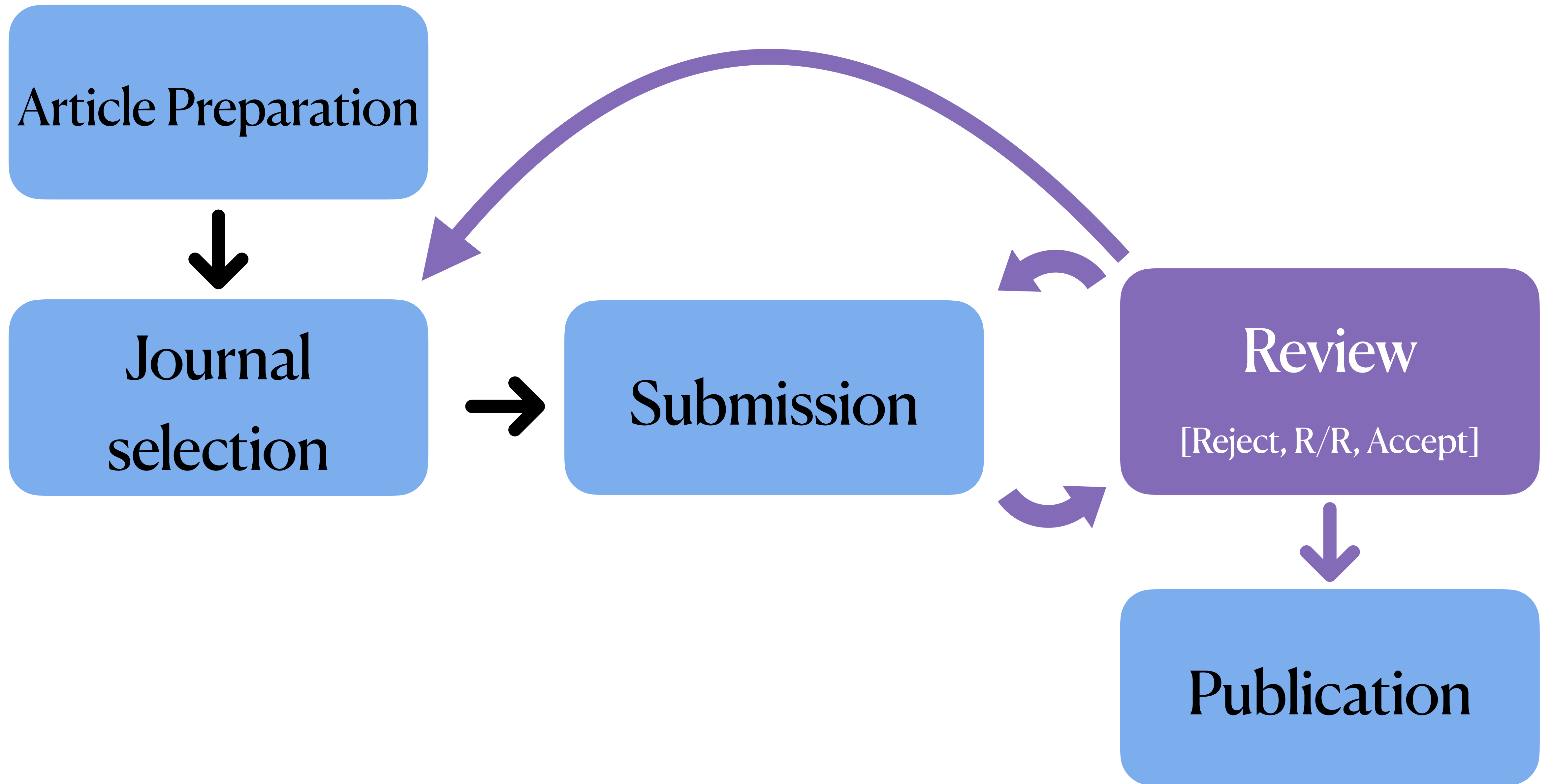


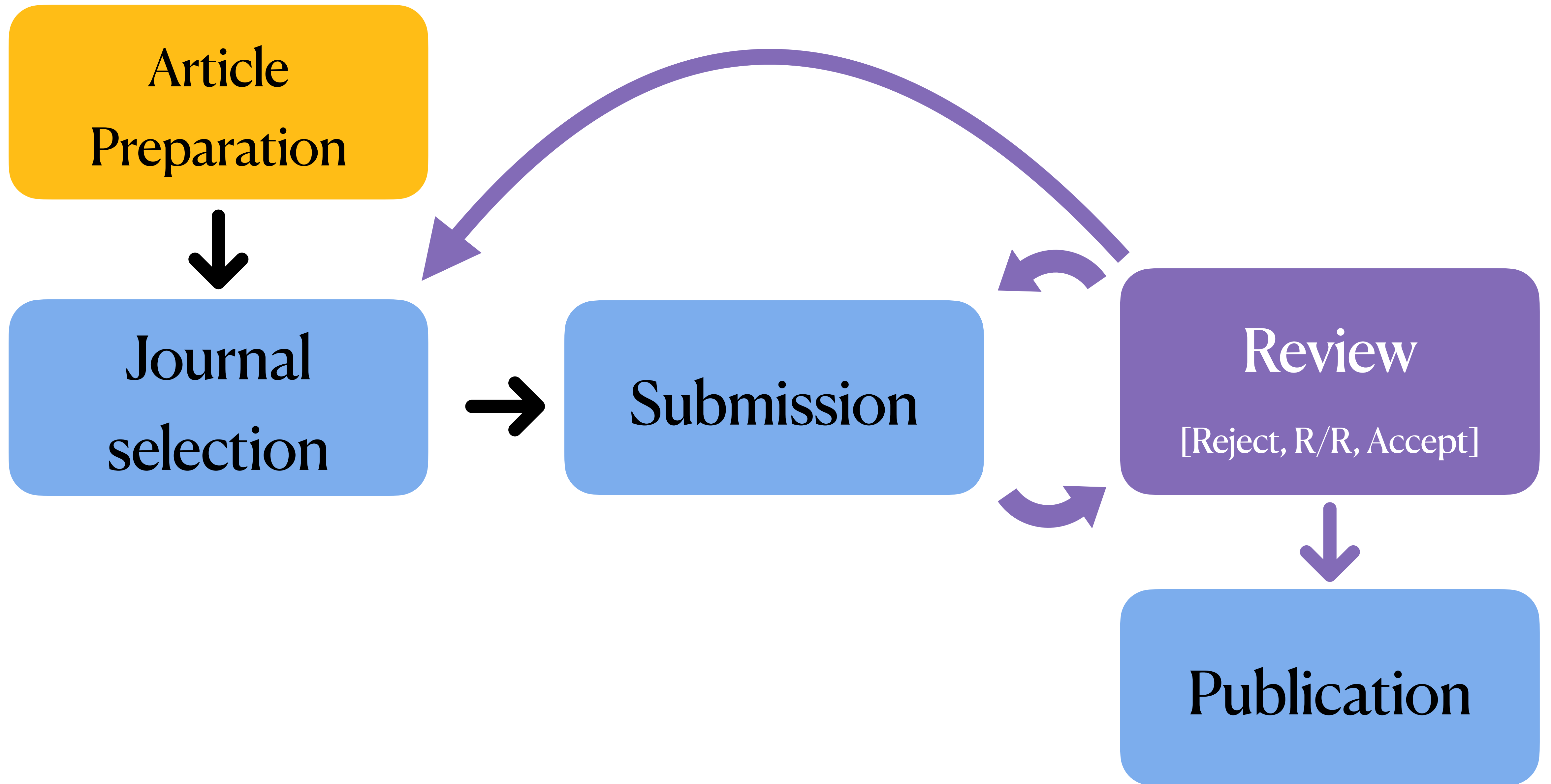
How to publish

Neri Marsili - 13-2-2025

Purpose of this lecture

- **Strategies** to achieve your publications goals
 - Assuming key goal is **employability** on the academic market
- Familiarise with the different **stages** of the publication process
- *Practical*, rather than *scientific* advice





Article Preparation

Length

- Aim **short**: the shorter, the better (sweet spot: **6k**)
 - Easier to publish
 - Conciseness improves quality
 - Fewer points to disagree with
 - Quicker review = More resubmissions
 - Gets read more
- A good strategy: first write a **2-4K** *Analysis/Thought* paper, then expand

