

# Choosing the winners of the... **OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARDS**

For over 20 years, the Outstanding Paper Awards have been the backbone of the Emerald Literati Awards for Excellence. As the winners are chosen by a journal editorial team, the winning authors have confidence in knowing that their paper was one of the most impressive pieces of work from the previous year: therefore, winning this award helps to enrich an author's CV and future publications.



## Understanding the Judging Process



The Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) of each journal published by Emerald is invited to select a winner of the 'Outstanding Paper' award and up to three 'Highly Commended' awards from the previous year's volume.

As the EAB is familiar with the aims of a particular journal and familiar with its editorial objectives and the prevailing standards of current paper and research, they are the best people for the job!



### Here are a number of ways in which an editor can work with the EAB to pick an outstanding paper:

Some editors compile a shortlist of those papers which may merit the nomination; the EAB members will then vote for their preferred choice

Some editors allow the EAB members to nominate papers, produce a shortlist and then all vote again

An editor asks the EAB to pick three papers and rank them with a numerical score (1-3). When all EAB members' choices are collated, there is then usually one clear winner.

## Award winning Criteria

### The following factors are prerequisites in any paper:



Contribution of something new to the body of knowledge either in terms of approach or subject matter

Excellent structure and presentation

Well-written

Rigour in terms of argument or analysis

Relevance – to practice and further research, in most cases

Up-to-date – demonstrating that the latest/key works in the field have been cited



A work which is clearly within the editorial scope and remit of the journal.

Over and above those factors, different types of paper require different approaches and content. A top quality literature review, an innovative conceptual exploration and a really well-constructed case study will do different things and can all demonstrate excellence in their own way.

## The Deciding Factor



Ultimately, an outstanding paper should have the 'x-factor' – something that makes it stand out from the rest and which the editor and EAB can recognize and define for the rest of us.

**Good Luck!**