

'Writing for Publication'

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Resources

Deakin University Library has many books devoted to the topics of academic writing and publishing in peer-reviewed journals.

- ✓ Moxley 1992, *Publish, don't perish*. Praeger: Westport.
- ✓ Davidson and Lunt 2000, *The art of getting published*. Dunmore: Palmerston North.

Why publish?

Publication output is an indicator of your prestige and performance in academia.

- ✓ To advance knowledge.
- ✓ To publicly contribute to debates in your discipline area as well as more broadly.
- ✓ To 'legitimate' your scholarship.
- ✓ To attract research income to the faculty.
- ✓ To improve your chances of getting an academic job/grant/post-doc.
- ✓ Seeing your name in print is cool.

Where do I publish?

Make sure that your research counts.

- ✓ Commercially published research monograph.
- ✓ Commercially published edited collection.
- ✓ Refereed article in a scholarly journal (the focus of today's session).
- ✓ Book chapter in a commercially published edited collection.
- ✓ Refereed conference proceedings.

Choosing a journal

- ✓ Know the journals in your field.
- ✓ Can you list the top journals in your discipline nationally and internationally?
- ✓ Who is on the editorial board?
- ✓ What is the editorial policy?
- ✓ What kinds of issues, theories and approaches does the journal publish? Are they consistent with yours?
- ✓ Supervisors are a great resource: ask their advice

Regularly check 'call for papers'

- ✓ ANU Humanities Research Centre
<http://www.anu.edu.au/hrc/index.php>
- ✓ Australian Humanities Review
www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/AHR/goodo/calls.html
- ✓ Cultural Studies Association
www.csa.asn.au
- ✓ Univ of Maryland WS database
www.mith2.umd.edu/WomensStudies/CallsforPapers
- ✓ The Australian Sociological Association
www.tasa.org.au
- ✓ Voice of the Shuttle
Vos.ucsb.edu/index.asp

Preliminary groundwork

- ✓ Know the submission requirements of the journal you are writing for.
- ✓ Know the audience.
- ✓ Read the journal's editorial policy. Is your work in keeping with their interests?
- ✓ Before you write anything, make initial contact with the journal via email/phone to assess the suitability of your work and find out how long their publication time is.

Prestige vs Runs on the board

- ✓ As an ECR, building a research profile is paramount.
- ✓ Sending an article to a prestigious journal risks a long turnaround and less likelihood of acceptance.
- ✓ New journals and e-journals have higher acceptance rates and faster publication.
- ✓ Upcoming special issues devoted to your area of research may increase the chances of publication.

Journals devoted to new scholars

Postgraduate journals

- ✓ AntiTHESIS (Eng/Cult.Studs, Unimelb)
- ✓ Eras (History, Monash)
- ✓ Traffic (Interdisc, Unimelb)
- ✓ M/C: Journal of Media and Culture (UQ)
- ✓ New Talents (p.grad issue of Journal of Australian Studies)
- ✓ Colloquy (Lit/Cult.Studs, Monash)
- ✓ Melbourne Historical Journal

Pros and cons of publishing during candidacy

Pros:

- ✓ Publications are vital for academic jobs.
- ✓ Opportunity to 'test' ideas.
- ✓ Focuses your writing.
- ✓ Valuable peer-feedback.

Cons:

- ✓ Can distract from the 'main game'.
- ✓ Risks turning the thesis into a series of articles.
- ✓ Easier to 'pull apart' the PhD once it is completed.

Characteristics of a journal article

- ✓ Offers cutting edge knowledge.
- ✓ Displays knowledge of the research field.
- ✓ Identifies current debates.
- ✓ Develops a core argument in relation to these debates
 - ✓ extends existing scholarship
 - ✓ identifies gaps
 - ✓ proposes a new methodology
 - ✓ offers new interpretations

Characteristics of a journal article

- ✓ Critical analysis that is theoretically informed.
- ✓ Methodology is explained and justified.
- ✓ Method is relevant to aims and outcomes.
- ✓ Draws conclusions.
- ✓ Will often develop one key concept.

Do I have something publishable?

Yes if you are:

- ✓ Developing new ideas or paradigms.
- ✓ Identifying gaps in knowledge.
- ✓ Contributing new a perspective or approach to a particular issue.
- ✓ Devising new research methods.
- ✓ Analysing research findings.
- ✓ Critically reviewing literature.

