# Standardized Acceptance Factor Average (SAFA): Conceptual Framework

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**Abstract:** This paper discusses the SAFA framework that facilitates the process of decision making - acceptance or rejection of an article for possible publication. Generally, such decision is made based on the reviewers' opinion in a complex way which is often very difficult to make because of associated human errors. Since all the assigned reviewers do not evaluate an article from the similar point of view and level of skills, there always may be a chance of biasness. If it is possible to minimize this bias as well as the impact of human error, a decision can be made with high efficiency. In this paper we intend to focus on the SAFA framework that proposes a way to minimize the above said bias and human error as well in evaluating an academic article for publication.

## INTRODUCTION

The review process is the most common way to make a decision on publishing an academic article. Generally, this decision is made by a chief editor based on two or more double blind reviews. An editor rarely uses an open or non-blind review to make a decision (Walsh, Rooney, Appleby and Wilkinson, 2000; Koop and Pöschl, 2006). Making such decision is often associated with human errors (Lawrence, 2003). For example, if two reviewers provide different recommendations on a manuscript, an editor meets more responsibility to make the final decision. It seems that there may be a chance of unintended bias in a traditional decision making process due to this disagreement between or among the reviewers. An editor tends to resolve this disagreement by assigning a third

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