

Annual Editor Report

Journal of Financial Reporting

For the Year Ending December 31, 2018

Coeditors: Robert Bloomfield, *Cornell University*
Richard Lambert, *University of Pennsylvania*
Sarah McVay, *University of Washington*

I. INTRODUCTION

The *Journal of Financial Reporting (JFR)* is the academic journal of the Financial Accounting and Reporting Section of the American Accounting Association. *JFR*'s target audience is financial reporting researchers. *JFR* will publish two regular issues each year and will also occasionally publish themed issues dedicated to studies that launch a new question or move the literature forward in an existing area.

JFR is open to research on a broad spectrum of financial reporting issues related to the production, dissemination, and analysis of information produced by a firm's financial accounting and reporting system. Appropriate topics include accounting standard setting; the production and dissemination of accounting information; the relation between financial information and firm policies such as compensation and corporate governance; the role of financial intermediaries; and analysis by decision makers such as equity investors, creditors, and analysts.

JFR welcomes research that employs empirical archival, analytical, and experimental methods, and **especially encourages** less traditional approaches such as field studies, small sample studies, and analysis of survey data. *JFR* also **especially encourages** "innovative" research, defined as research that examines a novel question or develops new theory or evidence that challenges current paradigms, or research that reconciles, confirms, or refutes currently mixed or questionable results.

JFR has a wide-ranging definition of research that constitutes a high-quality contribution to a body of scholarly work and *JFR* is willing to give weight to innovation and thought-provoking ideas when evaluating papers. At the same time, *JFR* maintains the highest standards for execution quality.

II. NEW AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

Like the prior two years, we published one "regular" issue of the journal in 2018. This issue contained 6 research papers, 1 discussion article, and 1 commentary piece. The journal's goal is to be able to publish two regular issues per year, so we are still far short of that. New submissions were down this year relative to last year (28 vs 42). However, resubmissions were up substantially (33 vs 14). Overall, the total number of submissions increased. Our desk rejection percentage was 7%, which is slightly lower than the average percentage at the other AAA journals.

The journal intended to publish a special issue on "Methods" this year. We ultimately decided to fold the submissions to this special issue into upcoming regular issues of the journal.

Anne Beatty finished her three-year term as a coeditor. We thank Anne for all her efforts in helping to get the journal started. We welcome Sarah McVay of the University of Washington as a new coeditor. Sarah is best known for her work involving capital markets, disclosures, earnings quality, and managerial ability.

The *JFR* received explicit approval from the FARS Steering Committee to begin accepting submissions that conduct what is referred to as pre-registered re-examinations (p-rer's). While p-rer's (or replications) are an important part of the research process in many fields, including both "hard" sciences as well as social sciences, they are relatively rare in accounting. We posted a call for papers on the journal's website that outlines what we see as the role for p-rer studies, a description of the submission process, and information regarding how submissions will be evaluated (<http://aaahq.org/Portals/0/documents/calls/2019/PRex%20Call%20for%20Proposals%202019-01-05.pdf>). Robert Bloomfield also posted a paper on SSRN that provides guidance on how accounting faculty can integrate p-rer's into their doctoral programs (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3312328).

We expect p-rer studies to increase the overall volume of submissions to the journal. However, we will also require a

substantial increase in the volume of high-quality “regular” submissions for the journal to begin to be perceived to be as sufficiently high-quality to “count” in tenure reviews. This “chicken or the egg” problem continues to be our biggest obstacle.

III. MANUSCRIPT FLOW AND PUBLICATION STATISTICS

Table 1 shows the number of papers submitted to *Journal of Financial Reporting* for the period from 2015 to 2018.

TABLE 1
Annual Activity Summary—For the Journal Year

| Year | Manuscripts In-Process, Beginning of Year | New Submissions Received | Resubmissions Received | Manuscripts Available for Evaluation | Decision Letters Sent | Manuscripts In-Process, End of Year |
|------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (a)+(b)+(c) = (d) | (e) | (d)–(e) = (f) |
| 2018 | 15 | 28 | 33 | 76 | 65 | 11 |
| 2017 | 13 | 42 | 14 | 69 | 54 | 15 |
| 2016 | 10 | 28 | 11 | 49 | 36 | 13 |
| 2015 | 0 | 30 | 6 | 36 | 26 | 10 |

(a) Includes submissions in the editor’s hands, but excludes revise and resubmit editorial decisions in authors’ hands.

(b) New manuscripts, excluding resubmissions.

(c) Resubmissions of previous revise and resubmit editor decisions.

(d) Evaluation means all actions by referees, associate editor, and/or editor are complete and the manuscript has been returned to the authors.

(e) Manuscripts processed with a decision returned to the author, including manuscripts returned by the editor without involving referees.