Article preparation

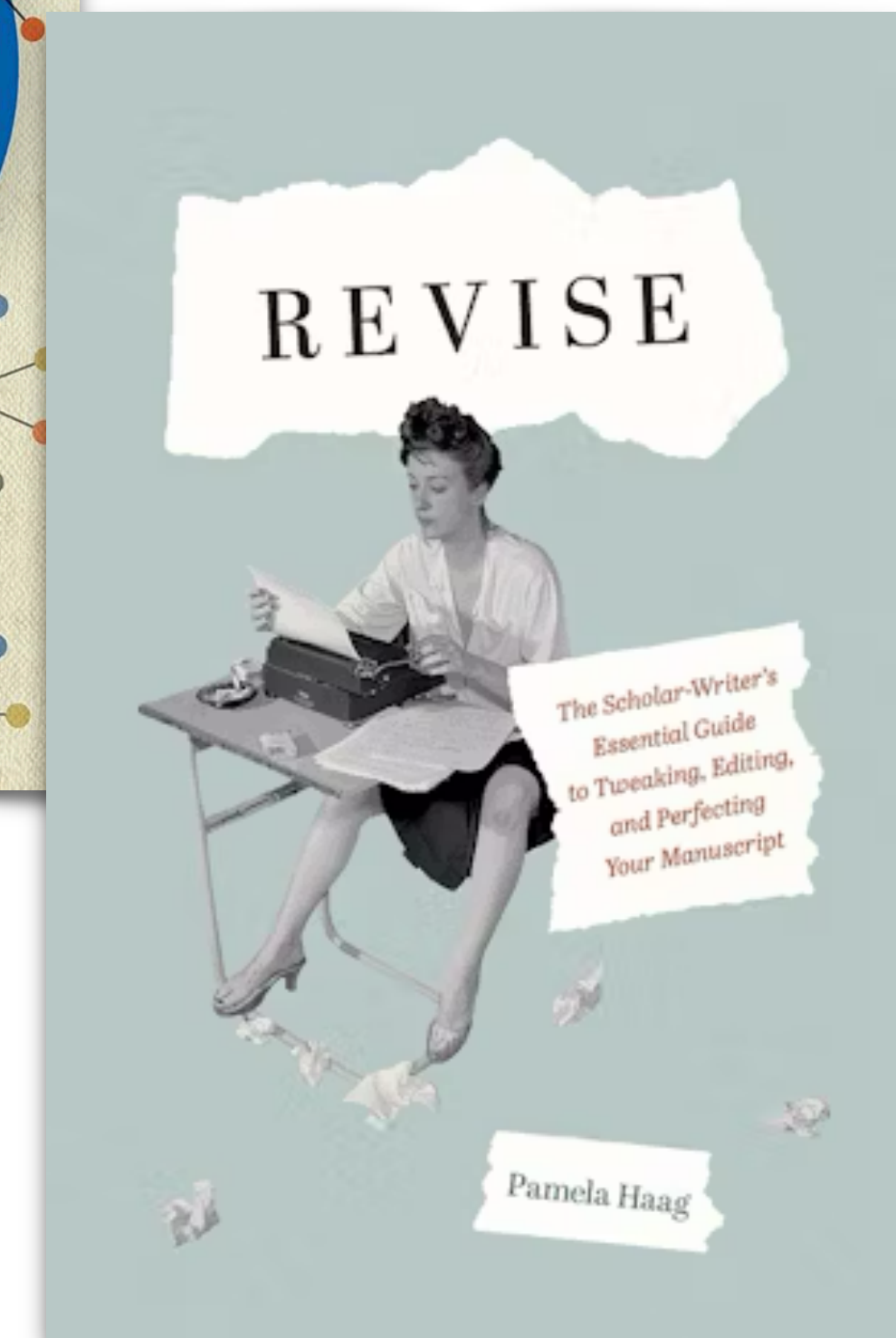
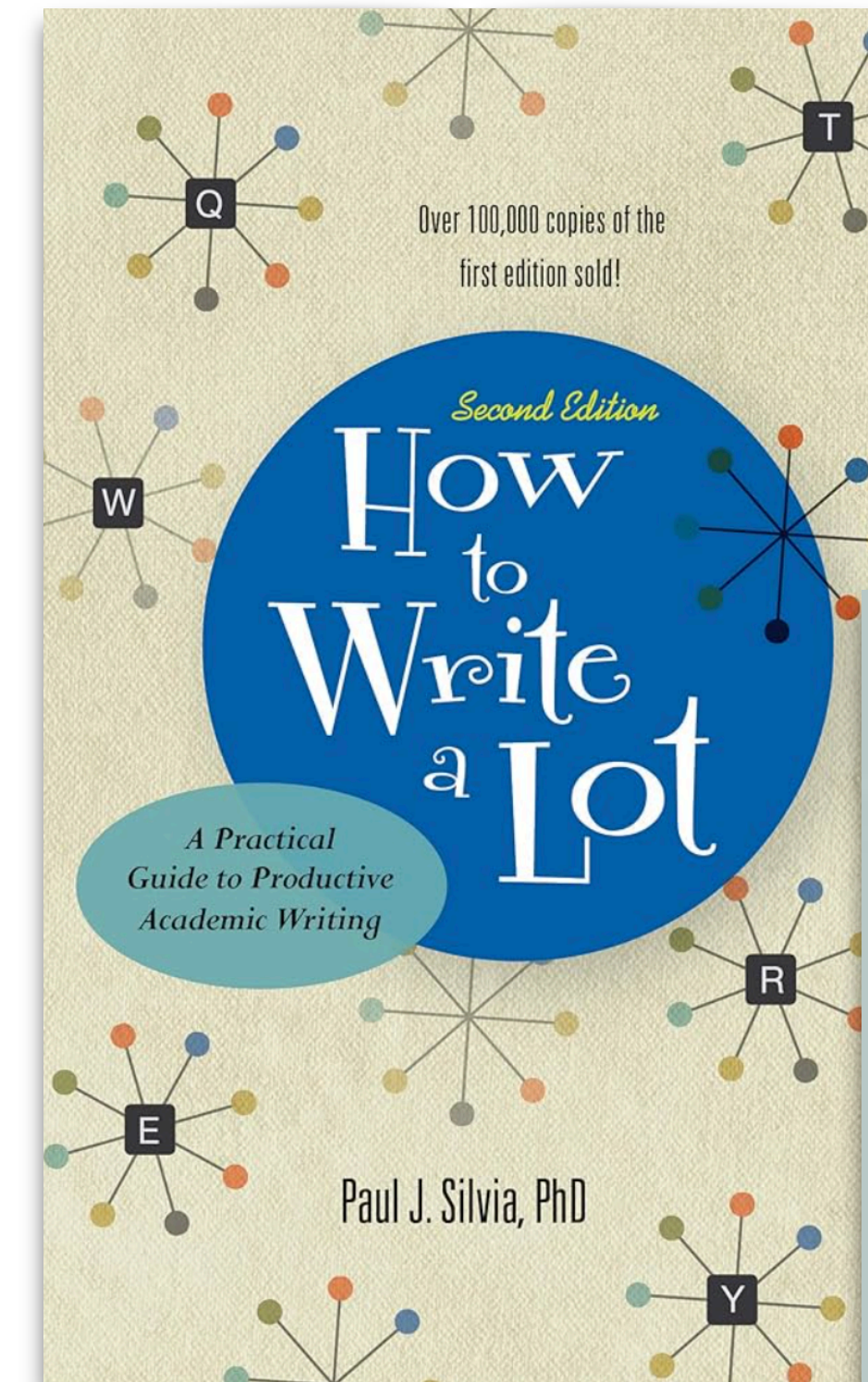
Framing

- You'll often find yourself criticising someone
 - Always better to frame your paper as a **positive point**
 - *What's the big question? Why is it important? What are the implications?*
 - Shift focus from *authors and replies* (I respond to what A says) to *topics and positive solutions* (I offer a solution to X)

Article preparation

Refining

- Get as much **feedback** as you can (don't be shy!)
 - **Present:** Give talks
 - **Circulate:** Send to peers, supervisor, other professors
- **Stylistic guides** can help you improve the prose
- Supervisor might have access to funds for **proofreading**
- Revise very carefully, but **don't overdo it**

