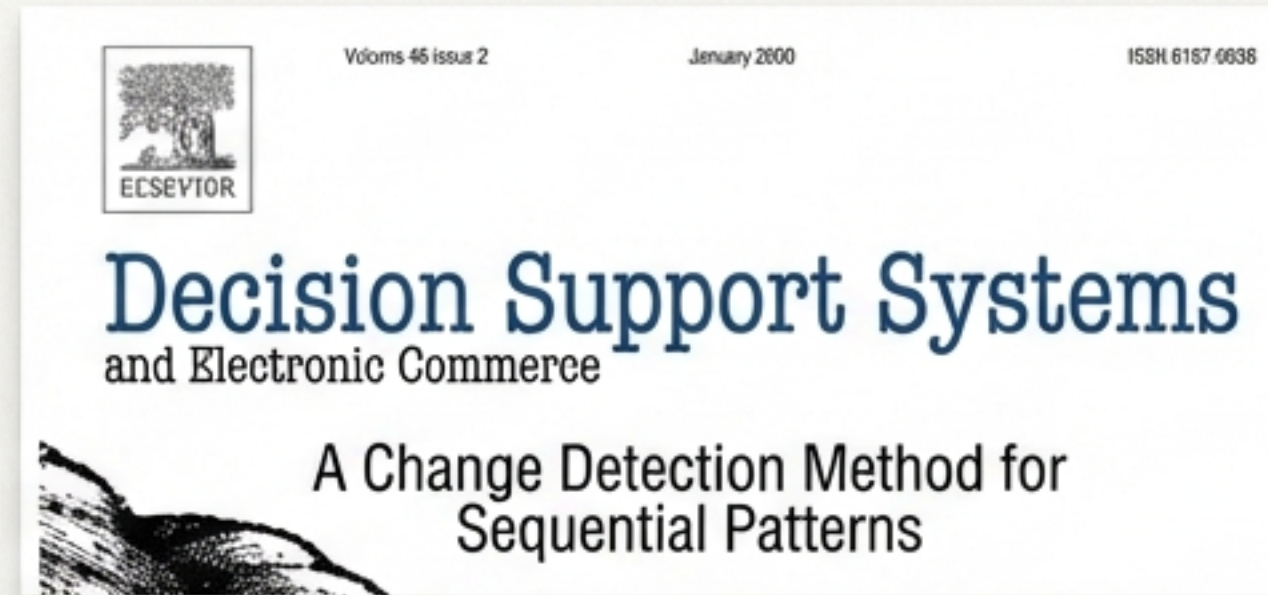




Playfair Display

The 900-Day Journey: Navigating the Publication Process

A case study in persistence, strategy, and resilience for new faculty.

We often see the final PDF, but we rarely see the invisible timeline beneath it. This deck deconstructs the 2.5-year lifecycle of a single paper—from draft to print—to highlight the reality of academic publishing.



*Decision Support
Systems, Vol. 46, No. 2,
pp. 501–511. (January
2009)*

Impact Factor (At Submission)	1.119
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Impact Factor (Current)	~6.8
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The Destination: January 2009

This publication is the trophy. But the process began in August 2006.

Between the first draft and this slide lies a gap of nearly 30 months involving three different journals, bureaucratic hurdles, and multiple rejections.

Jan 2009: Published

Phase 1: The False Start

Aug 2006: Manuscript
Preparation Begins

August 2006 – January 2007

Jan 7, 2007:
Submission to JASIST

Journal Profile

Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST)

Impact Factor (2007): 1.436 | Rank: 29/92 in Information Systems

The Honeymoon Phase. The research is done. **The drafting is rigorous.** The target is ambitious but appropriate. **The author hits "Submit" believing the science is the only thing that matters.**

The “Unsubmission”

Jan 10, 2007 (3 Days Later)

Dear Dr. Chieh-Yuan Tsai:

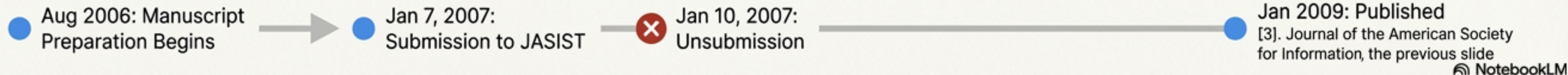
Your manuscript entitled "A Change Detection Method for Sequential Patterns" has been **unsubmitted** to the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, because it **did not conform** to all of the JASIST Guidelines.

[X] 36 pages or less

[X] Double-spaced, single-sided

[X] Normal fonts and margins

Lesson: Read the Guidelines. Do not let administrative non-conformance delay your science. The paper was stalled not for content, but for margin settings.