Working with a co-author

- ✓ Identify your roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ Decide who will be first author.
- ✓ Opportunities for working with a more experienced colleague?

Writing the article

- ✓ Look at how others write.
- ✓ A journal article is usually 5-7,000 words. Every word counts.
- ✓ Adhere to the word limit.
- ✓ Organise your ideas.
- ✓ Use a plan/subheadings.
- ✓ Put your aims and argument upfront.

Writing the article

- ✓ Identify current debates and situate yourself relative to them.
- ✓ Condense the background literature and move quickly into YOUR analysis.
- ✓ Support your argument with evidence.
- ✓ Focus your argument - don't develop too many themes.
- ✓ Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite, edit, edit, edit.

Choosing a title

- ✓ The title should reflect the content of the article.
- ✓ Aim for clarity.
- ✓ It can be creative and descriptive.
- ✓ Try to include keywords that come up on database searches.

Writing the abstract

- ✓ Usually 2-300 words.
- ✓ It should 'stand alone'.
- ✓ Don't include references.
- ✓ State the significance of the research.
- ✓ State your argument.
- ✓ State your outcomes/conclusions.
- ✓ Identify the methods used.
- ✓ Mention any potential applications.

Style and presentation

- ✓ Follow the 'Notes for contributors' for formatting and referencing.
- ✓ Proof your work.
- ✓ Single sided, double spaced, clear font.

- ✓ Include page numbers but don't put your name on each page.
- ✓ Avoid long, convoluted sentences. Make your writing easy to read.
- ✓ Guide the reader. 'Signpost' your argument.

Peer-review

- ✓ Ask a colleague to read your paper prior to submitting it to a journal for:
 - ✓ critical feedback
 - ✓ Editing/proofing/spelling
 - ✓ Correct and consistent citation and referencing.
- ✓ Establish a peer-review cohort.

Submitting the article

- ✓ Follow the submission requirements for the journal.
- ✓ Journals will often ask for multiple copies.
- ✓ Include a cover letter.
- ✓ Most will request a soft copy via email.
- ✓ It is etiquette to send your article to one journal at a time.

What happens once the article has been received?

- ✓ Step 1. Confirmation of receipt.
- ✓ Step 2. Article considered by an editorial panel.
- ✓ Step 3. Referees conduct peer-review.
- ✓ Step 4. Editors will contact you with copies of the referee reports and an outcome.

The refereeing process

- ✓ Your article is (hopefully) allocated to two or more academic peers who are versed in your area of research.
- ✓ An anonymous process.
- ✓ Can take 3-6 months.

What do referees look for?

- ✓ Whether the article is appropriate for the journal.
- ✓ The significance of the article.
- ✓ The quality of the research and writing.

Outcomes of submission

- ✓ Accept for publication without amendments.
- ✓ Accept for publication with editorial modifications.
- ✓ Accept for publication with author revisions (as suggested by reviewers).
- ✓ Reject.

I've been rejected: I'm not worthy!

- ✓ Rubbish. Don't take it as a sign of your worth as a scholar.
- ✓ Make good use of the referee reports.
- ✓ Perhaps it is better suited to another journal.
- ✓ Perhaps the referees are not sympathetic to your approach/methodology.
- ✓ Always resubmit.

My article has been accepted. What next?

- ✓ Make any amendments as requested in a prompt manner.
- ✓ Provide a map of revisions. This shows the editor what changes you have made and allows you to justify why you may have rejected a referee's recommendations.
- ✓ Ask for an expected date/issue for publication.

I haven't heard back from the journal yet and it's been ages...

- ✓ If no confirmation of receipt has been forthcoming after a month, email the editor.
- ✓ If there is no response after three months of confirmation of receipt, email the editor to inquire about the status of your manuscript.

Dealing with editors

- ✓ Always be polite and professional.
- ✓ Don't harass them.
- ✓ Don't assume they are familiar with your article. When emailing them provide your date of submission, the title of your article and your contact details.

Managing your academic career

- ✓ Publishing is one aspect of being a scholar.
- ✓ Other things to consider include:
 - ✓ Preparing a CV.
 - ✓ Gaining teaching experience.
 - ✓ Building a service profile.
 - ✓ Making a name in your field
 - ✓ Give conference/seminar papers
 - ✓ Network
 - ✓ Review exhibitions/books/productions.

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