Guidelines on Reviewing for *MIS Quarterly*

Arun Rai

Presented to CIS & CEPRIN Doctoral Students

Georgia State University

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Fact Sheet

- **Premier IS general-interest journal**—enjoys a stellar reputation in rankings and impact factors

- **ISI Impact Factors**: 5.3 (2014); 8.5 (5-Year)

- **Ranked consistently in Top Journal lists** (e.g., UT Dallas and Financial Times lists)

- **Welcomes diverse perspectives**: Individual-level behavioral origins that has expanded to include organizational, design science, economics research traditions

The MIS Quarterly Trifecta

- **The MISQ Trifecta**

  - *Impact, Scope of Influence, Speed*

- **Leader in mindshare** on digital phenomena and solutions to business and societal problems

- **Publish the best research** globally that significantly advances the understanding of IS in technology, business, and society

MISQ Strategic Positioning

- **Big Tent—Face** of the Information Systems Discipline

- **Publish the best work across traditions** (behavioral, organizational, design science, economics), between traditions (intradisciplinary), and between IS and other disciplines (interdisciplinary)

- **Promote collaboration among IS research traditions and with the expanding range of disciplines interested in digital phenomena** (e.g., marketing, economics, medicine, statistics, computer science)

Why Review:
Some Very Good Reasons!

- **Learn** from the latest research and the review packet, and how to revise (in)effectively

- **Develop relationships** with editors—useful for future appointments on editorial boards, promotion and tenure letters, jobs, etc.)

- **Develop scholarly reputation**

- **Peer review works on the norm of reciprocity**

- **MISQ is the crown jewel of the community —**you can contribute to it as a citizen of the community!

10 Tips on How To Review

① **Evaluate the authors' work—**manage the line between constructive suggestions and joining in as (lead, anonymous) author!

② **Evaluate work fairly** within its scholarly tradition (and if you cannot, recuse yourself)

③ **Establish a frame of reference** for editors and authors on your expertise (and your review)

④ **Summarize the paper (2-3 sentences)**

⑤ **Start** with the positive aspects of the paper

10 Tips on How To Review

⑥ **Identify the novel aspects** that (can) make a contribution

⑦ **Identify major issues**—discuss if addressable or fatal; delineate major vs. minor issues

⑧ **Provide suggestions** on how to address issues

⑨ **Write professionally** using a constructive tone

⑩ **Complete review on time**—budget time to read, think, write, rethink, refine

5 Tips on What to Avoid in Reviews

① **Refrain from excessive negativity**—early stage academics can tend to be excessively negative

② **Refrain from signal-jamming**—do not flood tangential information in a misguided attempt to impress editors!

③ **Avoid over-/under-stating positives or negatives**

④ **Refrain from working in your favorite song** (paper, theory, control variables, other)

⑤ **Avoid laundry listing** (line-by-line or page-by-page comments)

MISQ AE Appointments

- Important considerations in moving reviewers through the ranks to AE :
  - *Scholarly record*
  - *Reviewing quality* (validity, constructiveness, comprehensiveness)
  - *Reviewing conscientiousness* (average time to return reviews, % of review requests accepted)

Arun Rai
arunrai@gsu.edu
Web site: arunrai.us

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