



Participant Information Sheet

CORE Computer Science Journal Quality Rankings

Investigators:

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What does my participation involve?

You are invited to take part in this research project, to collect data for use in CORE's quality ranking of computer science journals. You have been invited because you are an academic in the computer science ([08 FOR code](#)) area.

This Participant Information Sheet/Consent Form tells you about the research project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to.

If you decide you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked to log in to an online system to record your opinions. By logging in to the system and providing responses, you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project

2 What is the purpose of this research?

Information about the quality of academic publishing outlets plays an important role in helping academics decide where to publish their work so as to achieve high impact, as well as informing research quality assessment exercises such as Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), and university management decisions.

As the key association of university departments of computer science in Australia and New Zealand, one of the aims of the Computing Research and Education (CORE) Association of Australasia is to provide guidance on the quality of publishing outlets, including academic journals and conferences.

This research is being conducted by CORE, as part of the process of updating its ratings of journals in the computer science (08 FOR code) area. It was decided by the annual meeting of CORE Professors and Department Heads that crowdsourced opinion data would likely provide useful input to consideration of journal quality.

3 What does participation in this research involve?

If you decide to take part in the research project, you will be asked to provide your opinions on the quality of journals in a computer science sub-discipline area, based on a four-digit FOR code of your choice. You will need to:

- Visit the online survey tool using your favourite web browser
- Log in using LinkedIn credentials (username and password)
- Select [a four-digit FOR code](#)
- Enter ratings for around 40 to 200 journals in a sub-discipline area (you can enter as few or as many ratings as you wish)

You will be asked to provide journal quality ratings on a 5-level ordinal scale, ranging from “Low” to “High”. An “N/A” option is also provided (and selected by default); this may be used to indicate that you are not familiar with the named journal.

Note that LinkedIn credentials are needed to take part in the ratings exercise. If you do not have a LinkedIn account but wish to participate, you will need to create a login and password there first. This step is only for data quality control purposes, to prevent spam data entry. LinkedIn are not associated with this study, and will not have access to any of the collected data.

4 Other relevant information about the research project

- Active computer science researchers are being invited to take part in this research.
- It is expected that entering ratings for a computer science sub-discipline area will take around 30 minutes.

5 Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. Submitting your online questionnaire is an indication of your consent to participate in the study.

6 What are the possible benefits of taking part?

While there may not be any direct benefits to you from participating in this research, a well-informed ranking of journals in the computer science area may be advantageous to the computer science research community as a whole.

7 What are the risks and disadvantages of taking part?

This project will use an external site to create, collect and analyse data collected in a survey format. The site we are using is <http://www.core.edu.au>, and if you agree to participate in this survey, the responses you provide will be securely stored on their host server..

8 What if I withdraw from this research project?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You have the right to have any unprocessed data withdrawn and destroyed, providing it can be easily identified.

9 What happens when the research project ends?

Once data collection is complete, the responses will be analysed to provide input to a quality ranking of journals.

How is the research project being conducted?

10 What will happen to information about me?

By starting the survey you consent to the research team collecting and using information from you for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential.

As noted above, to participate in this project you need to log in using LinkedIn credentials. This information will be used for spot checking for spam responses.

After the data integrity check, personal usernames will be replaced with anonymous identifiers. All data analysis will only be carried out on the fully anonymised data. It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

Any information obtained for the purpose of this research project and for the future research described that can identify you will be treated as confidential and securely stored.

We aim to release the collected anonymised data back to the computer science community. This will include individual ratings, but no personal information (such as an email address or LinkedIn id); as explained previously, all personal information will be replaced with anonymous identifiers before any data processing takes place. By participating in this project, you are consenting to the anonymised ratings data being made publicly available.

11 Who is organising and funding the research?

This research project is being conducted by CORE.

12 Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This research project has been approved by the RMIT University HREC. This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

13 Further information and who to contact

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact the researchers as follows:

Research contact person

Name	Lin Padgham
Position	Chief investigator
Telephone	+61 3 9925 3214
Email	lin.padgham@rmit.edu.au

14 Complaints

Should you have any concerns or questions about this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers listed in this document, then you may contact:

Reviewing HREC name	RMIT University
HREC Secretary	Peter Burke
Telephone	03 9925 2251
Email	human.ethics@rmit.edu.au
Mailing address	Research Ethics Co-ordinator Research Integrity Governance and Systems RMIT University GPO Box 2476 MELBOURNE VIC 3001

