



ICIS 2021 Reviewer Guide – Tips and Tricks

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Reviewing for ICIS 2021

Reviewing for ICIS should be taken seriously as a reviewer has significant inputs into paper acceptance decisions for ICIS and may potentially shape papers that eventually progress to publications. Therefore, this guide should provide guidance for reviewers on how submissions to ICIS 2021 should be assessed and what are the essential steps in the review process.

Reviewers need to be aware of the essential steps and criteria related to assessing submissions for ICIS 2021. They should also carefully read the [track description](#) for the track for which they are reviewing as well as the [Types of Submissions](#) information that specifies criteria for the different kinds of submissions (e.g., Completed Research paper, Short paper, etc.).

Please become familiar with the Reviewer component of the PCS system, as described in this guide.

Overview of the Review Process

The review process of all papers except for Panel proposals and PDW proposals follows a double-blind process with several involved participants, i.e., Program Chairs, Review Coordinators, Track Chairs, Associate Editors (AEs), as well as Reviewers. Therefore, authors need to anonymize their submissions (also delete self-citations where necessary). Thus, all parties related to the review process **should immediately declare a conflict of interest** as soon as they become aware of this fact. This includes personal relationships, teacher/student/advisor or employment relationships, the same institution, co-authors, or current research collaborators (see <https://misq.org/conflict>). When in doubt, please contact your track chairs. Besides, at any point in time, **all participants involved in the review process are expected to handle the submissions, reviewers, and the review process in a confidential manner.**

Key Steps in the Review Process

Overall, the ICIS 2021 review process contains several crucial steps to ensure high-quality proceedings and presentations. Due to the high number of submissions, it is essential that all involved parties strictly adhere to the communicated timelines to ensure a timely review process.

1. Initial Reject

After the submission deadline expires, Review Coordinators assess papers for mainly technical issues that warrant an initial rejection (e.g., exceeding the maximum paper length, non-compliance with submission template, etc.). These papers will not be assigned to Track Chairs. Authors will be informed by the Program Chairs concerning initial rejections.

2. Track Chair Assignment

Papers that comply with the ICIS 2021 submission requirements are assigned to Track Chairs. On *very rare* occasions, papers not fitting a specific track are moved to other tracks that provide a better fit.

3. Early and Constructive Rejects

Track Chairs assign an AE for every paper, except for those that they think cannot survive the review process and will write the review report themselves. For papers assigned to them, AEs should assess each paper's scholarly contribution and potential for ICIS 2021. If the AE feels that a paper has very little likelihood of being accepted at ICIS 2021, the AE can recommend early rejection of the paper to the Track Chair without sending the paper out for review. The goal is to provide authors of such papers with early feedback and offer them the opportunity to submit their work elsewhere. If the Track Chair agrees with the AE's recommendation, the AE should provide a detailed review report to the authors in the system, pointing out why the paper, in its current form, does not have the potential for being accepted at ICIS. The Track Chair then endorses the review report, and the Program Chairs inform the authors of the decision. All other papers continue through the regular review process.

4. Review Phase

Associate Editors (AEs) assign papers to three reviewers, ensuring a diverse and also experienced review team. Each paper should be reviewed by at least one faculty member and not by a review panel comprised entirely of PhD students. Reviewers should provide detailed and constructive reviews for each paper reviewed. They should also ensure that comments to the authors and to the AE and Track Chairs are consistent with the quantitative scores and recommendations that they have entered into the review system.

5. Associate Editor Reports

Associate Editors (AEs) write a report for every paper based on the review team's comments and their own assessment of the paper. The report should be detailed and highlight the AE's views about the fundamental reasons leading to the rejection/acceptance of papers. In the unfortunate case of short or non-constructive reviews by one or more reviewers, the AE should

compensate by providing a more detailed report if necessary. If the AE recommends a conditional accept of the paper, the AE should provide a comprehensive list of issues that need to be addressed by the authors to have the paper accepted at ICIS 2021, keeping in mind the short revision cycle of ICIS 2021.

6. Track Chair Decisions

The Track Chairs will review all the AE reports and reviews to prepare a final shortlist of papers recommended for acceptance from their track. As the standards of reviewers and AEs differ, the Track Chairs should not depend purely on the quantitative scores provided by the review team but should read the papers and examine the qualitative comments of the review team.

7. First Decision

On the basis of the Track Chairs' recommendations, the Program Chairs will assess all submissions and make the decisions for all papers. Decisions will be communicated to the authors by the Program Chairs.

