Journal of the Operational Research Society: VIEWPOINTS

Guidelines

The Journal of the Operational Research Society offers through its Viewpoints Section an opportunity to contribute constructive comments and criticism on work previously published by the Journal.

Viewpoints may be used to express: i) alternative points of view regarding methodological choices, ii) natural incremental extensions of work already published (perhaps taking a different perspective), iii) arguments that reflect a different philosophical standpoint, and iv) the identification of important omissions in the problem formulation and/or solution process. It is essential that these commentaries: i) are expressed in a ‘positive’ and constructive manner, and ii) remain interesting enough for the general audience of the Journal as opposed to becoming one-to-one discussions that could be conducted on a personal basis.

The length of a Viewpoint may vary depending on the contribution, but generally we are looking at publishing work that does not exceed 1,000 words (about 4 - 5 double line spaced A4 pages with ample margins). When preparing a Viewpoint the following issues should be considered:

- Please be concise
- Avoid repeating material from the original article on which you comment
- Cross-reference equations and Tables/Figures in the original article
- Include all your material in one single consecutive section; i.e. no abstract is needed and the contribution should be organised around one single section.

Viewpoints should not be used to express an opinion that does not relate explicitly to previous work published by the Journal. There are no constraints on the year of publication for the original article but we are looking at publishing Viewpoints that refer to rather recent work, typically not more than 5 years old.

Upon submission of a Viewpoint an initial editorial review takes place to judge the suitability of the manuscript. Please be aware of the fact that some Viewpoints are
rejected at this stage due to the provocative language used and the fact that the contributions may be driven by personal disputes rather than a genuine opportunity to add value to the literature. Potentially libellous viewpoints are rejected at this stage. Very often also, the contribution made is rather trivial in which case we recommend that the authors have a discussion between them without that going into print.

Following a positive initial editorial review the Viewpoint is sent to the corresponding author of the original article for comment on the material under concern. Depending on the nature of the work being discussed the opinion of an independent referee may also be sought although this should not be the case very often. Both the original Viewpoint and the Response are reviewed and edited until they form collectively a communication that may be published by the Journal.

Please also note that the Journal does not consider subsequent rounds of discussion. That is, no further Responses are to be considered after the Response of the author of the original article. Once the main points have been clarified, the readers can judge for themselves on remaining minor issues of disagreement or differing emphases.

For any questions regarding the JORS Viewpoints potential contributors may contact the Viewpoints Editor Aris Syntetos at a.syntetos@salford.ac.uk or +44 (0) 161 295 5804.