

# Dos and Don'ts of Research Article Publication

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*Research is a process of Systematic, and Scientific collection, analysis and interpretation of data so as to find solutions to a problem.<sup>1</sup>*

## Kinds of Scientific Publications

- ▶ PhD/Masters/MPhil Thesis  
Conference Publications  
(Focus on a piece of work with limited discussion)
- Journal Publications  
(original articles, review articles)  
More complete (extensive) discussions
- Book chapters / Text books

## Where to publish your work

- ▶ **Journals**  
Ranking of journals  
Review process of journals  
Publication cycle
- ▶ **Conferences**  
Ranking of conferences  
Review process of conferences

(a good journal / conference tends to have rigorous review process and long review time)

## Plan your writing

- ▶ Ask two questions before starting:  
*What is new in your work?*  
*What are you going to write?*
- ▶ Emphasize on the originality and significance of your work.
- ▶ Organize your thinking and decide the structure (outlines) of your paper.
- ▶ Stick on your central points throughout the whole paper and remove all unnecessary discussions.

## Reader-oriented Writing

Don't write if there is nothing to write

Don't make a simple problem complicated to fool people

Well-organize your thinking

Try to present your idea in an accurate way (no ambiguity)

Always think how readers would interpret your writing (assume you're a reader)

- ▶ Use simple/ plain English

Purpose of technical writing: express your idea correctly & clearly.

## Structure of a Paper

- ▶ Title
- ▶ Abstract (structured)
- ▶ Key words
- ▶ Introduction  
(Related Work, background info, & Problem Statement)
- ▶ Patients and Methods
- ▶ Results
- ▶ Discussion
- ▶ Conclusion
- ▶ Acknowledgement
- ▶ References

Average word count 2500-3000 excluding Abstract (<250 words)

## What makes a good research paper?

- Good writing
- Publication in good journals

*Only research articles, original case reports, technical notes, and reviews are considered citable items of a journal.<sup>2</sup>*

*Commentaries, editorials, correspondence/letters to editor are considered non-citable*

## What constitutes a good journal?

*Impact factor –*

Average number of times published papers are cited up to two years after publication.

*Immediacy Index –*

Average number of times published papers are cited during year of publication.<sup>3</sup>

## “The Seven Deadly Sins”

1. Data manipulation, falsification
2. Duplicate manuscripts
3. Redundant publication
4. Plagiarism
5. Author conflicts of interest
6. Animal use concerns
7. Humans use concerns<sup>3</sup>

## Determine the goal of the research paper

The most important thing that a writer can do when thinking about writing is to write a **purpose statement**, which is an embodiment of the following: **What** is the significance of

the paper? **Why** is it pertinent? **Whether** it is original? **Who** will be the target audience? **What** can be inferred for future studies? <sup>4</sup>

#### **After Submission**

- Publication Procedure (6-12 months)
  - Author submits
  - Editor is assigned to manuscript
  - Editor assigns reviewers (associate editors) to inspect
  - Reviewers decide on whether to review paper
  - Several reviewers inspect and edit
  - Editor decides on accuracy of revisions and whether to accept paper
  - If accepted, editor sends paper back to author with revisions
  - Author revises paper and sends it back
  - Possibility of second review process
  - Publication!

#### **What is Peer Review?**

- Review process for scientists by scientists
- Purpose
  - To filter what is published as “Science/Research”
  - To provide researchers with perspective
- Where is peer review used?
  - Scientific publication
  - Grant review
  - Tenure promotion

#### **Quick Checklist before submission:**

- ▶ Have you mentioned and obtained ethical committee’s permission prior to commencement of the study?
- ▶ Have you mentioned and obtained informed written consent?
- ▶ Are your references complete ?
- ▶ Have you used any tool/Questionnaire as from a reference?
- ▶ Have you obtained permission for figures previously published ?
- ▶ Have you double-checked the spellings of authors' names in your references ? <sup>4-6</sup>

#### **Resources**

[www.biosemantics.org/jane/](http://www.biosemantics.org/jane/)  
<http://pkpschool.sfu.ca/>  
[www.pubmed.com](http://www.pubmed.com)  
[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)  
[www.scholarlyexchange.org](http://www.scholarlyexchange.org)  
<http://ejournalssystem.com>

#### **Resources, checking for plagiarism**

- ▶ [www.duplichecker.com](http://www.duplichecker.com)
- ▶ [www.paperrater.com](http://www.paperrater.com)
- ▶ [www.plagiarismchecker.com](http://www.plagiarismchecker.com)

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