8. Revisions

In the revision process, authors have to make adjustments to their papers in accordance to the reviews and submit their paper as a camera-ready version, with author information as well as acknowledgments. The revised papers should adhere to the revision template provided for this purpose.

Once resubmitted, the revised papers will be reviewed by the Track Chairs to verify that the concerns raised by the review team, as specified in the AE report, have been addressed. If the authors fail to do so, the paper will be rejected. To accelerate the process, authors are required to provide a point-by-point response to the review packet. Final acceptance notifications will be communicated to authors by the Program Chairs.

Volunteering to Review

1. Go to https://new.precisionconference.com/review_volunteering
2. Select the following options from the dropdown list:
 - a. Society: AIS
 - b. Conference/Journal: ICIS 2021
 - c. Alongside "**submissions**," select the number of reviews you will be able to perform. (Please note that we strongly recommend you not to volunteer for more than 3 reviews unless an exceptional situation warrants it.)
 - d. You need not volunteer for "**TREO**" reviews at this time – there will be a separate call for it.

Volunteer to Review

Only tracks that are open to volunteering will appear below.

Show only Society: AIS Conference/Journal: ICIS 2021

As soon as you select a number of reviews below, your selection will be recorded and confirmed by a fading green background. There is no 'Submit' button on this page.

AIS

ICIS 2021 submissions due June 18, 2021

TREO due September 18, 2021

- To select the tracks for which you'd like to review: Click on **“Reviews”** at the top menu and then click on **“Provide areas of expertise.”**

Submissions **Reviews** Account

Reviews

[Volunteer to review](#)

[Provide areas of expertise](#)

[Provide sample publications](#)

[Provide reviewing background](#)

[Manage conflicts](#)

[See reviewing history](#)

Reviews in Progress Help

Assigned	Completed	Category	Action
		ICIS 2020 submissions	Review (as a committee member)

- Select the **“Society” (AIS)** and **“Conference/Journal” (ICIS 2021)** again.

Areas of Expertise

Provide your areas of expertise for a Society below. You can (optionally) select a Conference/Journal to show only the areas needed by that Conference/Journal.

You can also [import your areas of expertise from the old PCS system](#).

As soon as you click on a radiobutton below, your selection will be recorded and confirmed by a fading green background. There is no 'Submit' button on this page.

Show areas of expertise used by Society: AIS Conference/Journal: ICIS 2021

Expertise

expert competent limited none

ICIS 2021 Tracks

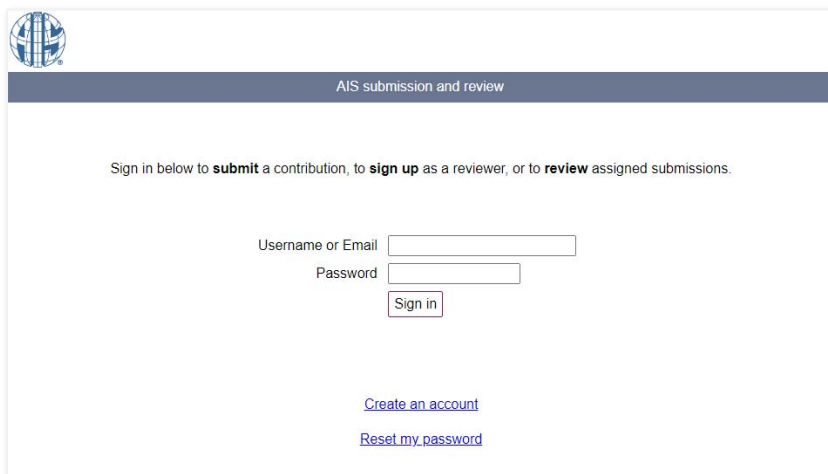
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	01 Conference Theme Track A: IS for Sustainability
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	02 Conference Theme Track B: IS for Resilience
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	03 General IS Topics
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	04 Digital Learning and IS Curricula
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	05 IS and the Future of Work
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	06 Societal Impact of IS
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	07 Cyber-Security, Privacy, and Ethics of IS

5. Scroll down to the “**Expertise**” section. The ICIS 2021 tracks appear below that. Please indicate the tracks for which you would like to review by indicating “**expert**” or “**competent**” for those tracks. Needless to say, please do not select tracks where you have limited or no expertise.

