



Contemporary work approach of scientific journal’s editorial office

Requirements to academic journal’s editorial board and manuscript review are set in Appendix No. 2 to the Order of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation No. 793 dd. 25 July 2014 (rev. dd. 17 February 2016) “On Approval of the Rules for Preparation of the List of Reviewed Scientific Publications on a Notification Basis...”:

“6. The publisher shall ensure review of all materials received by the editorial office and being in line with its remit, to get their expert evaluation <...>;

11. The editorial staff and/or editorial review board shall include at least eight experts, candidates or doctors of science <...> being faculty researchers and teachers”.

Requirements of the Order of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation suggest that all published materials shall be reviewed, and an editorial board expert shall:

- 1) have papers on the topic under review, which were published during the last three years;
- 2) be a candidate or doctor of science (preferably);
- 3) have a research or teaching position.

There are 71 experts having academic degrees working as current editorial staff of Journal of “Almaz – Antey” Air and Space Defence Corporation. Breakdown of experts in terms of research type, academic degrees and ranks can be found in Figs. 1–3.

The Order of the Russian Ministry of Science and Higher Education does not stipulate the number of reviewers per one article, not the review method. However, starting from 2015, as per the recommendations of the international Council of Science Editors¹, a double “blind” review has been used for the Corporation’s Journal, under which the material is sent to two reviewers with no author indicated. The double “blind” review prevents the author’s name affecting the reviewer’s

decision making, allows impartial identification of manuscript’s advantages and disadvantages, if necessary, showing the author how to properly present the article’s research area.

Additional proof of the “blind” review expedience is implementation of assessment of research staff members in some higher educational

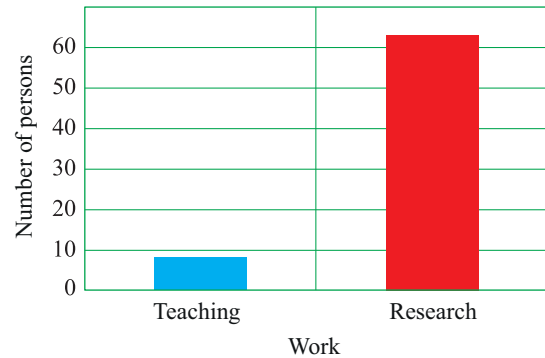


Fig. 1. Editorial staff breakdown by work type

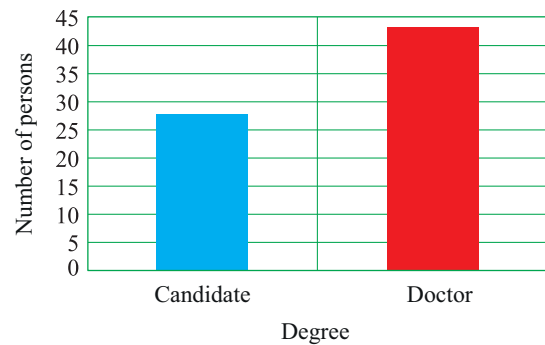


Fig. 2. Editorial staff breakdown by academic degrees

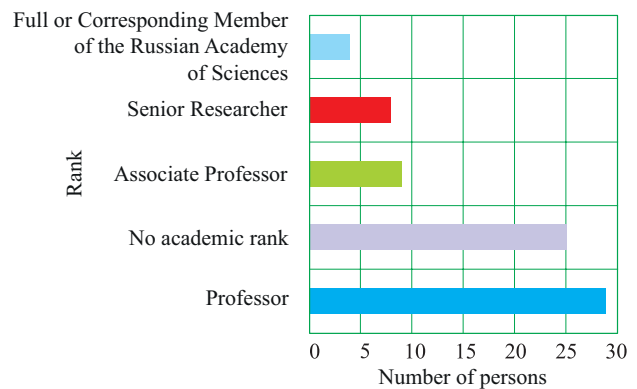


Fig. 3. Editorial staff breakdown by academic ranks

¹ CSE’s White Paper on Promotion Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications. Updated version 2012 / N. A. Mazov, ed.; transl. from Eng. V. N. Gureeva. Ekaterinburg: Ural University Publishing House, 2016. 132 p.



institutions and research organizations. The assessment is based on the staff members’ scientometric indicators, which are estimated in terms of both Russian and international bibliometric databases². It triggered the increase of poor quality material sent to academic journals³.