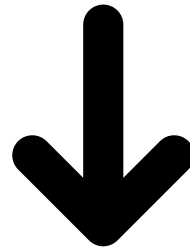


Article preparation

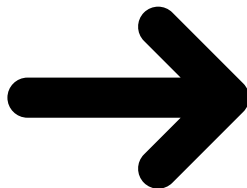
Final tips

- **No need to respond to all objections**
 - Impossible to address them all: there is *always one more*
 - Referees will force you to discuss some during review
 - Just block the most important ones
- **Co-authoring:** for later in your career
 - With supervisor is OK, but you need a **solo entry** in your CV

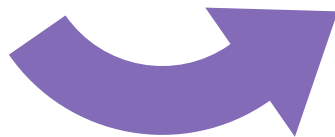
Article Preparation



Journal
selection



Submission

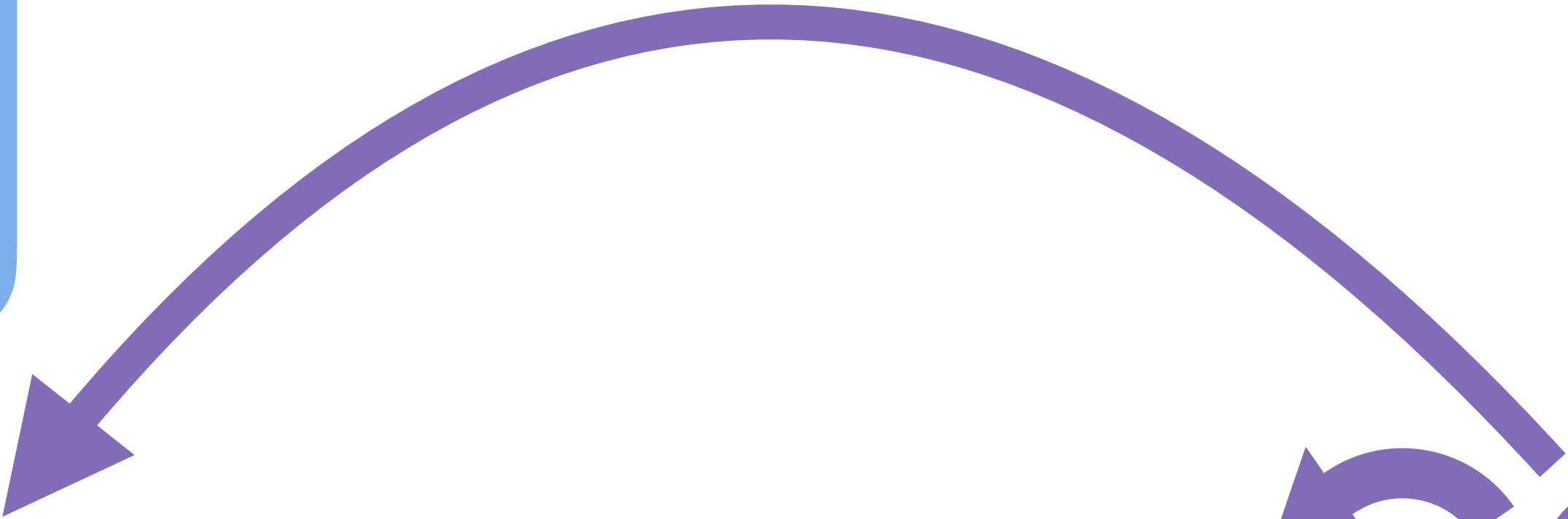


Review

[Reject, R/R, Accept]



Publication



Journal Selection

Two kinds of considerations

- More scientific
 - **Appropriate audience**
 - **Impact** (be read and cited)
- More strategic
 - **Value for employability**
 - **Acceptance rate**
 - **Review time**



Appropriate audience

- **Generalist Journals**

- Generally more prestigious (partially because higher rate of submission)
- Never truly generalist: top 5 skewed towards LEMMings (Language, Epistemology, Mind, Metaphysics)
- *Mind, Nous, PPR, Journal of Philosophy...*
- *Synthese, Erkenntnis, Journal of the APA*

- **Specialty Journals**

- Lower submission rate > Usually higher acceptance rate
- Often not as prestigious as generalist, but there are exceptions (*Ethics, Cognition, BJPS...*)
- Often ideal to reach your specific audience

Impact

- Most common measure: **impact factor**
 - Mean **number of citations** of the articles published in the **last two years**
 - By Clarivate / Web of Science, but it excludes many humanities journals
- Other indexes: SNIP, SJR, Citescore

$$FI_y = \frac{\text{Citaciones}_y}{\text{Publicaciones}_{y-1} + \text{Publicaciones}_{y-2}}$$

Some resources

- SCIMAGO: scimagojr.com
- *'Philosophy Journal Ranking Guide'* at PJIP
 - <http://www.pjip.org/2/post/2024/02/a-guide-to-philosophy-journal-rankings.html>
 - <https://www.pjip.org/ranking-index.html>