Writing a Review of a Submission

Logging In

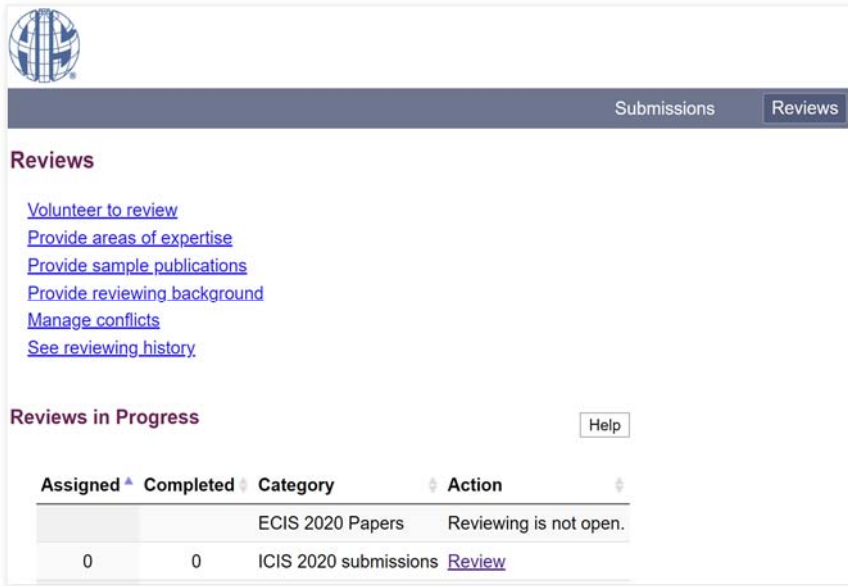
1. Go to the ICIS 2021 submission site: <https://new.precisionconference.com/user/login>
2. Enter your “**User ID**” and “**Password**” and “**Login**”
 - a. If this is your first time logging in, refer to the login email that you received from the Precision Conference System (PCS) or enter the email address that you provided when you agreed to be a reviewer.
 - b. If you do not know your password or have forgotten it, click on the “**Reset my password**” link.



The screenshot shows the login page for the ICIS 2021 submission and review system. At the top left is a globe icon. Below it is a dark blue header bar with the text "AIS submission and review". The main content area has a heading "Sign in below to **submit** a contribution, to **sign up** as a reviewer, or to **review** assigned submissions." Below this heading are two input fields: "Username or Email" and "Password". To the right of the "Password" field is a "Sign in" button. Below the input fields are two links: "Create an account" and "Reset my password".

Menu Options

Once logged in, from the ICIS 2021 PCS home page, select “**Reviews**” and then “**Review**” under the “**Reviews in Progress**” heading for the ICIS 2021 Submissions.



Submissions **Reviews**

Reviews


[Volunteer to review](#)
[Provide areas of expertise](#)
[Provide sample publications](#)
[Provide reviewing background](#)
[Manage conflicts](#)
[See reviewing history](#)

Reviews in Progress Help

Assigned	Completed	Category	Action
		ECIS 2020 Papers	Reviewing is not open.
0	0	ICIS 2020 submissions	Review

Reviewing Submissions

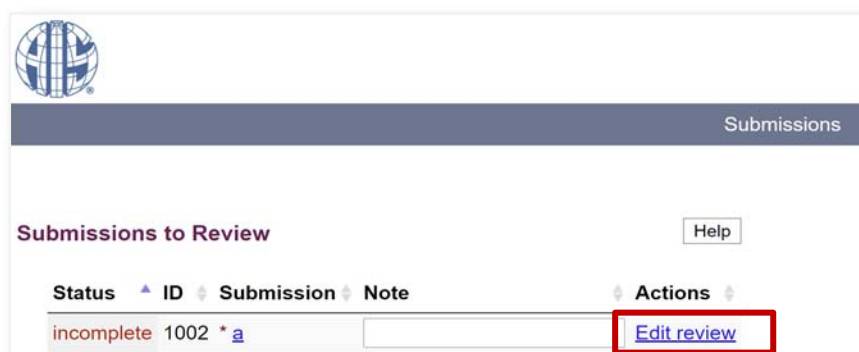
1. After you click on **“Review,”** you can see the paper assigned to you and choose to “Accept review” or “Decline review” in the **“Actions”** column.



Submissions **Submissions to Review** Help

Status	ID	Submission	Note	Actions
tentative	1002	a		Accept review Decline review

2. If you choose to accept review, then you can edit your submission to complete it.



Submissions **Submissions to Review** Help

Status	ID	Submission	Note	Actions
incomplete	1002	a		Edit review

3. Once you click **“Edit review,”** the first thing you will need to do is to provide your overall rating of the submission and a rating of your own expertise:



 Submissions

Edit review of 1002 - "a"

Overall Rating

Provide your overall rating of this submission.

