



## What Is SCORES?

The Scientific Comprehensive Online Research and Evaluation System (SCORES®) software suite is a collection of modern web applications created by the AIBS Information Technology Office (ITO) to manage both small and large-scale scientific peer review projects performed by AIBS SPARS®.

The SCORES software suite has supported some of the world's largest biological research funding organizations by providing electronic reviews in completely virtual and onsite peer review panel meetings. Using SCORES, AIBS SPARS staff are able to structure, manage, and document each step of the review process. Like all AIBS software, SCORES follows industry best practices for security and data redundancy, and is deployed via a US Government-compliant host.

**SCORES is comprised of three principal modules: Projects, Contracts, and Reviews.**

## SCORES Projects

The SCORES Projects module is the **main database and management portal for review projects**. It houses all project data, panel information, proposal data, and people records.

In this module, AIBS SPARS staff develop the format of a review process (e.g., client-specific review evaluation forms) and set up controlled access to interfaces and content (e.g., reviewer-specific panel and review assignments) based on roles and progression in the review process. SCORES Contracts (next section) is managed and tracked in the Projects module.

## SCORES Contracts

The SCORES Contracts module allows reviewers to complete **electronic, legally binding agreements**, including agreements on confidentiality, code of conduct, and honorarium acceptance (if applicable).

The Contracts module also includes program-specific conflict of interest criteria for both the overall program and for specific projects as needed. Reviewers are able to assess conflicts of interest as well as their expertise at the individual proposal level.

AIBS SPARS staff use Contracts to inform reviewer selection and to ensure the review process is held to the highest standards of integrity.

To Learn More and Schedule a Demonstration, Contact us

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## SCORES Reviews

The SCORES Reviews module is the interactive interface **where reviews are submitted and accessed** throughout the review process. Reviewers have secure, personalized logins with dashboards that display their assigned work, roles, progress, and deadlines in a clear, organized fashion. This module allows for **secure review material distribution**. For example, assigned reviewers download proposals as well as reference material (proposal solicitation announcements, program background, and/or additional reference materials) right from their dashboard.

The Reviews module also **supports meeting documentation and structure**. Review panels can access critiques, submit scores, and record individual notes during discussion. With controlled permissions, Chairpersons and AIBS SPARS staff are able to monitor inputs and track progress of proceedings. An additional key feature of the Reviews module is the Editing interface that allows streamlined and expedited report preparation.

With their own login, **clients can monitor review progress**, access synopses of scoring averages and standard deviations, as well as view real-time notification of the discussions underway.

## SECURE MATERIAL TRANSFER

- The AIBS ITO regularly develops and maintains customized submission websites (e.g., review materials such as letters of intent, proposals, progress reports).
- The AIBS ITO provides a secure file transfer site (ownCloud) as an additional method of sharing materials (e.g., between AIBS SPARS and clients).

## Key Advantages of SCORES

- ✓ State-of-the-art review software coupled with AIBS SPARS peer review management expertise.
- ✓ Designed under the principle: "simplicity for reviewers is paramount," allowing more time and energy to be focused on reviews.
- ✓ Fully web-based – accessible anywhere in the world with an internet connection.
- ✓ Well rated by reviewers and clients, with an average rating of 4.5 out of 5.