

Editorial

Dear Reader,



Many people do their best to make the International Journal of Graphic Education and Research, the IC Journal, a publication of high quality. Its success depends upon the range and diversity of its contributors and the sensitive application of expert opinion from our reviewers. However, such range and diversity of interests can make the compilation of any academic journal a complex process.

In writing their articles our authors carefully consider the content, for they must stand by every word. Our carefully chosen Referees, in their role as critical friends to both authors and editor alike, review the author's work and offer an objective view and often editorial suggestions, which authors may or may not adopt. However, it is the Editor who finally decides if an article is to be published or not. This he does in spite of the fact that he cannot be an expert in all the fields that are treated within the pages of the IC Journal. The ideal outcome is always an agreement that the paper is accepted for publication. But what happens if the Editor and Referees disagree? It does happen every now and then, even in the most prestigious journals.

However, I am pleased to say that with three issues of the IC Journal completed and work on the fourth issue in progress, I feel we have enough experience to now confirm the publishing procedures for the IC Journal and to outline them here.

First of all, we would like to invite all colleagues active in our field to send their contributions to the IC Journal. Guidelines for articles are available on the website of the international circle under "Journal" and "Publishing Guidelines". These guidelines will be revised shortly reflecting the rules outlined here together with the formal requirements of length, style and formatting, etc. The Editor, the IC Board and Referees would be grateful if authors would adhere strictly to these requirements when preparing their manuscripts; our Referees will keep a critical eye on issues of content and presentation.

To date it appears that most of our authors prefer to write in English, though this may not be their mother tongue. We should like to suggest that if this is the case, authors seek the linguistic support of a colleague who is fluent in English, and who is preferably a native speaker. Such support should always be sensitive to the subject and meaning of the text in suggesting improvements to the language. - My sincere gratitude, on this occasion, to all those who helped to render my English legible, first of all to Bob Thompson and to John Stephens.

When manuscripts are received by the Editor, they are rendered anonymous before being sent out to our Referees for critical review. Two Referees will independently read the contribution. The approach taken is that of a critical friend who will make positive and supportive suggestions. The response from the Referees is usually received within a few weeks. If considered necessary, improvements may be suggested, and these will be made known to authors immediately. It is at the discretion of each Referee whether his or her name shall be made known to the author.

Authors are asked to consider any suggestions made by the Referees and, if helpful they may choose to revise the manuscript accordingly. Revised manuscripts are sent again to the Referees, who may comment a second time. At this point a decision on publication will be made and the Editor will inform the author/s of the outcome.

