



## Publishing in Academic Journals and Conferences: How Reviewing Articles Improves Ones Writing and More

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I decided to write on this topic because I just completed reviewing duties for the International Council of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Educators Conference that will take place this summer in Orlando, Florida, USA. I was responsible for the review of approximately 40 symposium track, 20 refereed paper and poster submissions as chair and co-chair of two committees. It is an interesting process, always interesting and a fantastic learning experience. I want to encourage the academic readers of the Journal of Tourism and Hospitality to review submissions wherever and whenever the opportunity is available. One of the positives of reviewing for this journal is the international focus of the submissions and the variety of research streams. I became involved in reviewing after my first academic submission was politely rejected and the reviewers explained what was wrong with it. I was certain my paper was exactly what the conference needed but the reviewers did not agree. This made me angry and embarrassed but one of the reviewers explained that I had not connected my historical research to current trends. I later used the reviewer ideas made revisions with the connection to current trends, submitted, accepted without revision in a quality refereed journal. Reviewing submissions for hospitality journals and conferences is a great way to provide leadership and

mentoring to your colleagues. The review process also contributes to your own research scheme because one is able to view the most current research as part of the review process. But more importantly when performed in a timely ethical manner, the review process provides honest feedback to your colleagues and improves the quality of research in the hospitality and tourism discipline. Sometimes it is not easy but it is a necessary part of the ones academic duties. Because I am responsible for getting so many reviews completed, I have developed an interesting perspective. Each reviewer has their own style and opinion. One opinion is not always better than another, just different. I am also very impressed that very few folks do not take their reviewing duties seriously and courtesy acceptances are very rare. And as the manager of many reviews, I always find reviews of a submission that provide positive quality criticism that will improve the quality of the submission.

I appreciate the many colleagues whose volunteering to review facilitates the process of putting together the conference and helping so many publish and present instead of perishing. I want to thank everyone who ever reviewed an article for giving back to the profession and encourage others to volunteer in the future. We have an incredible wealth of scholarly knowledge in our discipline and I look forward to the future of tourism and hospitality research.