The Pivot to Data & Knowledge Engineering



Resilience in action. After fixing the formatting errors, the paper is **immediately submitted** to a second **target**. The author believes the review process has finally begun. **They are wrong.**



Bureaucracy is Part of the Process

Email from DKE Editorial Office

From: DKE Editorial Office <dke@editorial.org> | **Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2007 3:42 PM
Subject: Overlap Certificate

Dear Author,

We request that you along with your co-authors complete and sign the following certificate certifying that this paper has no more than 30% overlap with previous papers. Please return this immediately to facilitate the review process.

Email from DKE Editorial Office

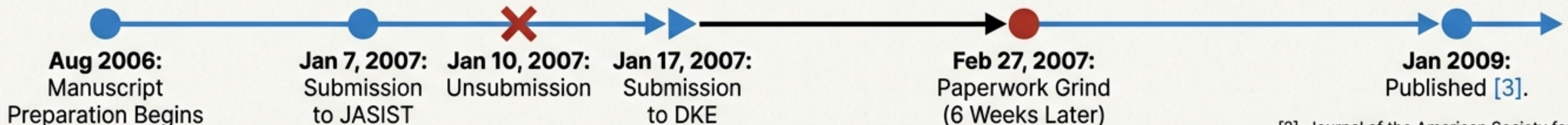
From: DKE Editorial Office <dke@editorial.org> | **Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2007
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2007 10:15 AM
Subject: Email Verification

Dear Author,

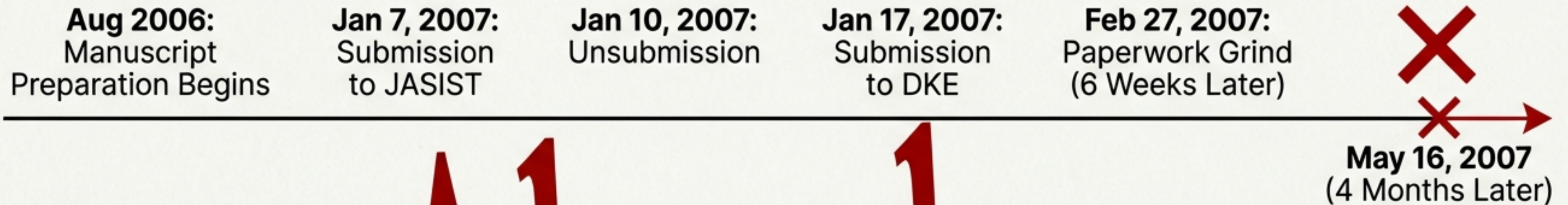
Kindly request your co-author, Dr. Lin, to submit to us a valid organizational email address for records purposes. The current address is not verified.

The Hidden Friction.

Submission is not a “fire and forget” action. You must manage the paperwork to keep the paper in the review queue. Note the dates: **nearly 6 weeks lost** to administrative email chains.



The Rejection: Scope and Style



Abandon

“The DKE Journal usually prefers articles with original and novel technical material. We also prefer articles describing **new** **Correction Red** **methodologies**” than articles of case studies... kindly consider these criteria when you submit your future papers.”

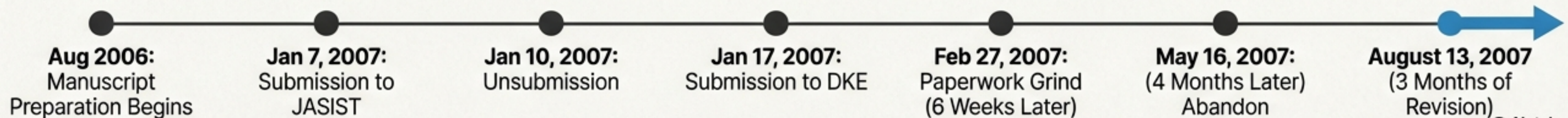
“It was also suggested that the English style and grammar in your paper could be improved.”

Lesson: Fit is Everything. The paper was technically sound but stylistically wrong for DKE. It was a “Case Study” sent to a “Methodology” journal.

Strategy Shift: Aiming for Decision Support Systems



Counter-intuitive Strategy. Instead of lowering standards after a rejection, the author improved the paper and aimed for a journal with a better “Fit.” DSS valued **“Management Discussion”** and **“Case Studies”**—the exact things DKE rejected.



