Becoming the Key Window

A panel should become the key window only if it:

· Is an attention panel, or
· Accepts keystrokes (typing).

A (nonattention) panel that accepts keystrokes can delay becoming the key window until the user indicates a readiness to begin typing, provided that text entry is not essential to using the panel, and, in fact, users typically don't enter text when using it.   This is likely to be the case if most of the control devices in the panel are not text fields (e.g., if they are buttons, sliders, etc.) and if the choices that can be made by entering text can also be made in an alternative way (e.g., by selecting items from a list).   The Font panel is an example of window like this, that becomes key only when needed.