Dos and Don’ts

for having your paper accepted at LAK

LAK 25 Organizers

LAK 25

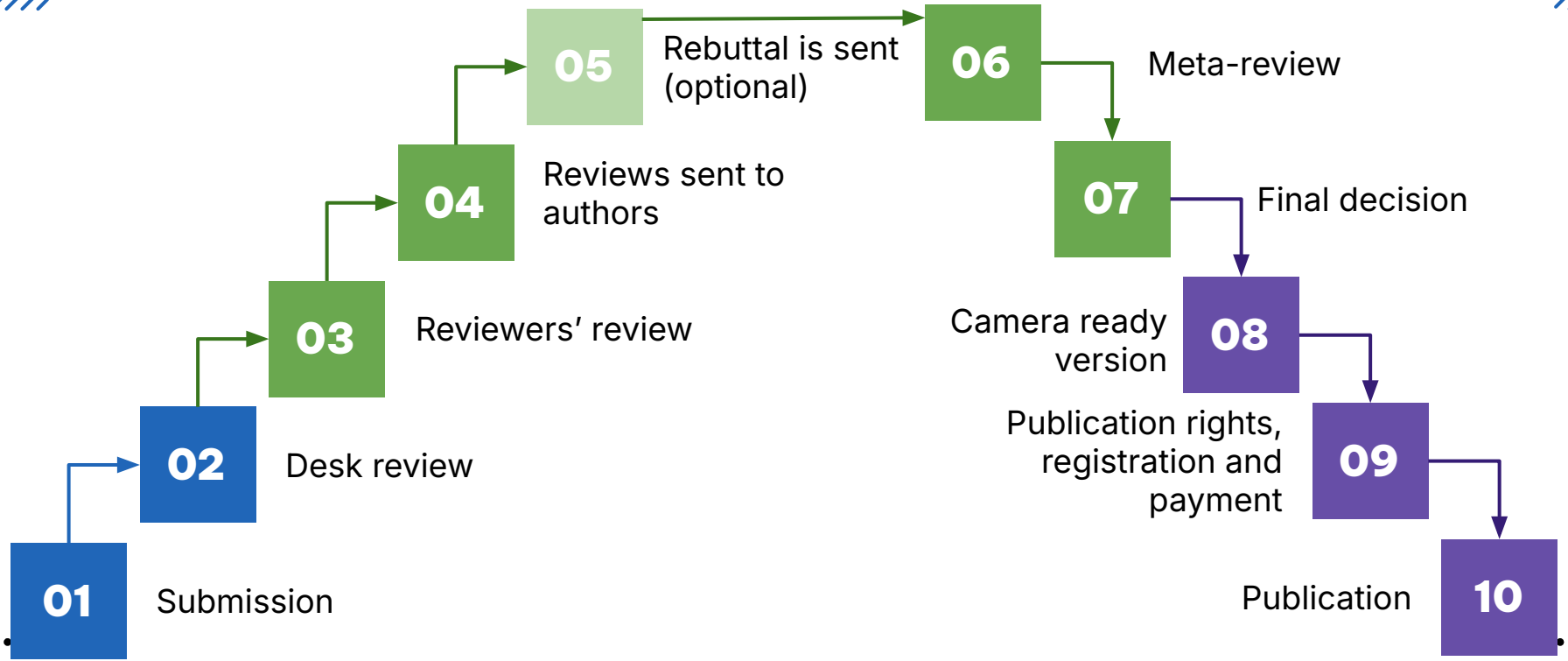
THE conference for Learning Analytics
Top 20 venues for EdTech Research
More than 500 participants
Acceptance Rate ~30%

01

Review & Acceptance Process

What to Expect when you're Expecting
(your paper to be accepted and published)

LAK 25 ACCEPTANCE PROCESS



02

AVOIDING A DESK REJECT

Follow the Rules

Use the Template

You should follow the ACM Proceedings Paper Template. Strictly!

Blind your Paper

Names should not be included.
Your institution should not be mentioned.
You should not reference a paper in the reference list as “Our paper”.
Do not make it obvious that it is your paper.

Respect the Page Limit

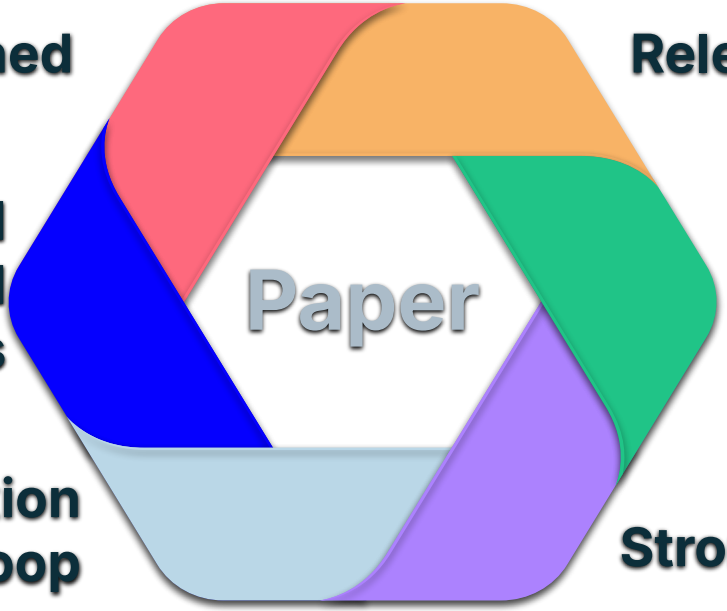
No exceptions!
References are included in the limit.
No annexes or additional materials (as part of the submission).
Ok to add links to code/materials repositories.