The Wait & The 'Maybe'

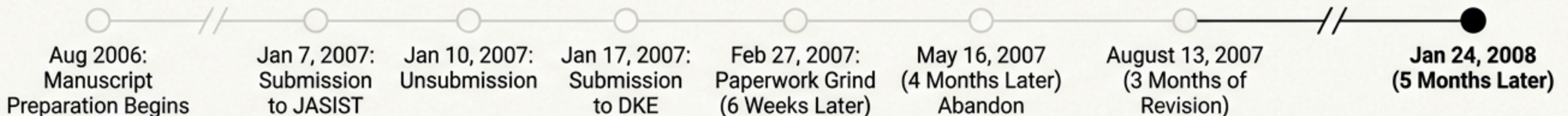
From: Decision Support Systems <editor@dss.org>
Subject: DSS#07-09-2078 - Review

Dear Professor Tsai:

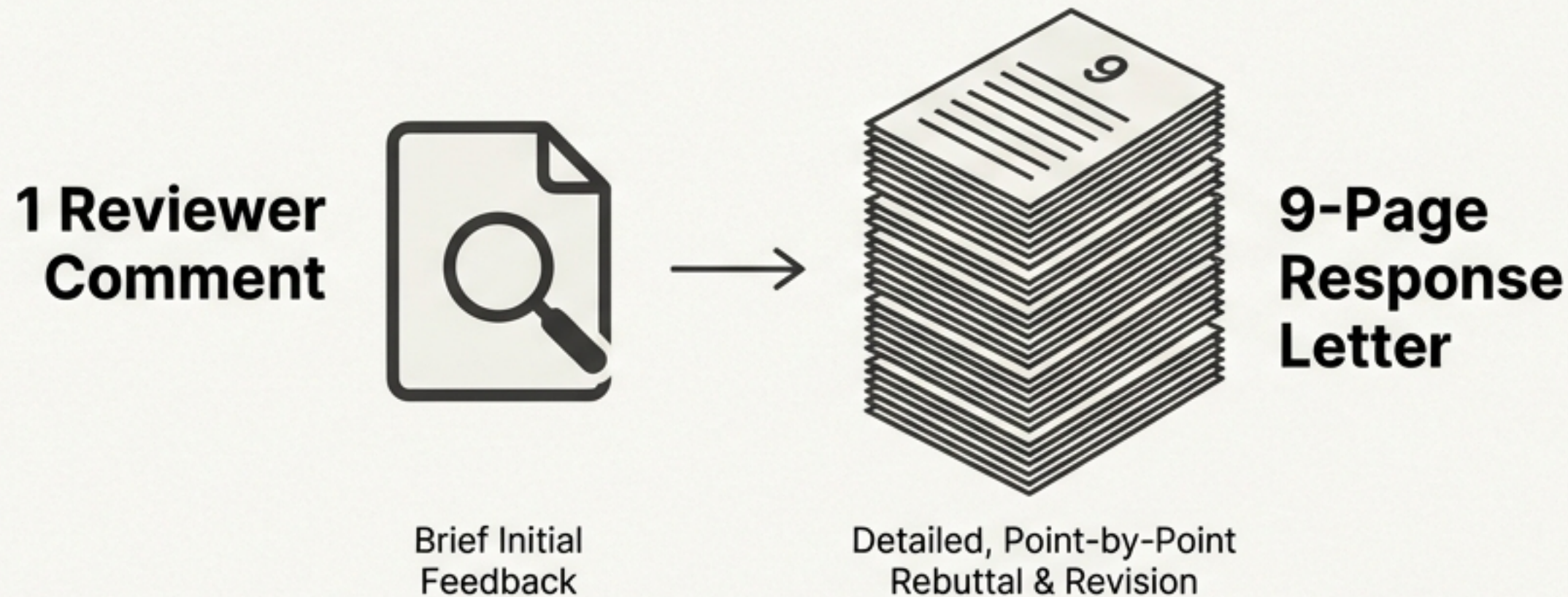
Enclosed is a review on your paper (DSS#07-09-2078).
The report indicates a need for a revision of your manuscript.

This is **NOT** a **rejection**. It is an invitation to work harder.

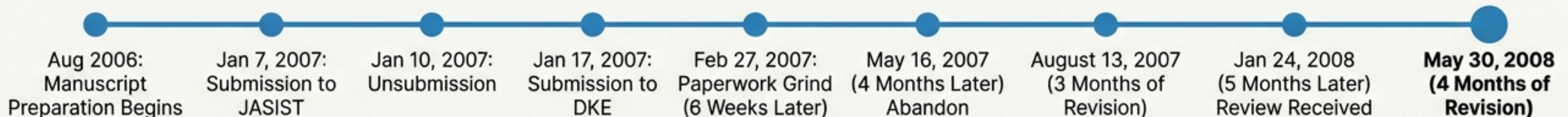
5 months of silence ends with a request for major changes.



The Grind: A Nine-Page Reply



The authors spent four months addressing the reviewers' comments. For a single reviewer, a nine-page detailed reply was drafted. The "Reply to Reviewers" is a diplomatic and **technical defense of your science**—it is as important as the manuscript itself.