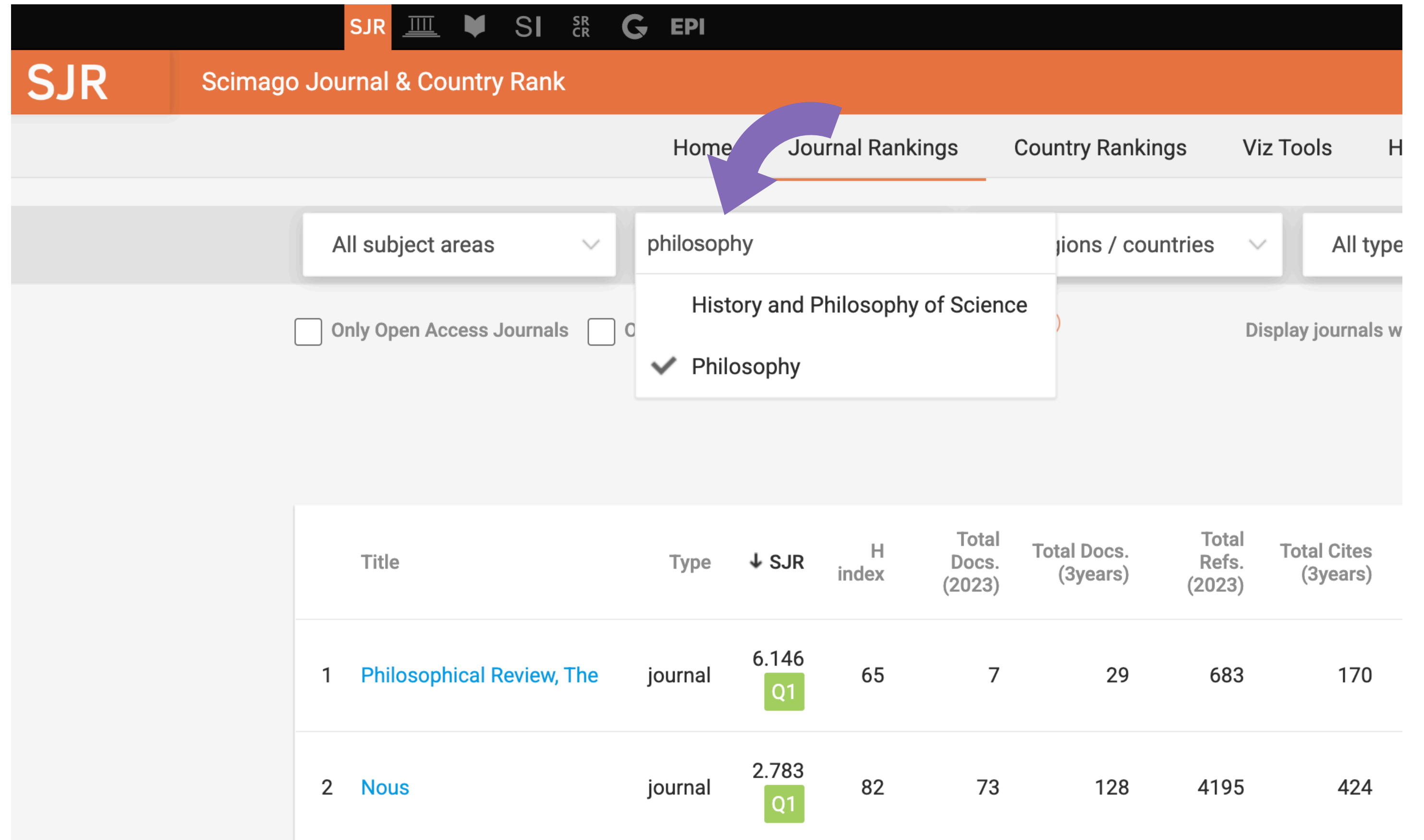
Value on the job market

Which market?

- **Spain:** Q1 journals
 - Still, papers in top journals are more valuable
- **UK:** Top 5 journals, quality over quantity
 - **US:** Similar to UK, but not as extreme
- **Europe** (and EU funding): both quality and quantity matter

Q1 journals

- **Quartile 1** (Top 25%) as ranked by Scimago
- Includes both *extremely selective journals* (3% acceptance rate) and *relatively low-quality journals* (40% AR)



The screenshot shows the Scimago Journal & Country Rank website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'SJR', 'Scimago Journal & Country Rank', and several icons. The main navigation menu has 'Home', 'Journal Rankings', 'Country Rankings', 'Viz Tools', and 'H'. A purple arrow points to the 'Journal Rankings' tab. Below the navigation, there are filters for 'All subject areas' (set to 'philosophy'), 'Regions / countries', and 'All type'. There are also checkboxes for 'Only Open Access Journals' and 'Display journals w'. The main content area displays a table of journal rankings.

	Title	Type	↓ SJR	H index	Total Docs. (2023)	Total Docs. (3years)	Total Refs. (2023)	Total Cites (3years)
1	Philosophical Review, The	journal	6.146 Q1	65	7	29	683	170
2	Nous	journal	2.783 Q1	82	73	128	4195	424

	Title	Type	↓ SJR	H index	Total Docs. (2023)	Total Docs. (3years)	Total Refs. (2023)	Total Cites (3years)	Citable Docs. (3years)	Cites / Doc. (2years)	Ref. / Doc. (2023)	%Female (2023)	
1	Philosophical Review, The	journal	6.146 Q1	65	7	29	683	170	25	2.89	97.57	0.00	
2	Nous	journal	2.783 Q1	82	73	128	4195	424	127	3.19	57.47	16.48	
3	Business Ethics Quarterly	journal	2.165 Q1	92	36	70	3168	322	63	3.98	88.00	35.29	
4	Political Psychology	journal	2.161 Q1	117	83	197	5945	1119	194	5.54	71.63	56.44	
5	Philosophers Imprint 	journal	1.987 Q1	29	29	93	1578	228	83	1.43	54.41	29.73	
6	Minds and Machines	journal	1.945 Q1	51	38	95	2358	1112	86	4.78	62.05	21.13	
7	Philosophy and Phenomenological Research	journal	1.924 Q1	55	138	253	5617	493	227	1.61	40.70	24.81	
8	Journal of Philosophy	journal	1.919 Q1	63	12	47	656	92	45	1.78	54.67	26.67	
9	Philosophy and Technology	journal	1.719 Q1	48	85	243	4006	1522	199	5.31	47.13	20.99	

