



Journal Review Process: *Koedoe*

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In the beginning...

- interested in participating from the outset
 - wondered what could it do to help *Koedoe*
 - wondered what the situation in the rest of the field was
- wanted to ensure criteria were met for continued DoHET accreditation
- wanted to know... what do people think of *Koedoe*?

Experience of the review process

- First- questionnaire not time consuming
- Not difficult to complete
- Assistance from publisher (OJP) very helpful:
 - gathering info on: number of papers downloaded, papers accepted/ rejected; etc
- Forces self-assessment
 - in providing the information
 - considering the outcome

Experience of the review process

- Overall comments (Agricultural field) were interesting & provide useful context
- Critical comments need to be considered in the context of the overall aims of process

Experience of the review process

- Process from submission to final report a bit slow
 - >Some things recommended have already been initiated quite some time back;
report would have helped in how to approach them
- Would like to use as a basis for comprehensive feedback report to Editorial Board and/or parent society (in our case SANParks)
 - Will still do, but some aspects already changed

Enhancement of scholarly journals in SA?

- Yes!
 - an opportunity for ASSAF, DoHET & **Editor** to get an overview across journals in the field
 - Provide recommendations for improvement
 - Even if journal does not consider recommendations or implement suggestions; should at least be aware of the findings..!
 - Even if journals are competing within SA, the overall process will raise the profile of SAs journals in general

Panel comment

- The journal review outcome should be part of the ISI application process
 - interesting idea; possible? (does ISI do this for any other countries)
 - recommendations for ISI application process?
 - suggest- journal ready to apply or not- what needs to be done to ensure best chance

Outcome - what did it mean for *Koedoe*

- Certainly provides insight on areas for improvement
- Does not necessarily tell you what you want to hear.. but is needed
 - Aspects to improve
- Some positive comments; many aspects which I had never even considered
 - Aspects to promote (& maintain)

Overall...

- Am pleased to have taken part in the process
- Am satisfied with the outcome in general, as
 - was not at all sure what the process would entail,
 - how the data from the questionnaire would be used,
 - how the outcomes would be presented
 - whether it would 'survive' the scrutiny
- I think the process is very helpful to the overall management of the journal (editor; publisher; advisory board; other)



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