Review is not a simple tool of article categorization as accepted for publishing and rejected ones. Proper use of the review institute allows to improve the scientific article quality, which, in its turn, improves the journal’s academic standing. Usually, a reviewer draws the author’s attention to five possible faults:

- errors of facts in reasoning;
- no recent articles on the research topic included in the Bibliography;
- relevance of expanding some aspects of the elaborated research area not covered by the article’s authors;
- need for more detailed presentation of the research results (in diagrams, tables, conclusions);
- low quality of material presentation.

When reviewing the material, the reviewer adopts the role of a mentor indicating advantages and disadvantages of the elaborated research area, omissions or gaps in the research. For this very reason, the review is valuable not only as a formal examination of academic material identifying relevance, validity, reliability, academic novelty, quotation completeness, advantages and disadvantages, but as the ability to identify the ways to improve the material and describe them to the authors.

However, the academic article expert assessment is complex and demanding, because in fact the reviewer takes responsibility for the publication and the responsibility is purely moral, since the review is “blind” and the editorial office does not disclose the reviewer’s name. Thus, the author can’t express gratitude to the article’s reviewer for any valuable advice and comments.

It may first seem that the double “blind” review and, consequently, the more rigorous assessment of manuscripts should have reduced the number of articles published in the Journal. Fig. 4 shows the diagram of accepted articles vs. total number of articles received for publishing and its cumulative average value.

As per the diagram, there has been no decrease of accepted articles percentage starting from 2015. Furthermore, there is a notable improvement of the published material quality, as evidenced by the demand for it in the Internet. Steady growth of downloaded e-versions of the articles on the Corporation’s website is 25 % per annum on average. Starting from 2017, the journal e-version will be indexed by the All-Russian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information.

The journal’s editorial office is open for dialogue with the readers. If you have proposals concerning expansion of journal distribution, its promotion on the Internet, social media and international reference databases, please email them to press@almaz-antey.ru.

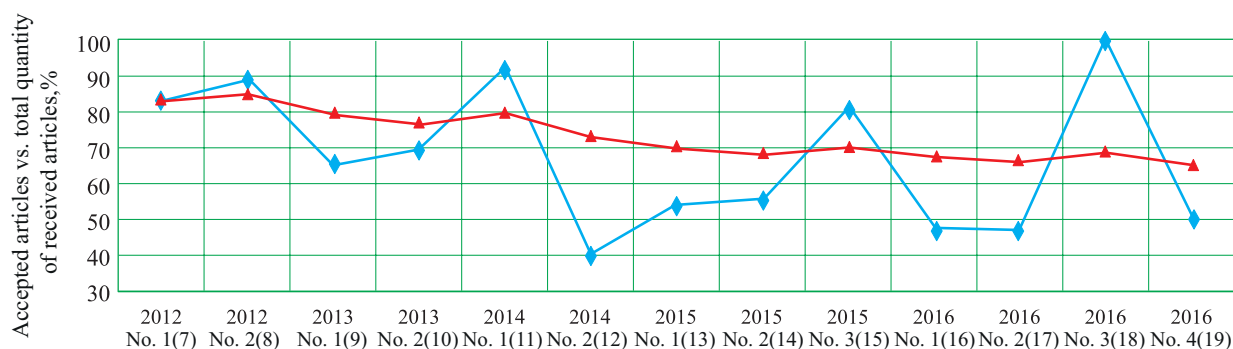


Fig. 4. Accepted articles vs. total quantity of received articles:
 —♦— article conversion; —▲— cumulative average value

² Bolshakov D. Yu. Problemy prodvizheniya rossiyskoy nauchnoy periodiki v mezhdunarodnykh referativnykh bazakh // Nauka v mire. 2015. No. 27 (2). P. 10–15. (Russian)

³ Rubtsov A. Metafizika vlasti: Vysoty abstraktsii // Vedomosti. 10.06.2016. No. 4093. P. 3. (Russian)