We read with interest the editorial “Rejecting manuscript without external review” in the October issue of the Indian Journal of Pharmacology.[1] The initial screening procedure for manuscript checking addressed in the article is informative and useful for contributors.

At present the IJP follows only three criteria for rejection of manuscript without review:

- a) out of scope
- b) poor presentation
- c) lack of originality

We feel one more criterion could be added in this list. Manuscripts not submitted online through the website may be rejected. Writing for the IJP—Guidelines for authors[2] recommends manuscript submission through website, through e-mail or by post. Further it is insisted that the final, accepted version of the manuscript should be submitted on a diskette or by e-mail only. Online submission through website is much more advantageous for the authors as well as the editorial office. It is more reliable than the disk sent by post (possibility of getting damaged) and e-mail which occasionally gets (a) lost in the cyberspace, (b) corrupted while downloading or (c) stripped off attachments due to suspected viral infection. Online submission is no doubt more cost effective too. We wonder why contributors still send their manuscripts by postal mail and email instead of using the website for online submission.

References

Reply:

Currently more than 50% articles are submitted online directly by the contributors, the rest mainly by email. We insist on an e-copy on a disk by email when someone submits only paper copies of their manuscript. All manuscripts received by email and on paper/disk are submitted online by the IJP office on behalf of authors. Unless a manuscript is submitted online, the manuscript number is not obtainable. Hence technically all manuscripts are submitted online either directly or indirectly (by the IJP office).

The day is not far away when we can insist that authors submit their manuscripts only using the online submission system. However, considering that some authors may not have the technical know-how or have easy access to internet, we still permit them to submit their manuscripts by mail. This is being done to encourage authors from resource-poor settings, so that internet access does not become a limiting factor for them and prevent them from submitting their work to the IJP.

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