03

A good LA paper

It is just a good paper...

A Good LA Paper



Well Positioned

Relevant for LA

Supported, Discussed and Connected Conclusions

Clear and Suitable Methodology

Connexion to the LA Loop

Strong Contribution

Learning Analytics is

the measurement, collection, analysis and reporting of data about learners and their contexts, for purposes of understanding and optimising learning and the environments in which it occurs

Relevant for LA

Key Section: Introduction

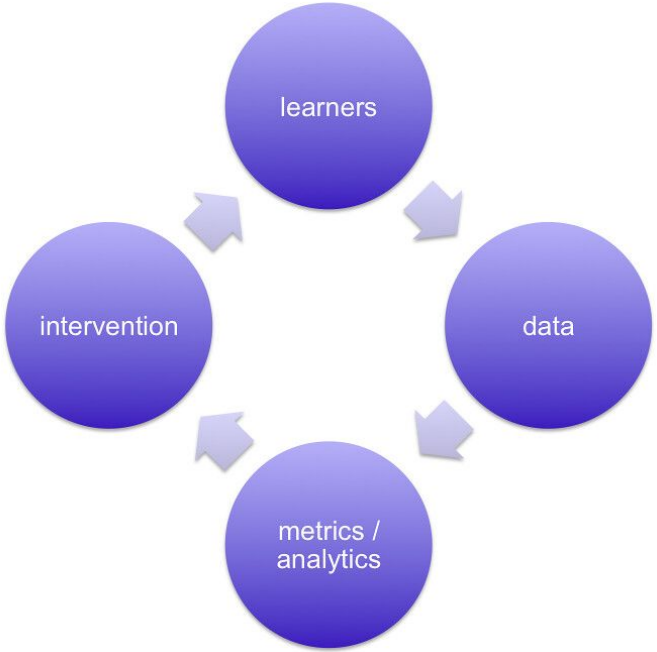
DO

- State clearly why it is relevant to LA
- State clearly why it is important
- What is the “Learning” aspect of it
- What is the “Data” aspect of it
- How it will help us understand learning?
- How it will help us to improve learning processes?

DON’T

- Assume that it is obvious
- Go directly to the low-level issue

The LA Cycle



LA Cycle

Key Sections: Intro. / Conclusions

DO

- Explain how your work fits into the cycle (support, it is a part, help us to better design...)
- How what you do could potentially reach the stakeholders

DON'T

- Care just about your immediate problem
- Assume that Learning Analytics = Educational Research with more / different data

Positioning a paper is

the strategic process of situating the paper within the broader academic and research landscape.

Well Positioned

Key Section: Literature Review

DO

- Discuss previous relevant attempts to understand the same problem
- If available, cite LA literature
- Connect those works to your work
- Clearly state the research gap that you are covering

DON'T

- Think that your papers is so unique that it does not need positioning
- "Paper-dropping"
- Force the reader to create the connections
- Leave holes

Scientific Contribution is

the novel input a research study provides to the existing body of knowledge in a particular field. The contribution should be valuable (useful / insightful) to other researchers and the field in general.

Strong Contribution
Key Sections: Intro / Lit. Review / Concl.

DO

- Clearly state the contribution of your work
- Clearly explain why it is valuable to the field (see LA Loop)
- Explain the generalizability of your findings
- Select the right track (full / short)

DON'T

- Assume that it is obvious
- Think that because it is a valuable result for you (or your institution), it will be immediately valuable to others
- Over-generalize

The purpose of the Methodology section is

to provide a detailed and transparent account of how the research was conducted.
This section allows readers to assess the validity and reliability of the study, understand the procedures used, and potentially replicate the research if needed.

Key Sections: Lit. Rev. / Meth / Results

DO

- Clearly state Research Questions if appropriate (most of the time)
- Clearly state Research Design, if appropriate (most of the time)
- Bring relevant learning theory
- Justify the methodological choices and how they were applied
- Use accepted methods according to your research tradition
- Rigor!

DON'T

- Remove details because they are not interesting / make us look bad
- Assume everybody knows that this is the way to do it
- Assume that descriptive statistics are enough (most of the time, they are not)

The purpose of the Discussion section is

to interpret and analyze the results of the study, situating them within the broader context of existing research. This section allows to explain the significance and implications of the findings, and address any limitations. It is where the authors draw conclusions and suggest future directions for research.

