

1. I served as the editor in chief of JIFS for 21 years with virtually no issues other than a mishap in 2020-2021 timeframe involving special issues guest edited by presumably trustworthy individuals that put a temporary hold on the journal impact factor.
2. We stopped taking special issue requests unless done under our control but focused mainly on regular submissions since 2021.
3. The submission rates grew significantly over the past three years mainly as a result of the expansion of the AI field which the journal covered, reaching over 10,000 submissions last year.
4. We prescreened and rejected a significant number of submissions outright some of which were clearly manufactured by paper mills or else using AI tools. Overall, I rejected 82.5% of the submissions in the past year but still accepted around 17.5% or nearly 1,750 papers which is still a large number.
5. At times, **time pressure and lack of reviewer response shifted the burden of decision making onto the associate editors whose judgement in general I trusted** (and when I did not I would summarily remove them.)
6. Clarivate flagged the journal for reasons unclear to me but perhaps due to **large number of submissions** and perhaps **unsolicited input by disgruntled authors** (of whom I had placed nearly a 1000 on our internal blacklist) or **editors whom I had removed** due to poor performance or poor judgement.
7. Sage conducted its own internal investigation and due to differences of opinion on how to proceed, I resigned on June 16.
8. Meanwhile Sage took what appeared to me rather drastic measure than I would have considered to remove over 450 papers presumably due to short review periods or limited reviews.
9. I should add that the staff at Sage, Mr. Robert Howard in particular, were cordial in working on the issues but the decision to remove so many papers from my perspective may not have been entirely warranted. Nevertheless, Sage believed to have the prerogative to do what it saw fit and I as former editor was not involved in the final decision on this matter. I do appreciate the fact that they did not unduly blame myself, the editorial board and the authors in their retraction notices.