- Definite accept: I would argue strongly for accepting this submission.
- Probably accept: I would argue for accepting this submission.
- Borderline: Overall I would not argue for accepting this submission.
- Probably reject: I would argue for rejecting this submission.
- Definite reject: I would argue strongly for rejecting this submission.

Expertise

Provide your expertise in the topic area of this paper.

- Expert
- Knowledgeable
- Passing Knowledge
- No Knowledge

4. Next, enter **“Comments for Authors”** as well as **“Comments to Committee”**:

Comments for Authors

Please enter your comprehensive review below. Make sure you start with a brief summary of the paper design, methodology, collection of data, analysis, and findings.

Comments to Committee

Comments for the review committee that will NOT be sent to the authors:

5. Finally, to complete your review, please click on the “**Record Changes**” button.

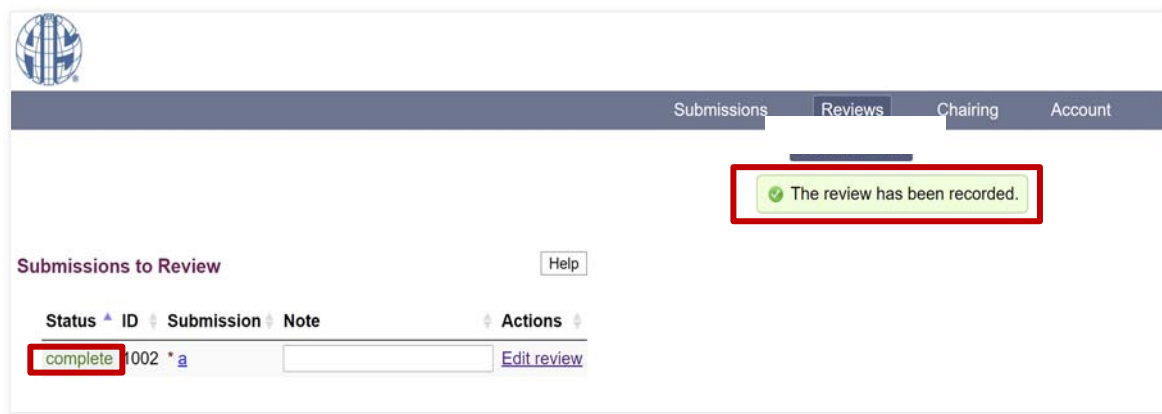
Note

All reviews must be completed by June¹⁸

Record Changes

[Return to list of reviews without changes](#)

6. You should receive a confirmation mail and the status of the review should change to “complete”



Importance of a Timely Review

The ICIS 2021 review process contains several crucial steps to ensure high-quality proceedings and presentations. Due to the high number of submissions, it is essential that all involved parties strictly adhere to the communicated timelines to ensure a timely review process. Reviewers play a key role in ensuring AEs, TCs, and the Program Chairs meet their deadlines. In order for AEs to complete their reports, TCs to record their decisions, and the Program Chairs to be able to notify authors on time, it is imperative that you submit your review by **June 18, 2021**.

How to Assess Submissions to ICIS 2021

Key aspects for assessing submissions to ICIS 2021 were communicated to the authors (please see the “[Types of Submissions & Instructions](#)” page) prior to submission. Central to assessing the submissions is the contribution of the paper. Reviewers should, therefore, take three very important aspects into account:

First, paper submissions to ICIS 2021 can make a contribution to IS research by using diverse methodological and theoretical approaches. Thus, please assess papers using criteria relevant to the paper’s methodological and theoretical approach. We would encourage you to adopt an open-minded attitude when reviewing papers, given the diversity of approaches in our field.

Second, there are different submission types for ICIS papers. For most tracks (except for the Digital Learning and IS Curricula, Panels, and PDW tracks), the relevant distinction is between completed research and short papers. Thus, please take a look at the “[Types of Submissions & Instructions](#)” document for the review criteria for different submission types.

Third, a high-quality review is typically at least about **one page of written text** that provides constructive recommendations for concerns being raised, especially in the case of rejection. Authors will be thankful for the guidance, even though their paper might have been rejected. In either case, it is important to set the tone of the review as constructive, respectful, and open-minded. Rai (2016) provides excellent guidance on how to write good and constructive reviews.



We thank you for your willingness to review for ICIS 2021, especially if you have submitted a paper to the conference and provide a high-quality and timely review.

References

Rai, Arun. 2016. "[Editor's Comments: Writing a Virtuous Review](#)," MIS Quarterly, (40:3) pp. iii-x.