



Peer Review Policy and Process

The Axis Community Research Journal (ACRJ) employs a rigorous **double-blind peer-review system** as the cornerstone of our commitment to scientific integrity, impartiality, and the publication of high-quality, impactful research. This process ensures the anonymity of both authors and reviewers, thereby minimizing potential bias and focusing evaluation squarely on the scholarly merit, methodological rigor, and community relevance of each submission.

1. Initial Editorial Screening

Upon submission, every manuscript undergoes a preliminary assessment by the editorial team. This screening evaluates:

- Alignment with the journal's interdisciplinary scope (community engagement, public health, social sciences, applied humanities).
 - Basic adherence to formatting and ethical guidelines.
 - Originality and freedom from obvious methodological flaws.
- Manuscripts that do not meet these fundamental criteria may be declined without external review (desk rejection) to expedite the process for authors.

2. Selection of Reviewers

Manuscripts passing initial screening are assigned to an Editor, who selects a minimum of **two independent expert reviewers**. Reviewers are chosen based on:

- Demonstrated expertise in the manuscript's subject area and methodological approach.
- Absence of any discernible conflict of interest with the authors.
- A record of providing thorough, constructive evaluations.

The journal may also consider suggestions for potential reviewers from authors, but the Editor retains full discretion over all selections and will verify the suitability and independence of all nominees.

3. Reviewer Responsibilities and Guidelines

Invited reviewers are expected to uphold the highest standards of peer review by:

- Treating the manuscript as a confidential document, not disseminating or discussing its content.
- Providing objective, detailed, constructive, and respectful feedback within the agreed timeframe.
- Declining the invitation or immediately notifying the editor if a conflict of interest is identified.

- **License:** © 2025. Open Access under [CC BY 4.0](#). Copyright retained by authors.
- **Compliance:** Adheres to the [ICMJE Recommendations](#).



- Assessing the manuscript based on criteria including originality, methodological soundness (with special attention to community engagement processes where applicable), clarity of presentation, ethical conduct, significance of findings, and potential community impact.
- Alerting the editor to any suspicion of plagiarism, data fabrication, or other ethical concerns.

4. The Review Process and Editorial Decision

- **Evaluation:** Reviewers submit their confidential assessments and recommendations (Accept, Minor Revision, Major Revision, Reject) to the Editor.
- **Decision Synthesis:** The Editor consolidates the reviews, weighs the recommendations, and makes an editorial decision. This decision is communicated to the corresponding author along with the anonymized reviewer comments.
- **Revision Stage:** If a revision is invited, authors are given a specified timeframe to address all points raised and submit a revised manuscript along with a detailed point-by-point response. The revised version is typically re-evaluated, often by the original reviewers.
- **Final Decision:** The final decision to accept or reject a manuscript rests with the Editor, informed by the peer review advice. This decision is final.

5. Safeguarding Against Review Manipulation

ACRJ is vigilant in protecting the integrity of the peer-review process. We actively guard against fraudulent practices by:

- Independently verifying the identity and institutional affiliations of suggested reviewers.
- Scrutinizing reviewer reports for signs of inauthenticity or bias.
- Utilizing editorial oversight to detect patterns that may indicate coordinated manipulation.
- Taking serious action, including rejection and reporting to institutions, if manipulation is confirmed.

6. Commitment to Transparency and Integrity

ACRJ is dedicated to a peer-review process that is not only rigorous but also fair, timely, and constructive. We view peer review as a collaborative endeavor to strengthen scholarship and its potential for community benefit. Our policy ensures that every published article has been scrutinized and enhanced through expert independent evaluation.

We invite researchers and community scholars to submit their work to ACRJ, confident in the knowledge that it will be evaluated with integrity, expertise, and a genuine commitment to advancing meaningful, community-engaged interdisciplinary research.

- **License:** © 2025. Open Access under [CC BY 4.0](#). Copyright retained by authors.

Compliance: Adheres to the [ICMJE Recommendations](#).



