

Special Thematic Issues

Commissioning Content for the
Betterment of Your Journal

By: Bart Wacek, Anita Yadav, Ram Anbazhagan

Your Role as Editor

Handle the Peer Review Process

Have a Vision for the Journal

(this presentation will focus on vision and how recruited content can help you guide your editorial vision)

Vision for the Journal

Set the Aims & Scope

Initiate Different Article Types

Proper Representation on Editorial Board

Attend Conferences & Promote Journal

Call for Papers

SPECIAL THEMATIC ISSUES

passive
to
slightly
active

very
proactive

Benefits of a Special Issue

Gets Journal Into a Scientific Area It Wants or Needs to Be**

** (most important point, as experts in field, you can see where content will be going in the future. Recruiting early can mean your journal will be place for newer research & tech)

Helps with the Impact Factor (Reviewers are cited on average 4 times higher than other articles)

Improves Engagement

- Scientific Community
- Editorial Board

Regional Representation & Diversity (examples are growing research in China or India)

Makeup of a Special Issue

Typically, size is that of an issue

Flexible; smaller amount of articles are “Special Section”

Appointment of Guest Editor (Expert in Specialty Area)

Recruitment of Authors

Typically, manuscripts are reviews... but can also include original research

(Can recruit reviews and then do an open call for papers that are original research)

Different than a Sponsored Supplement (primarily for health sciences)

Talk to Your Publisher

Status Quo

Administrative Support (“Chasing”)...

(editor finds authors, and staff can set up deadlines and reminders)

(takes out uncomfortableness of editor chasing his colleagues to turn in papers)

Identifying Guest Editors

Identifying Topics & Guest Editors from Data Analysis

Examples

Ram Anbazhagan & Anita Yadav

Editorial Board Member Survey for ECHO



A update on the survey

- 10 Special issue ideas
- 6 Special issues with potential guest editors
- 4 Special issues are active and 2 others are being planned

Key points

- 1) All activities will be consulted with the Editors
- 2) On behalf of Guest editors invite potential authors
- 3) Periodic updates to Editors on status of special issues
- 4) Flexibility

Identifying Guest Editors

Drug Development Research (DDR) had an idea for Special issue and but without a Potential Guest editor

Identified top contributors in the subject area using the keywords in Scopus and Web of Science.

Criteria used for the analysis:

1. Data to be taken for the last 5 years
2. Authors with minimum of 30 articles
3. Average citation of 6 or above
4. Authors with h-index of 40 or above

Result:

After the analysis and discussion with the Editor, and have shortlisted 10 researchers who can be right fit for the special issue

Currently, the researchers are being reached out for their interest with the special issue idea.



Key points

- 1) All data points will be consulted with the Editors
- 2) Flexibility in the data criteria

Completing Special Issues



The most decisive and challenging aspect of any special issue is getting the articles submitted.

As Commissioning editor we can assist Editors with gentle reminders to Guest editors and Invited authors for Submission.

- 1) Periodic reminders in discussion with Editors
- 2) Timeline status updates to Editors
- 3) Escalate unresponsive authors

Only inflexibility is closing issues: In fairness to authors that have already submitted, latecomers can still publish in regular issues

Results:

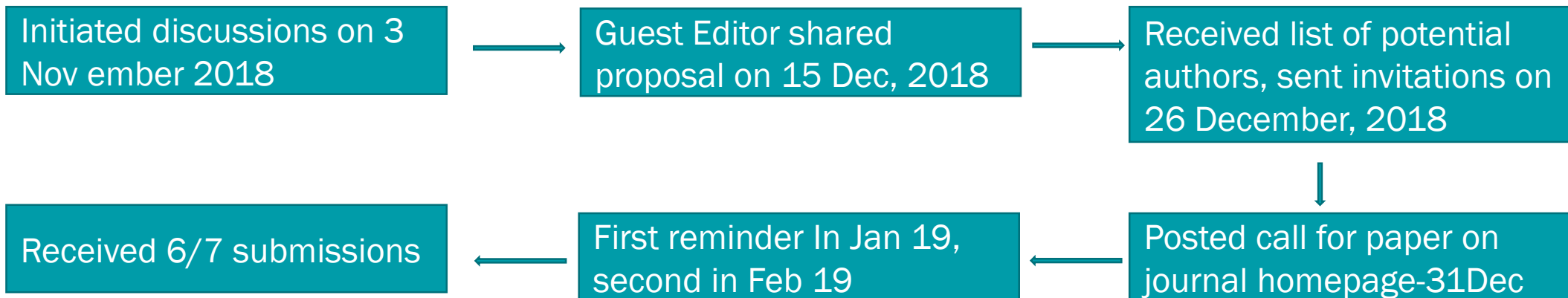
Closed 6 special issues in the last 2 months.

Provides overview and control for Editors

- Key points
- 1) Customized reminders
 - 2) Editors are always connected
 - 3) Assists in timely publication

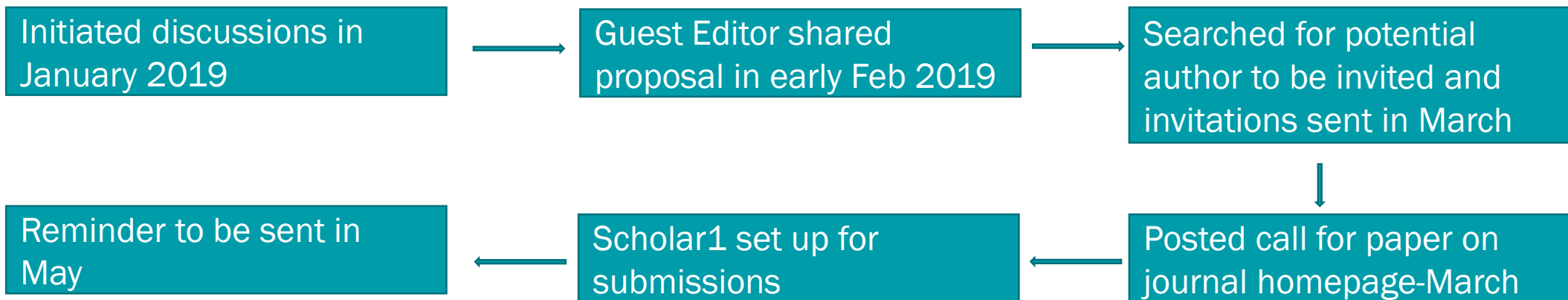
Examples

International Journal of Applied Linguistics (IJAL)
Special Issue on Corpus-based language teaching and learning:
applications and implications-May Zaki (Closed the submission in 3
months)



Growth and Change (G&C)

Special issue on Taking the Systems Approaches out of their Comfort Zones: Local Applications in the Global Periphery and Beyond (submission deadline June 2019)



Snapshot

In 2019...

- Closed submissions for 34 special issues
- Article output- 548 manuscripts
- Special issues in pipeline- 109
- Journals in the special issue program- 47
- Conducting editorial board survey for 4 journals

Thank You!

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