Top Journals

- Gold standard: Leiter Report's survey
 - What it measures:
 - *prestige*: “best journals” according to big American professors
 - Not a metric of scientific value, but useful for **prestige** and **employability**

	Leiter	SJR	Q1?
Philosophical Rev	1	2	✓
Nous	2	1	✓
PPR	3	5	✓
Mind	4	3	✓
J of Philosophy	5	6	✓
Australasian JoP	6	7	✓
Phil Studies	7	8	✓
Phil Imprint	8	9	✓
Phil quarterly	9	12	✓
Analysis	10	21	✓
Synthese	11	13	✓
Canadian JP	12	12	✓
Ergo	14		☐
Erkenntnis	14	14	✓
EU J of Philoso	16	19	✓
Pacific Phil Q	16	10	✓
American PQ	18	16	✓
Journal of the APA	19		✓
Inquiry	20	24	✓
Phil Perspectives	21		✓
Thought	23		✓
Phil Issues	24		✓
Ratio	25	25	✓

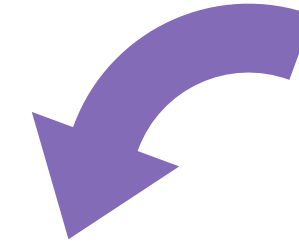
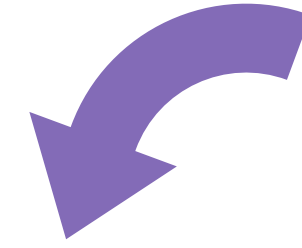
Acceptance Rate and Review Time

- RT: really important
 - You need **multiple submissions** and you have **limited time** before you hit the job market
- AR: *Percentage of articles accepted* by a journal
 - Not your actual chances (that depends also on paper quality)
 - Higher if you are in special issue
 - High AR means *higher publications chances*, but *lower rewards* (not impressive)
- Some journals list official AR and RT
- **APA Survey** collects self-reported data: <https://apasurvey.philx.org/>
 - NB: optimistic due to selection bias

Search by name

Min. # of surveys

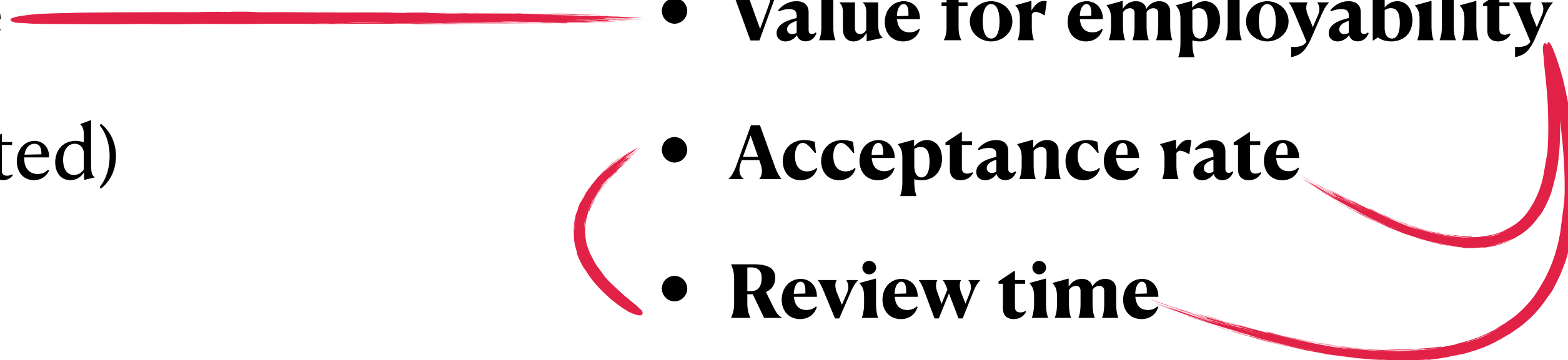
Aggregate from year



Journal	Total number of surveys	Overall acceptance rate	Average response time	Comment quality	Overall experience with editing
▶ Philosophical Studies	172	12.79%	4.6 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Analysis	136	6.62%	2 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Synthese	119	35.29%	3.6 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Australasian Journal of Philosophy	116	9.48%	3.9 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Philosophical Quarterly	105	8.57%	2.3 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy	99	10.10%	1.4 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Philosophy and Phenomenological Research	89	7.87%	2.5 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Philosophers' Imprint	81	4.94%	2 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Noûs	73	4.11%	2.5 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Mind	69	5.80%	3.4 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Ethics	68	4.41%	2.7 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy	67	20.90%	2.6 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ European Journal of Philosophy	52	17.31%	3.5 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Journal of Philosophy	47	17.02%	5.1 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Erkenntnis	46	23.91%	4.5 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
▶ Journal of Moral Philosophy	45	12.22%	2.2 months	★★★★☆	★★★★☆

