Publishing in Academic Journals

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Photo: Henry Lo, Unsplash
Introduction

Give you an overview of submission process:

• Open Access
• Peer review
• Ethical concerns
• Some writing tips

A flavour of Open Research throughout...
Journal Publishing Models

Journals that publish all content Open Access.

Funded by:
- APC (article publishing charge)
- Sponsorship
- Institutional agreement

Gold Open Access

Full OA

Hybrid OA

Subscription-funded journals that offer the option of choosing Open Access.

Open Access cost is funded by:
- APC
- Under an existing agreement with your institution
Open Access offers greater visibility, transparency and impact.

Articles published Open Access with Taylor & Francis typically receive 32% more citations and over 6 times as many downloads.

Your funder or institution may encourage, or mandate Open Access and funds might be available to cover charges.
Open Access

1. Making content **freely available** online to read. Meaning your article can be read by anyone, anywhere.

2. Making content **reusable** by third parties with little or no restrictions.
Challenges

*Predatory journals pose a serious threat both to researchers publishing the results of their work and to the peer-reviewed medical literature itself. These publications differ from legitimate open-access journals in that predatory journals subvert the peer-review publication system for the sole purpose of financial gain with little evident concern for ethical behavior.*

AMWA, EMWA & ISMPP joint statement on predatory publishing
Making informed choices

www.thinkchecksubmit.org

www.doaj.org

www.oaspa.org
Choosing a journal – our new tool (in Beta)!

https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/journal-suggester/

Give us your abstract, and we can suggest some journals, along with key information about the journal (including fees)
Preparing your manuscript
Think like an editor

“...I think authors need to think ‘what is it like to be an editor of a journal? How many papers is the Editor receiving per day, per week? What is going to actually make the journal pay attention to my paper?’”

Monica Taylor, former editor of the Journal of Moral Education
Preparing your manuscript: some basic tips

• Write first, edit later
• Keep it simple, complicated ideas expressed plainly
  • 2.5 line rule
  • Avoid passive sentence construction
• Paragraphs
• The paper structure (IMRaD)
  • Introduction
    • Question/problem
    • Thesis/hypothesis/argument
    • Roadmap
  • Methods/theory
  • Results
  • Discussion
  • Conclusion
• Data Availability Statement

• You are telling a story-make sure it is consistent and easy to follow
What makes a good title?

• Simple advice: keep it short and to the point.
• Avoid redundant or cliché word/phrases.
• Highlight your findings, not your process.
• Make sure it stands out-creatively or in terms of clarity.
• Make sure to include specific keywords that capture the subject of your article.
Writing an abstract

- Write the paper first - it is a review, or map of the entire paper
- Check the IFAs for the journal you are submitting to - there will likely be requirements
- Who is your intended audience - frame it for them
- About those words....keywords/phrases, naturally
- ‘This paper’...focus on the essential information. Word counts!
- Revise everytime you revise the paper
- Language-difficult to read?
Keywords

• What words or phrases (2-4 words) would you use to find your article?
• Choose some synonyms – words that are not already included in the title
• Be specific - if the word is too simple or broad the search will produce too many documents. i.e. ‘homelessness’ vs. ‘Swedish homelessness policy’
• Are the methods or technique relevant - include
• Test your key words before submitting
Data Sharing

- Look at sharing your data in a repository (university, specialist or generalist)
- Include the DOI or link in a Data Availability Statement

Resources: https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/data-sharing-policies/
Publication ethics - issues that can arise

- Authorship
- Competing interests
- Duplicate submission/publication
- Data or image fabrication/falsification
- Plagiarism/ text recycling
- Peer review manipulation
- Breaches of copyright

www.publicationethics.org
Before you submit

✓ Look at published papers
✓ Review the Aims & Scope
✓ Explain acronyms
✓ Follow the Instructions for Authors
✓ Check the data sharing policy
✓ Format your article to the journal
✓ Review the submission process
✓ Consider English ‘polishing’
Types of peer review

- **Single-blind/Single-anonymous**
  - Reviewers know the identity of the authors
  - Authors do not know the identity of the reviewers
  - Most common model of peer review in STM

- **Double-blind/Double-anonymous**
  - Reviewers do not know the identity of the authors
  - Authors do not know the identity of the reviewers
  - Most common in HSS

- **Open peer review**
  - Reviewers know the identity of the authors
  - Authors know the identity of the reviewers
  - Reviewer reports may be published with reviewer names if article accepted
The peer review process

Admin Checks & EIC Assignment → EIC/AE invites reviewers → Reviewers Score & suggest Decision → EIC Review and Decision feedback to Author

- Desk Reject
- Revision and amendments
- Revise & resubmit: major
- Revise & resubmit: minor
- Accept*
- Reject

The peer review process involves several stages, starting with administrative checks and EIC assignment. The EIC/AE then invites reviewers to evaluate the submitted work. Reviewers provide a score and suggestions, which are then reviewed by the EIC. Based on the feedback, the decision is made to accept the article, reject it, or require revisions, which can be major or minor.
Registered Reports

• About changing the way research is conducted – in practice this is about changing when peer review is conducted.
• Originated in psychology to prevent dishonest research practices – e.g. p hacking, HARKing

Focus is shifted to:
• The research question
• The experiment designed to test it
Responding to reviewers comments

1. Don’t become disheartened.

2. Carefully read the decision letter.

3. Consult your co-authors.

4. Break down the comments by category-create a list.

5. Make all of the suggested amendments if appropriate.
Make it easy for the editor

6. Address every comment
   • Where you amended (page number, new material)
   • Why you didn’t amend (be specific and again, respectful)

7. Review the response twice to make sure it is clear and devoid of any frustration

8. Be professional and respectful of the reviewers and editor

9. Remember: the reviewers are trying to help you publish your best work
So, your paper was rejected...

• Thank the editor and reviewers for considering your paper

• Move on to the next journal on your list

• Remember to treat it as an entirely new submission

• Follow the rules of the journal

• Make sure to apply the relevant suggestions you received from the previous peer review process
Top ten reasons for rejection

1. Sent to the wrong journal, doesn’t fit the aims and scope, or fails to engage with issues addressed by the journal.
2. Not a true journal article (i.e. too journalistic or clearly a thesis chapter or consultancy report).
3. Too long/ too short.
4. Poor regard of the journal’s conventions, or for academic writing generally.
5. Poor style, grammar, punctuation or English.
6. No contribution to the subject.
7. Not properly contextualised.
8. Poor theoretical framework.
9. Scrappily presented and sloppily proof read.
10. Libellous, unethical, rude or lacks objectivity.
What to do when your article is accepted?

• Link to your final article, using its digital object identifier (DOI)

• Keep in contact with the journal’s Production Editor

• They oversee the production of your article from manuscript to publication and will send you a proof of your article to review before the final article is published online

• Don’t be afraid to ask questions if you’re unsure about anything
Simple but effective promotion tools

Some quick tips to maximise the potential of your article to be seen, read, and cited.

• Use your **email signature** to tell people about your new article.
• Add a brief summary and link to your article on your **department website**. Then add it to your students’ reading lists if appropriate.
• **Post updates** and link to your article on academic and professional networking sites and discussion lists.
• If you are a blogger or have a personal webpage **write about your article and link to it**.
Thank you!
Questions?

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