

What is transparent peer review?

Transparent peer review, where the exchanges between peer reviewers and authors accompany published articles, allows research to be published in a completely open format, giving readers access to the peer review process from submission to publication. Through the publication of reviewer reports, authors can demonstrate that their manuscript has been through rigorous peer review, and reviewers and editors can gain recognition for their work.

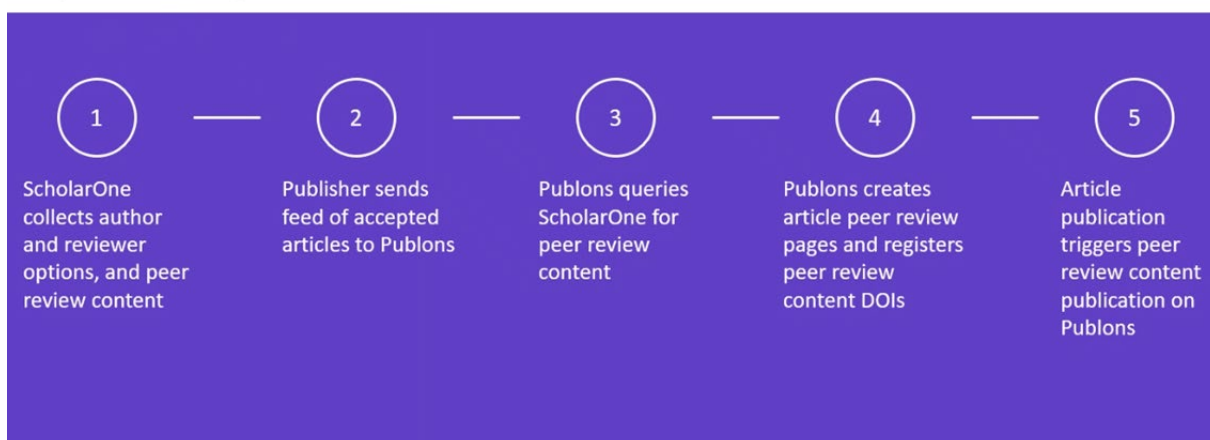
Why transparent peer review?

Thanks to the open nature of the review process, reviewers are encouraged to provide thorough feedback and to ensure that their comments are constructive in nature. Authors are therefore likely to receive useful feedback that will improve the quality of their paper, and they will be able to show that their work has been thoroughly reviewed and approved by the reviewers and editors. Important additional arguments for increased transparency include its potential to help unveil biases - conscious and unconscious, unfair reviewer reports, unwanted tone and language, conflicts of interests, and unfair advantages.

How does transparent peer review work?

Articles published online in participating journals are accompanied by a link to the full peer review history, where the reviews at each stage, author responses, and editor's decision letters are publicly available, with each element assigned its own Digital Object Identifier (DOI). An example of a paper published with a transparent peer review history can be seen [here](#) and [here](#).

Workflow for Transparent Peer Review In partnership with ScholarOne



The process is facilitated via SAGE Track and is implemented according to the needs of each participating journal. Some allow authors and/or reviewers to opt out of the process, and reviewers will always be able to choose whether their reviews are signed or anonymous. If an author, reviewer, or editor, chooses to opt out, the review process for that paper will not be published.

What's the uptake been like for those journals already participating?

84% of submitting authors choose to participate when given the option to opt in. Where reviewer participation is optional, nearly two thirds of reviewers have still chosen to participate. On average across all four journals, just over 40% of reviewers have agreed to sign their name against their comments.

Journal	Author opt-in rate	Reviewer Opt-in Rate	Reviewer signature opt-in rate
Journal 1	89%	N/A**	29%
Journal 2	74%	N/A**	43%
Journal 3	100%*	N/A**	49%
Journal 4	90%	60%	42%

*Authors cannot opt-out

**Reviewers cannot opt-out, but can decline to have their name included alongside their review

Example of TPR

The TPR page is hosted on the Web of Science platform, so the way that an end user would access the reviewer comments and decision letters would be via a link in the posted article. Here's an example: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/17534666211042529>. When looking at the article page you click on the 'Information, rights and permissions link' and just below the CrossMark 'Check for updates' information is the link to the TPR page. It will redirect to a WoS page and then once in WoS click on the Open Peer Review link and you can see all the reviewer comments, decision letter etc.

NB: This is an older paper that was published TPR before the Publons rebranding to Web of Science.