Conflicts

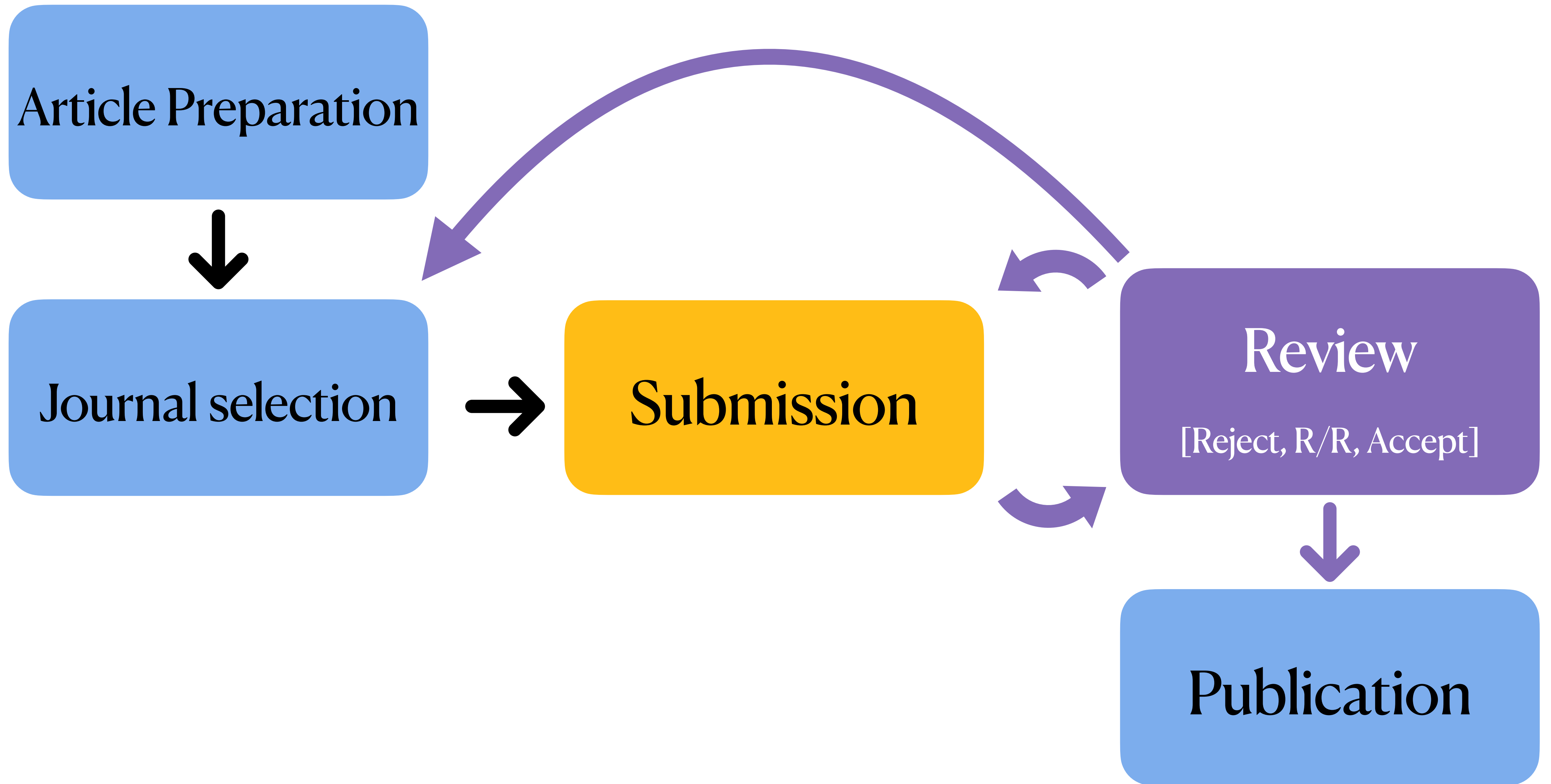
Between considerations

- More scientific
 - **Appropriate audience**
 - **Impact** (be read and cited)
 - More strategic
 - **Value for employability**
 - **Acceptance rate**
 - **Review time**
 - Think of your priorities
 - Take risks once you have a stable basis
- 

Not just articles

What to choose?

- **Academic journal articles:** the gold standard
- **Chapters:** prestige depends on publisher, great AR (close to 100% if invited)
- **Reviews:** almost useless for CV, time consuming
- **Dissemination:** blog, magazines, etc.



Submission

- Usually through some “editorial manager”
- **Ignore cover letter:** useless
- **Ignore recommendations for formatting and references** until the paper is accepted
 - However, some journals might have some hard requirements
 - Double spacing (*AJP*), numbered lines (*Mind*)
- **Only to one journal**
- **Keep a log** of which paper is *where*, since *when*, etc.
- Can email editor if there is a long delay

Episteme CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Home Author Review

Author Dashboard / Submission

Submission

- Step 1: Type, Title, & Abstract >
- Step 2: File Upload >
- Step 3: Authors & Institutions >
- Step 4: Details & Comments >
- Step 5: Review & Submit >

Step 1: Type, Title, & Abstract

* = Required Fields

* Type:

CHOICE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Article	Submissions may not exceed 12,000 wor
<input type="radio"/>	Introduction	
<input type="radio"/>	Symposium	