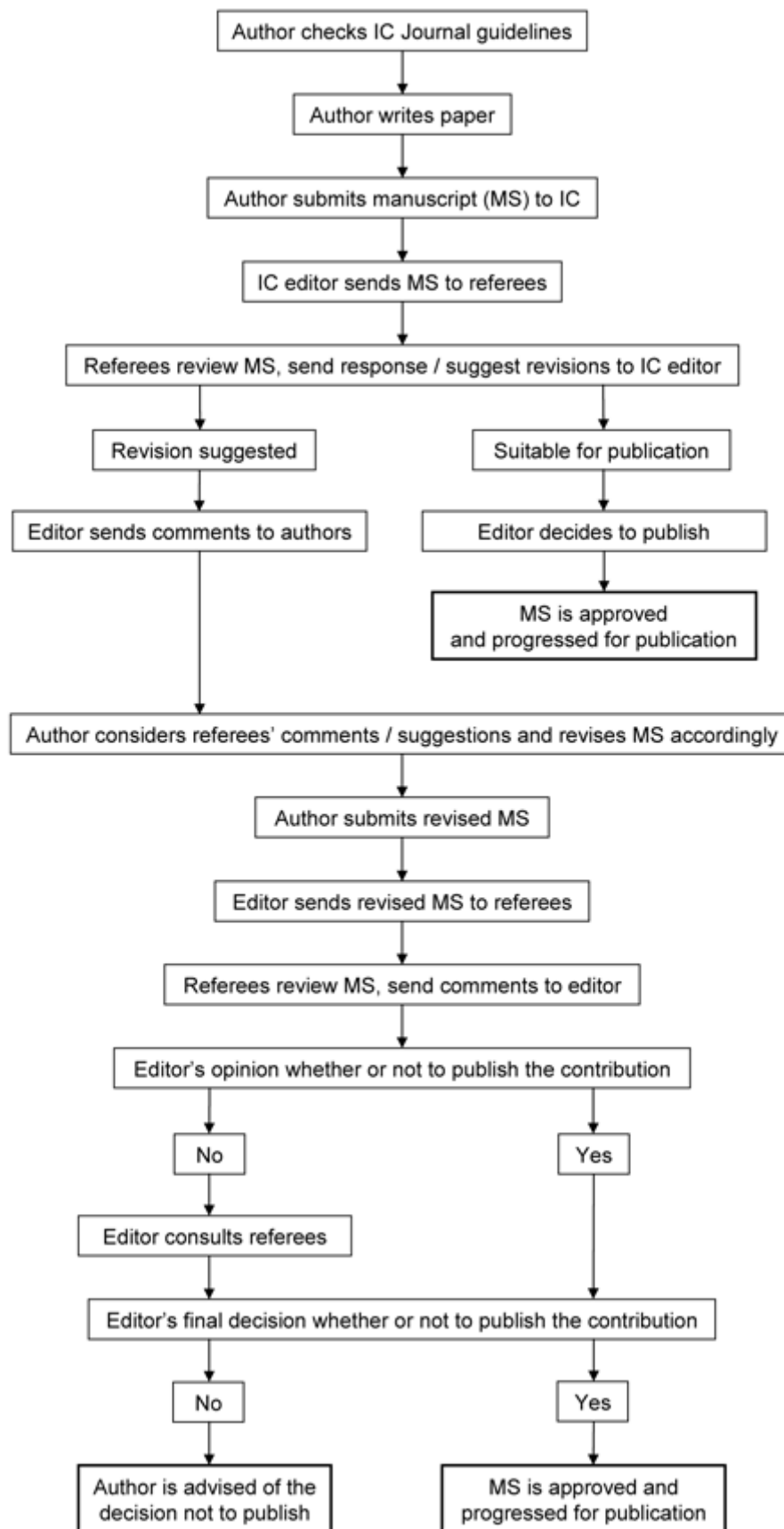
The Editor makes every effort to choose Referees with the appropriate expertise. Referees do their best to contribute to the further improvement of the manuscript. However, in the end the work submitted is the responsibility of the author/s and they alone must stand by it. It is of course the Editor's responsibility to decide what is published. This not always an easy task, but it has to be done. If there is any doubt, the Editor will always seek advice from members of the Editorial Board.

Since its inception one of the aims of the IC Journal has been to encourage young colleagues to publish their work. In this endeavour we recognise that emerging researchers may find that publishing in an international journal like the IC may present a somewhat daunting challenge. We have therefore decided to introduce a new section in the journal, which provides a space for emerging researchers to get published. We are confident that IC members will find this new venture provides a stimulating insight into the work that our rising stars are attempting.

I am pleased to say that we were the first to spot the opportunity for an academic journal, which reaches out to the research interests of the printing education community. Following on from our success we have other new projects now on the way. Let's see what the future holds.

After the first three numbers I think we can say with some confidence that the IC Journal is a success. The combination of different views on our industry sectors in the areas of science, technology, economics, education, across the international arena form a firm foundation for future development. And this of course means that we need your very personal support. Without content there is no IC Journal. So may we have your contributions, please?

Wolfgang Faigle



Imprint

Publisher: The International Circle of Educational Institutes for Graphic Arts: Technology and Management

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Layout: based on a design study by Julia Gramminger, HdM

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Print and Finishing: Moscow State University of Printing Arts

ISSN 1868-0879

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