American Accounting Association Annual Report
Current Issues in Accounting

For the Year Ending December 31, 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

Current Issues in Auditing (*CIIA*) is published by the Auditing Section of the American Accounting Association. To promote timely, widespread dissemination of ideas to the academic and practice communities, the journal is published online and is free to all interested parties. *CIIA* is devoted to advancing the dialogue between academics and practitioners on current issues facing the auditing practice community (e.g., new opportunities and challenges, emerging areas, global developments, effects of new regulations or pronouncements, and effects of technological or market developments on audit processes). We define "auditing practice" broadly to include practice-related issues in external auditing, internal auditing, government auditing, IT auditing, assurance services, and related fields.

This annual report, which documents the activities of *CIIA* for calendar year 2024, presents information about the performance of its journal in a concise and consistent manner that aligns with changing industry standards. In particular, the report updates readers on submission and decision information, new initiatives, policy changes, and modifications to the journal's editing team, as well as expressing our gratitude to *ad hoc* editors and reviewers. It also directs interested readers to find more detailed information about the journal, including submission directions and manuscript processing times, on its expanded website: https://aaahq.org/Research/Journals/Current-Issues-in-Auditing.

II. COMMENTARY BY THE CO-EDITORS

CIIA is managed by Academic Co-Editor Nicole S. Wright, Associate Professor at James Madison University, and Practice Co-Editor Steven J. Davis, Ernst & Young Partner in the Assurance practice. Dr. Wright and Mr. Davis' editorial terms began on July 1, 2023.

We continue *CIIA*'s mission of bringing relevant audit research to practice by encouraging practitioner summaries of recently published academic journal articles. We are excited to note that we have seen a continued increase in new submissions during 2024 with a 16% increase when compared to 2023. Using special calls that focused on the use of GenAI and other new technologies and how regulators have impacted audit quality assisted in this increase. We also continue to see an increase in practitioner summary submissions. The number of submissions and acceptances in 2024 increased at least partly because of a greater number of published commentaries from the AAA Auditing Section's Auditing Standards Committee in response to active regulatory actions by the PCAOB. These commentaries are always accepted, which artificially lowered the journal's rejection rate as compared to 2023. If you exclude these commentaries, the rejection rate was consistent with past years, showing that we are maintaining the quality of the journal..

One focus by the editorial team is to encourage more focus on actionable take-aways for practitioners. This includes practitioner summaries and has allowed authors to consider how research results can be implemented by practice in practical ways. The interaction of the practice community via providing insights as reviewers of articles has provided authors with a better understanding of practice views research and how to better serve the practice community, which leads to more useful articles for the full *CIIA* target audience.

In addition, we also implemented a new "black-out" policy starting in 2025 to help practice reviewers protect their practice time during their busy seasons. Overall, this means that articles are held from reviewer assignment during this "black-out" period, which is largely the months of January and February. This policy was enacted in response to the lack of available practice reviewers during the traditional busy season timeframe and the increase in average turnaround time for decisions in 2024 to 40 days, with first-time decisions being made on average in 55 days. We do not expect the policy to decrease the decision time, however, authors should be aware of the potential lag during the "black-out" period and plan their submission timing accordingly.

Finally, we thank the *CIIA*'s Editorial Board for their service to *CIIA*. The Editorial Board includes academics and partner-level practitioners. Members of the Editorial Board continue to serve as reviewer teams for submitted manuscripts that include both an academic and practitioner. Their time and expertise are greatly appreciated during the review process.

—Nicole S. Wright, James Madison University

Steven J. Davis, Ernst & Young

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III. EDITORIAL PROCESS

AAA staff and their editorial partners perform an initial quality control (QC) check of new submissions to the journal to ensure the manuscript files are prepared in accordance with AAA guidelines. Successful submissions are forwarded to the academic co-editor, who also performs an initial screening, this time focusing on the paper's subject and methods. Papers that do not meet the journal's mission and scope are desk rejected. Otherwise, the academic co-editor selects reviewers, based on the topic of the research and the research methodology. The reviewers provide detailed evaluations about each paper's strengths and weaknesses as well as the publication recommendation. A "double blind" review process is followed, so the author(s) remain anonymous to the reviewers and *vice versa*. The academic co-editor then evaluates the reviews and makes an editorial decision based on the reviews and their own consideration of the paper. The paper may then be rejected, conditionally accepted, or sent back to the author, with the academic co-editor requesting that they revise the manuscript according to the evaluation of the reviewers and/or editor and then resubmit. The paper repeats this process until a final decision is reached.

