

Submission of articles and refereeing / quality assurance

Submission of articles

Please send contributions to the editors (Prof. Wieland, Prof. Beckers and Prof. Nagel) by e-mail: einreichungen@z-f-v.de

Requirements with respect to the style of submissions (formats, citations, etc.) will be published by the editors in due course. Until then, we suggest adhering to the existing standards, as practiced in previous editions of the Z-f-V. For author orientation, the following contributions that published in the Z-f-V can be downloaded as Word-files:

- Beckers, T. / Klatt, J. / Reinke, J. (2011): Kostenunterschätzungen im Planungsprozess für Bundesfernstraßen – Empirische Analysen sowie eine Diskussion von Fehlanreizen und weitere Ursachen; Zeitschrift für Verkehrswissenschaft, 82. Jg., Nr. 3, S. 149-173.
- Evangelinos, C. / Schütze, M. (2013): Zur Frage des Nutzens von Verkehrsverbänden: Eine empirische Analyse im Gebiet des MDV; Zeitschrift für Verkehrswissenschaft, 84. Jg., Nr. 1, S. 50-68.

Quality control of submissions and the refereeing process / decision about acceptance of articles and scientific discourse

The journal uses two approaches to assessing the quality of submissions and deciding on publication: the standard approach, corresponding to a „double-blind refereeing“ process, and an alternative approach, suggested by KIESER / OSTERLOH (see Forschung & Lehre, Heft 2015/2, S. 106 f.) that will be applied on a trial basis until further notice.

In the **standard approach** (“double blind”), the editors check the overall fit of the article with the journal, and perform initial quality control. If the article passes this test, it will be sent to two (anonymous) referees, in anonymous form (“double blind”). The editors and the members of the editorial board can also serve as referees. The referees submit reports that are summarized by an editor and sent back to the author, including a decision on acceptance, rejection, or revision and resubmission. In particular cases (e.g. very strict timelines), or for contributions with a focus on practical issues, the editors can accelerate the process, by reducing the number of referees to one, or by deciding on publication directly; this accelerated standard approach requires consensus among all editors.

The **alternative approach** is entitled “transparent quality control and discussion”, and is inspired by KIESER / OSTERLOH. The procedure leading to the publication of an article is as follows:

~ The authors of an article indicate with their submission that the “alternative approach” is preferred, or at least that it is an option;

~ the editors perform the conventional desk quality check, and then engage in an exchange with the authors/the corresponding author on which guest editor takes over the quality control. It is possible to establish a shortlist, from which the authors can choose a guest editor. Guest editors need to be experienced and have a good reputation in the scientific/academic community, they should be PhDs. The identification of the list of potential guest editors is confidential, i.e. authors and editors do not communicate their names;

~ the authors submit to the editors what they consider to be the final version of the article, as well as a report by the guest editor that should contain both a general acceptance of publication, in addition to the acceptance of the publication??, and comments to the articles; the latter can be supportive and/or critical vis-à-vis the article. As a result of this interaction, the authors may be prompted to update their article. The editors are kept informed in that process, but they are not involved in the revision of the article;

~ in principle, the editors accept the article for publication without any further intervention. In exceptional cases, they may suggest revisions to the authors, in very rare cases the editors may reject the article;

~ both the article and the report of the guest editor are published in the Z-f-V, and can thus be quoted. The report of the guest editor is published instantaneously on the Z-f-V website (category "journal issues"), whereas the article itself will only be placed online two calendar years after the year of publication in print (see online publication procedure on the Z-f-V website).

After publication of the article according to the "alternative approach", other researchers can submit additional reports to the editors, for publication on the Z-f-V website. The editors check whether these reports are appropriate in quality and in style, and publish the report directly, or after minor revisions, on the Z-f-V website, likewise under the category "journal issues". The authors are informed and can publish comments to the reports on the Z-f-V website; all these reports can be quoted. The objective of the alternative approach to quality control is to improve the transparency of the scientific discourse and to enhance the academic research exchange.