* Title

Preview Special Characters

* Abstract

Write or Paste Abstract

Peer review

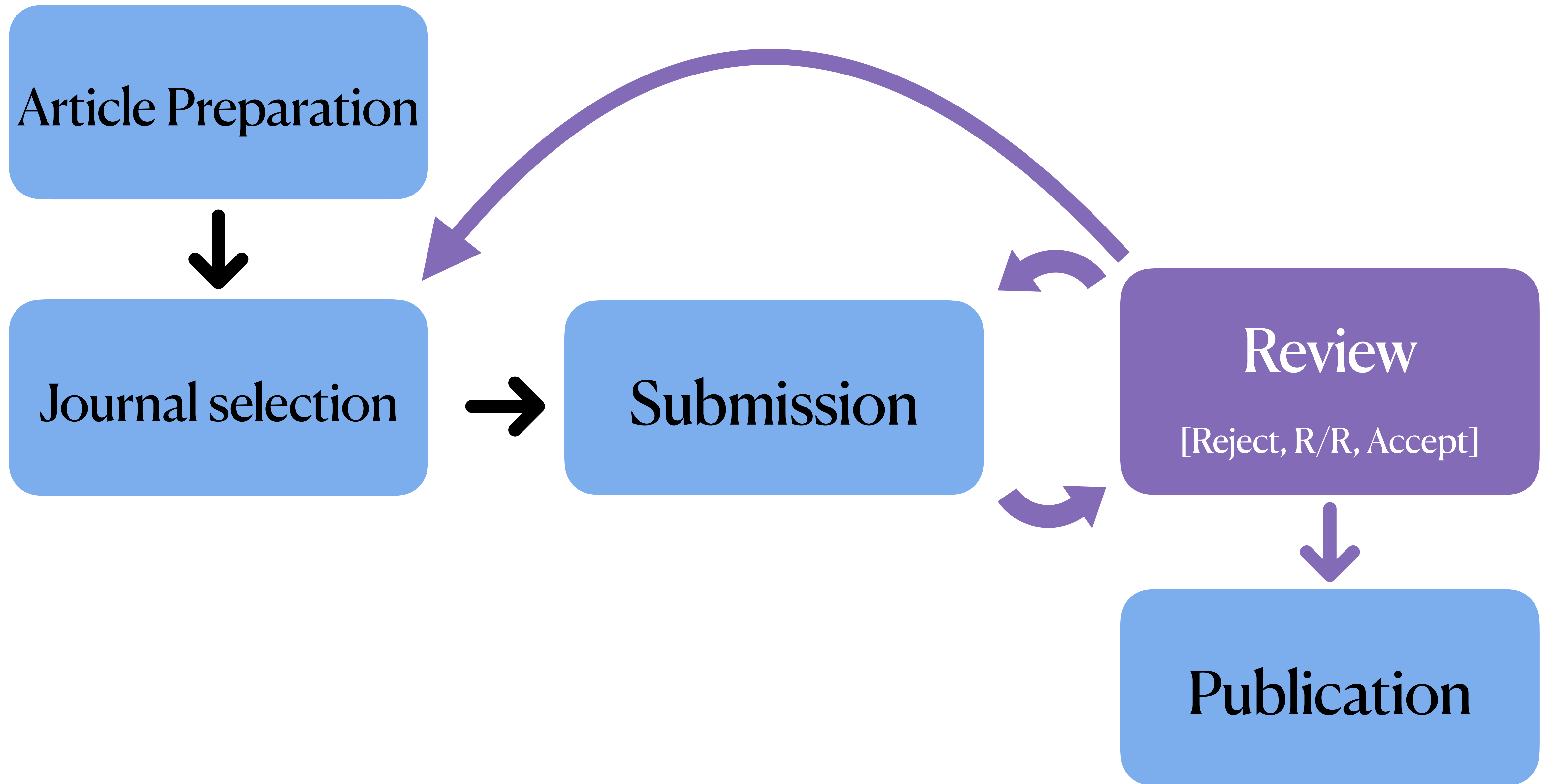
What is it?



Peer review

Different kinds

- **Single** blind:
 - *You don't know* who the reviewer is
- **Double** blind:
 - The *reviewer* also doesn't know who you are
- **Triple** blind:
 - The *editor* also doesn't know who you are



Rejection

- **Your first submission will be rejected**
- It's the most likely outcome of peer review in general
 - 93-95% for top 5
 - 90% for top 10
 - 70-90% for top 20
 - Much lower below
- Since **most papers get rejected**, rejection is just part of the normal process
- Don't get discouraged!



Rejection

- **Don't let the paper sit around**
 - *Fatal objection*: rewrite before you resubmit, but **ASAP**
 - *No fatal objection*: resubmit within **24h**, then work on the revisions while you wait



Revisions

Different kinds

- When it isn't rejected, there are three kinds of invited revisions:
 - Conditional acceptance, R&R with **major** revisions, R&R with **minor**
 - Plain acceptance is rare, conditional also very uncommon
 - R&R with major is by far the most common: encouraging!



Revisions

How to deal with referee reports



- **Referee comments** can be very different
 - *Constructive vs Nasty*
 - *Minor vs major*
 - *Overzealous vs Lazy*
 - *Irrelevant or contradictory*
 - *Self-centred*
- Many will actually help you improve the paper

Revisions

How to deal with referee reports

- Your task
 - **Revise** the paper
 - Create a version with **marked revisions** (*highlight your changes!*)
 - Create a separate document *responding to the referee's comments*



Revisions

How to successfully respond

- Your goals: convince referee and editor that (i) you addressed objections (ii) paper has improved
- Identify which comments matter (**major points**) and the **minor remarks**
 - *Work hard on the major points*
- Show that their comments were addressed, *especially major points*
 - **Make the referee feel useful!**
 - Please them, but don't make it too obvious – it's a game of seduction
- Even when you disagree, it can help to make *some* changes
 - Won't hurt to clarify a point
- You can *acknowledge the referee's input* in a footnote, especially in two cases:
 - The comment really led you to significantly improve the paper
 - The comment was really bad (this way you distance yourself)

Final comments

- **No “one size fits all” strategy:** important differences (your sub-discipline, your style, etc.)
 - Your **supervisor** is there to help tailor strategies to your goal
- Strategy isn't what matters
 - Passion, personal interest, and scientific considerations are equally important
 - Have fun!

How to publish

Neri Marsili - 13-2-2025