September 15, 2008

2 years and 1 month after the first draft.

Yeh!! Accepted

Dear Professor Tsai:

I am happy to inform you that your revised manuscript, A Change Detection Method for Sequential Patterns (DSS #07-09-2078R) has been accepted for publication.

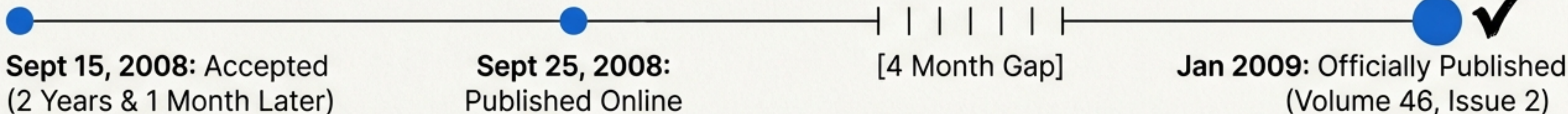
Jan 24, 2008 (5 Months Later)
Review Received

May 30, 2008
(4 Months of Revision)

Sept 15, 2008: Accepted
(2 Years & 1 Month Later)

The Final Lag

Publication Lag. Even after acceptance, it took **4 months** to appear in the official volume. For tenure clocks and grant applications, knowing the difference between “Online First” and “Print” is vital.



Lesson 1: Finding Your Home

WELCOME 7 HELP 85789 TO DOUPRAL 2007 JCR Science Edition

Cited Journal: DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS
Number of times articles published in 2007 (in journals below) cited articles published in DECIS SUPPORT SYST (in years below). ([click to read this table](#))

Journals 1 - 20 (of 164) Page 1 of 9

Impact	Citing Journal	AH Yrs	Cited Year										
			2007	2006	2004	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	Rest
	All Journals	1645	42	118	174	198	142	146	144	114	114	99	264
1.119	DECIS SUPPORT SYST	377	15	34	39	52	25	34	35	21	22	19	81
	ALL OTHERS (170)	170	5	10	16	25	13	14	14	14	16	11	32
	LECT NOTES COMPUT SC	108	5	15	26	12	9	7	7	6	6	6	14
1.177	EXPERT SYST APPL	64	0	0	7	8	7	7	6	6	5	6	13
1.096	EUR J OPER RES	39	0	1	3	3	1	0	4	6	4	4	13
	LECT NOTES ARTIF INT	36	0	4	4	5	5	4	3	2	1	1	7
5.826	MIS QUART	31	0	2	3	4	4	3	4	0	0	0	11
	INT FED INFO PROC	22	5	2	1	0	3	0	2	0	1	2	6
0.784	J OPER RES SOC	20	0	0	3	1	3	0	2	0	0	1	10
0.436	INFORM SYST FRONT	19	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	13
1.147	COMPUT OPER RES	16	0	0	3	3	0	2	1	3	2	1	8
	GROUP DECIS NEGOT	16	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	4	0	8
0.558	J COMPUT INFORM SYST	16	0	1	3	3	1	2	3	2	0	1	0
0.712	PUR J INFORM SYST	15	1	2	2	0	0	4	1	1	0	2	2
1.186	INT J ELECTRON COMM	15	1	4	1	0	0	2	2	3	0	2	0
2.099	ENVIRON MODELL SOFTW	15	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	7
	P SOC PHOTO-OPT DVS	14	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	6
	DYNAM CONT D2S SER B	14	0	0	2	3	2	0	0	2	0	1	4
	COMPUT HUM BEHAV	14	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	2	0	6
	J ASSOC INF SYST	14	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	6

Journals 1 - 20 (of 164) Page 1 of 9

How to Avoid the Scope Trap

1. **Reference List Analysis:** Where are your **citations** from?
2. **JCR Data:** Use the "Cited Journal" table (left) to find **overlapping readerships**.
3. **Aim & Scope Check:** Does the journal explicitly exclude your method?

Jan 2009: Officially Published
(Volume 46, Issue 2)

Lesson 1:
Finding Your Home

The Three Pillars of Rejection

Administrative



Example: JASIST

Cause: **Format, margins, page limits.**

Solution: **Meticulous adherence to guidelines.**

Scope / Fit



Example: DKE

Cause: **Wrong audience, wrong contribution type.**

Solution: **Better targeting & JCR analysis.**

Rigor



Example: DSS.

Cause: **Technical defense and clarity.**

Solution: **Detailed revision and "Reply to Reviewers"**

Jan 2009: Officially Published
(Volume 46, Issue 2)

Lesson 1: Finding Your Home

The Iceberg of Success

It took 900 days. Intelligence wrote the draft; resilience got it published.