(f) Submissions where a decision has not yet been sent to the author (note that in-process excludes revise and resubmit editorial decisions that are now in the authors’ hands).

Table 2 shows acceptance and rejection rates for the period from 2015 to 2018.

TABLE 2
Annual Outcome Summary—By Journal Year Annual Cohort

| Year | New Submissions Received | Number of Rejections | Percentage of Rejections | Number of Papers in Process | Percentage in Process | Number of Acceptances | Percentage of Acceptances |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) = b/(a) | (d) | (e)=(d)/(a) | (f) | (g)=(f)/(a) |
| 2018 | 28 | 7 | 25% | 17 | 61% | 4 | 14% |
| 2017 | 42 | 15 | 36% | 20 | 48% | 7 | 17% |
| 2016 | 28 | 17 | 61% | 2 | 7% | 9 | 32% |
| 2015 | 30 | 14 | 47% | 1 | 3% | 15 | 50% |

(a) Number of submitted manuscripts from that year’s cohort

(b) Number of rejected manuscripts from that year’s cohort

(c) Percent of rejected manuscripts from that year’s cohort

(d) Number of manuscripts still being evaluated (no report yet, revise, resubmit)

(e) Percent of manuscripts from that year’s cohort still being evaluated

(f) Number of accepted manuscripts from that year’s cohort

(g) Percent of accepted manuscripts from that year’s cohort

For more journal data, see the December 2018 *Journal of Financial Reporting* Information Packet: <https://aaajournals.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1556111634441/JFIR-Info-Packet-2018-EOY-FINAL.pdf>.

APPENDIX A

Ad Hoc Reviewers

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Spencer Anderson | <i>University of Illinois</i> |
| Salman Arif | <i>Indiana University</i> |
| Zahn Bozanic | <i>The Ohio State University</i> |
| Jeffrey Burks | <i>University of Notre Dame</i> |
| Brian Bushee | <i>University of Pennsylvania</i> |
| Nicole Cade | <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> |
| Andrew Call | <i>Arizona State University</i> |
| Judson Caskey | <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i> |
| Richard Cazier | <i>The University of Texas at El Paso</i> |
| Edwige Cheynel | <i>University of California, San Diego</i> |
| Peter Demerjian | <i>University of Washington</i> |
| Dain Donelson | <i>The University of Texas at Austin</i> |
| John Donovan | <i>University of Notre Dame</i> |
| Scott Dyreng | <i>Duke University</i> |
| Rebecca Files | <i>The University of Texas at Dallas</i> |
| Eric Floyd | <i>University of California, San Diego</i> |
| John Gallemore | <i>The University of Chicago</i> |
| Carlo Maria Gallimberti | <i>Boston College</i> |
| Paul Griffin | <i>University of California, Davis</i> |
| Ryan Guggenmos | <i>Cornell University</i> |
| Erica Harris | <i>Villanova University</i> |
| Mirko Heinle | <i>University of Pennsylvania</i> |
| John X. Jiang | <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| Alon Kalay | <i>Columbia University</i> |
| Eunjee Kim | <i>Cornell University</i> |
| Yaniv Konchitchki | <i>University of California, Berkeley</i> |
| Maria Loumioti | <i>The University of Texas at Dallas</i> |
| Mark Maffett | <i>The University of Chicago</i> |
| Steven Matsunaga | <i>University of Oregon</i> |
| William Mayew | <i>Duke University</i> |
| Mary Lea McAnally | <i>Texas A&M University</i> |
| Molly Mercer | <i>DePaul University</i> |
| Brian Monsen | <i>The Ohio State University</i> |
| Donald Moser | <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> |
| Karen Nelson | <i>Texas Christian University</i> |
| Edward Owens | <i>The University of Utah</i> |
| Kenneth V. Peasnell | <i>Lancaster University</i> |
| Kristina Rennekamp | <i>Cornell University</i> |
| Karen Sedatole | <i>Emory University</i> |
| Catherine Shakespeare | <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| Felipe Silva | <i>University of Missouri</i> |
| Roshan Sinha | <i>University of Washington</i> |
| Matthew Sooy | <i>University of Western Ontario</i> |
| Matthew Stern | <i>DePaul University</i> |

Lorien Stice-Lawrence
Robert Swieringa
Vicki Wei Tang
Ann Tarca
David Tsui
Jennifer Wu Tucker
Andrew Van Buskirk
David Veenman
Elaine Wang
Isabel Wang
Daniel Wangerin
Michael Wells
John Wertz
P. Eric Yeung
Frank Zhang

University of Southern California
Cornell University
Georgetown University
The University of Western Australia
University of Southern California
University of Florida
The Ohio State University
University of Amsterdam
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Michigan State University
University of Wisconsin-Madison
No Affiliation
University of Washington
Cornell University
Yale University