Other submission policies, such as our conflict of interest and human subject research policies, can be found on the journal website: https://aaahq.org/Research/Journals/Current-Issues-in-Auditing

IV. EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION STATISTICS

Annual Activity

Table 1 reports annual manuscript activity for calendar year 2024. Column (a) reports the number of manuscripts that began the year in-process, which means a manuscript that may be (1) a new submission that has not been assigned to an editor or reviewers, (2) waiting for one or more reviewers to submit their report, (3) waiting for the editor to write the decision letter, or (4) waiting for the senior editor to release the decision letter. Once the editor's decision letter is sent to the authors, the manuscript is no longer considered to be "in process." Column (f) reports the number of in-process manuscripts at the end of each year.

- Column (b) of Table 1 reports the number of new submissions by year.
- Column (c) of Table 1 reports the number of revised manuscripts resubmitted each year.
- Column (d) reports the number of manuscripts available for evaluation during 2024, which is equal to the sum of columns (a) through (c) (i.e., manuscripts in process at the beginning of the year, plus new submissions, plus resubmissions).
- Column (e) of Table 1 reports the number of decision letters issued each year. These numbers include first-round rejections, subsequent round rejections, invitations to revise and resubmit, and conditional and final acceptances.

The decision letters in column (e) include 11 desk rejections in 2024, which equals 22 percent of the 51 new submissions.

TABLE 1
Annual Activity Summary—For the Calendar Year

Year	Manuscripts In-Process, Beginning of Year (a)	New Submissions Received (b)	Resubmissions Received (c)	Manuscripts Available for Evaluation (a) + (b) + (c) = (d)	Decision Letters Sent (e)	Manuscripts In-Process, End of Year (d) − (e) = (f)
2024	14	51	58	123	111	12

Acceptance/Rejection Rate

Table 2 provides information on the journal's acceptance and rejection rates by analyzing the decision outcomes for submission cohorts in the past five years. Column (a) presents the number of submissions each year, which is the same as column (b) in Table 1. Columns (b) through (g) partition each year's cohort based on outcomes as of the end of 2024. Specifically, for each cohort year,

- Columns (b) and (c) report the number and percentage of submissions that have been rejected;
- Columns (d) and (e) present the number and percentage of submissions for which no final decision has been made; and
- Columns (f) and (g) present the number and percentage of submissions that have been accepted, respectively.

Thus, this table reveals the ultimate outcome of each year's cohort of new submissions. However, the final acceptance rate for any given cohort is not available until all submissions in that year have been processed, which typically takes a few years.

TABLE 2
Annual Outcome Summary—By Calendar Year Cohort

Year	New Submissions Received (a)	Number of Rejections (b)	Percentage of Rejections (c) = (b)/(a)	Number of Papers in Process (d)	Percentage in Process (e) = (d)/(a)	Number of Acceptances (f)	Percentage of Acceptances (g) = (f)/(a)
2024	51	23	45%	12	24%	16	31%
2023	44	22	50%	0	0%	22	50%
2022	39	21	54%	0	0%	18	46%
2021	32	19	59%	0	0%	13	41%
2020	40	25	63%	0	0%	15	38%

V. CONCLUSION AND NOTES OF THANKS AND RECOGNITION

We appreciate the service of the *ad hoc* editors who selflessly agree to occasionally step into the editor's role when needed, as well as the many colleagues who act as *ad hoc* reviewers, listed in Appendix A, and generously share their insight and expertise to help evaluate and improve submissions. We are also beholden to our Editorial Board members, who are listed on the journal website, and whose expert advice forms the backbone upon which the journal is built, and the foundation for our evaluations.

APPENDIX A

Ad Hoc **Reviewers**
Richard W. Houston, The University of Alabama
Ganesh Krishnamoorthy, Northeastern University
Eric Negangard, Auburn University
Michael Ozlanski, Susquehanna University
Robert J. Pawlewicz, University of Richmond