Topical Collections – Explanation for Authors

Thank you for your interest in publishing your research in a Topical Collection (TC). In this document, you will find information about the submission, review and publication process of an article in a Topical Collection.
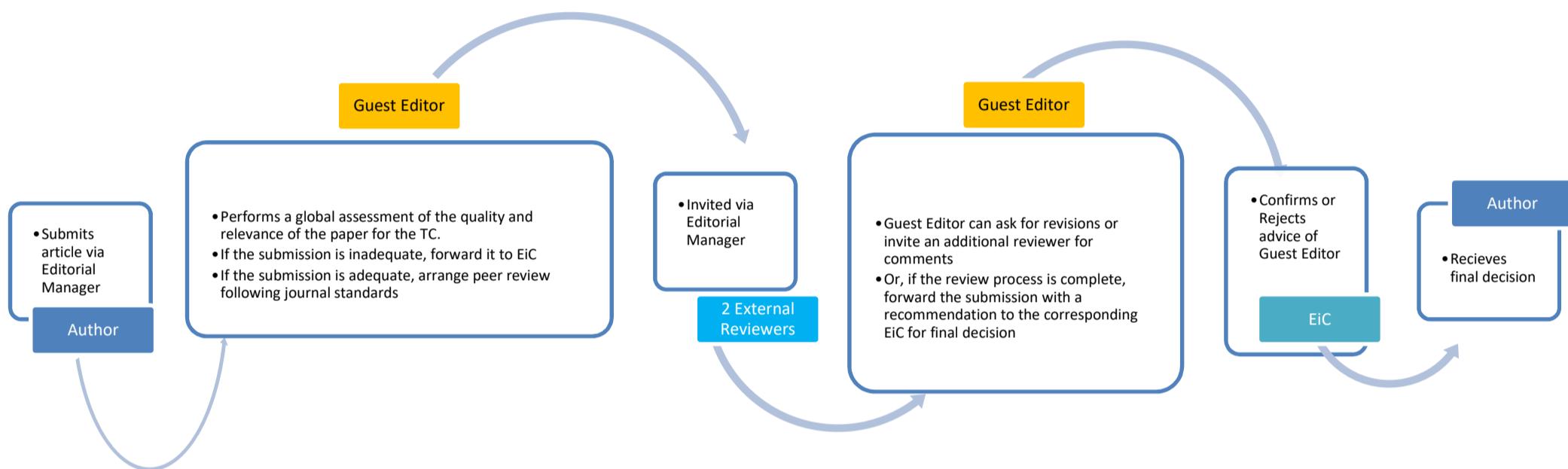
How to submit a manuscript:

All submissions should be entered via the editorial manager submission system.

Please make sure to select the Topical Collection you are interested to submit under Additional Information (see screenshot).

Decision Process for Topical Collection Articles

All submissions to a TC are assessed by the same review standards that the journal applies to any submission.

The difference is that, in a TC, the review process is initiated and coordinated by the Guest Editor(s). The final decision lies with the Editors in Chief (EiC) of the journal. Below is a schematic overview of the decision procedure:

Under Additional Information you can indicate if you want to submit your article to a Topical Collection or Special Issue

Author
- Submits article via Editorial Manager

Guest Editor
- Performs a global assessment of the quality and relevance of the paper for the TC.
- If the submission is inadequate, forward it to EiC
- If the submission is adequate, arrange peer review following journal standards

2 External Reviewers
- Invited via Editorial Manager

Guest Editor
- Guest Editor can ask for revisions or invite an additional reviewer for comments
- Or, if the review process is complete, forward the submission with a recommendation to the corresponding EiC for final decision

EiC
- Confirms or Rejects advice of Guest Editor

Author
- Recieves final decision

Important remarks:
- Springer journals are members of the Committee on Publication Ethics. In case there is doubt about the integrity of an article, we will follow their procedures.
- Only original articles – i.e. articles that have not been published or that are not under consideration for publication elsewhere – are accepted for publication in the journal.
- Guest editors advise a decision on an article based on the peer review process; **the final decision for every article lies with the Editors in Chief, following the journal's policies.**

How is a Topical Collection published?

A Topical Collection brings together papers on a given topic, theme, author, or problem. Collecting such an issue can be triggered by the organization of a specialized conference, a symposium, or a project. The difference with the traditional special issue is that articles belonging to a TC are published continuously and are therefore not assigned to one issue. However, all of the papers in a TC are collected together and prominently displayed in that form on website.

TCs receive their own link and are specially tagged to make them easier to share and find.

Articles in Topical Collections are published individually in regular issues.

Because TCs are not published in a single issue, accepted articles are assigned to the first available issue of the journal. This means that accepted articles do not have to wait for the completion of the TC to be published, and all of the papers in a TC are collected together and prominently displayed in that form on the journals website. As noted, TCs have their own link and special tag to ensure that they can be easily found and shared.

Important remarks:
- Since articles in a TC are assigned to various issues as they get published, **it is not possible to have a print issue** containing only a given topical collection.
- Articles are assigned to the Topical Collection upon publication. The articles are listed in anti-chronological order: more recently published articles are listed prior to those that have been published before. **It is not possible to change the sequence of articles after publication on SpringerLink.**

Questions?

If you have further questions, please contact the publisher: **ties.nijssen@springer.com** or the Guest Editors of the Topical Collection you are interested in.

Articles are published in the first available issue as regular articles.

Articles that are part of a Topical Collection are identified via a banner

If a reader clicks the banner, they will visit the complete Topical Collection