



Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS IN CHIEF

This fifth issue of PVLDB Volume 18, presents 21 papers from three categories: Vision (1), Experiment, Analysis & Benchmark (2), and Regular Research (18). The two most popular primary subject areas for these papers are: Database Engines; Graph and Network Data.

In this letter, we would like to address the point of desk-rejects. We understand that such a decision can be frustrating, so we would like to provide guidance to the authors on how to ensure that their paper does not end up in this category. We note that desk-rejected papers can be revised and resubmitted as soon as the next submission cycle.

In Volume 18, we have an increased number of desk-rejects (about 2.5 times more than the previous volume) due to two main reasons: wrong formatting and out-of-scope content. The authors should read carefully the submission guidelines in the PVLDB webpage (note that these guidelines may evolve over time), and adhere to them. Below we highlight some key points.

Apart from the paper not following the correct template, wrong formatting also includes exceeding the page limits, as well as failing to list the authors on the first page (this list of authors needs to be identical to that reported in the submission system). The out-of-scope papers are the majority of desk-rejects. Even if a paper addresses an interesting and relevant problem, it may still be flagged as a desk-reject. The PVLDB guidelines read: “[...] the scope of PVLDB is restricted to scientific areas that are covered by the combined expertise on the submission's topic of the journal's editorial board. Finally, the contributions in the submission should build on work already published in data management outlets, e.g., PVLDB, VLDB Journal, ACM SIGMOD, IEEE ICDE, EDBT, ACM TODS, IEEE TKDE, and go beyond a syntactic citation”. This rule on citations ensures that the PVLDB editorial board is knowledgeable of the important works cited in the submitted paper; otherwise, it will not be possible to provide meaningful reviews. On the same token, if a significant percentage of the citations are to non peer-reviewed papers (e.g., arXiv papers), this is also problematic: it is not possible for the editorial board to readily judge the significance and relevance of such papers, and consequently, we cannot properly judge the contributions of the submitted paper, either. Citing works published in data management venues, explaining how these works have influenced the submitted paper, and comparing to baselines that have been published in data management venues help avoid the out-of-scope issues mentioned above.

We hope that these points will help all authors calibrate their work and papers, and avoid a desk-reject decision.

In closing this letter, we would like to thank our board of associate editors and reviewers, as well as proceedings chairs, for their dedicated service that made this issue possible.

Themis Palpanas and Nesime Tatbul
Editors-in-Chief of PVLDB Vol. 18
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