Key Sections: Discussion / Conclusions

DO

- Compare and contrast your results to other work (references).
- Clearly explain how the results support your conclusions
- Address other possible interpretations
- Address the limitations and how they affect the results.
- Explain the importance of your results

DON'T

- Assume that results are self-explanatory
- Forget to mention other possible explanations / interpretations
- Include narratives that are not supported by data
- State conclusions that are not fully supported by the study findings

04

Dos and Dont's of the Rebuttal

It is not for every paper

Rebuttal

DO

- If there was a factual mistake in the reviews (not just difference of opinion).
- If there is a question raised by the reviewers
- You have 500 words, make it to the point and be strategic.

DON'T

- If you just do not agree with the reviews.
- Promise to change something in a new version.

05

NEW:
ACM Open Access

All ACM Publications are now Open Access

ACM Open Institutions

If any author's institution is an ACM Open member then no fees apply to that paper

If any author's institution is located in a country covered by ACM specific agreements no fees apply to that paper

What does this mean?

If any **one** of the authors does not qualify as a member of a participating institution or any other type of waiver then –

- If you are affiliated with an institution in a lower-middle-income country (step 3) and you or at least one of your coauthors is an ACM member (step 4), **there is a publishing fee $350 per paper.**
- If you are affiliated with an institution in a lower-middle-income country (step 3) but neither you nor any of your coauthors is an ACM member (step 4), **there is a publishing fee $500 per paper.**
- If you are **not** affiliated with an institution in one of the countries listed in steps 2 and 3 but you or at least one of your coauthors is an ACM member, **there is a publishing fee of $700 per paper.**
- If none of the above applies to you, **there is a publishing fee of $1,000 per paper.**

What else are we doing?

Will work directly with ACM and authors to submit to ACM's needs-based waiver application (after LAK25 acceptance)

Creating a SoLAR needs-based application to assist authors with publication funding

SoLAR is actively working on strategies for LAK26 and beyond

As an Author, what should you do?

DO

- Go through steps 1-4 on the ACM Open Access Guidance Page
- Talk to your institution AND co-authors about publication funding.
- Find out your options and plan ahead
- Continue writing your paper and plan for LAK25

DON'T

- Wait to the last minute to discuss your funding options
- Submit a needs-based waiver application before acceptance
- Don't stress

06

Be the Reviewer

What is wrong?

Abstract 1

This study investigates the use of Learning Analytics to predict student performance in a high school biology class by analyzing data from e-readers used by 30 students over a semester. The research focuses on evaluating various machine learning models to identify the most effective method for forecasting academic outcomes based on students' e-reader interaction data. Several models were tested, including Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machines, K-Nearest Neighbors, and Random Forests, using features such as reading frequency, duration, and interaction patterns. Among these, Random Forest emerged as the most effective, achieving an accuracy of 67%. The main contribution of this work is the comparative analysis of different machine learning models applied to educational technology data. The findings suggest that Random Forests, while not highly accurate, are better suited for predicting student performance in this context compared to other models. This research lays the groundwork for future studies aimed at improving predictive accuracy and enhancing educational outcomes through data-driven methods in digital learning environments.

Methodology 2

This study employed a mixed-methods approach to investigate the patterns of student collaboration in a learning environment. The research involved both qualitative and quantitative analyses to gain a comprehensive understanding of student interactions.

The primary data source consisted of recorded student discussions during collaborative learning sessions. These discussions were transcribed, and the transcriptions were qualitatively coded to identify distinct patterns and themes in student speech turns. The coding process focused on categorizing the types of contributions made by students, such as questions, explanations, agreements, and disagreements.

Following the qualitative coding, the frequency and sequence of these coded speech turns were analyzed to identify common interaction patterns and their potential impact on collaborative learning outcomes. Statistical analyses were then conducted to explore correlations between these interaction patterns and student performance metrics.

Conclusion 3

The findings of this study, which examined the predictive power of e-reader data, have far-reaching implications for the future of education. Our results suggest that the Random Forest model, with its 67% accuracy, not only demonstrates the feasibility of using machine learning to predict student performance but also indicates that similar models could potentially replace traditional assessment methods entirely. This approach could revolutionize how educators evaluate and support student learning, leading to a fully data-driven educational system where real-time analytics inform every aspect of the teaching process.

07

Logistics Reminders

Plan Accordingly and EARLY!

Submission Dates

September 9: Pre-Conference Workshops & Tutorials Proposals due
September 23: Full & Short Research Papers due
October 7: Practitioner Reports, Doctoral Consortium & Leadership Academy Applications are all due
November 4: Poster & Demos due

LAK25 will not have any extensions

All Dates are listed on the LAK25 website

Lodging in Dublin

On Saturday, March 8, 2025, Ireland's men's national rugby team will play in the Six Nations Tournament in Dublin vs. France. This is a very large and popular event which is causing higher than normal prices in Dublin at the end of the week and lodging will be at a premium.

Our advice - BOOK EARLY. Ensure you understand cancellation policies and implications if you have to cancel at a later date.

08

Q&A

Get your questions ready

THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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