *There are not an appropriate number of figures*
  - *The figures do not help clarify the concepts in this paper*
  - *The level of English is not satisfactory*



# Good review

- ❑ Encouraged to elaborate and provide specific comments for valuable feedback to improve future work.
- ❑ Should consider the quality of feedback that you would hope if it were your paper and to ensure advancing the quality of the submission/work.
- ❑ Where appropriate, refer to specific articles or authors that the submission should refer to.



# What to do if your paper is rejected



- Do nothing for a few days: calm down
- It's not worth getting into discussion with the Editor about the reviewers, it won't alter the decision.
- Use the reviewer's comments, alter the paper and submit.
- "there is no negative feedback"





# Help is available

- ❑ Our Author Services resources website
- ❑ 'Instructions for Authors' on the journal website
- ❑ Reviewer guidelines
- ❑ From the journal editor & editorial team



<http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk/>



Writing, Reviewing and Publishing Scientific  
Papers in Design

*16<sup>th</sup> August 2011, ICED, Copenhagen, DK*



# Journal of Engineering Design

Editor: Alex Duffy  
Associate Editors: John Clarkson  
Steve Culley  
Imre Horvath  
Managing editor: Sophie Neal  
(stand next to DS)





# **SUMMARY, DISCUSSIONS, Q&A**