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How to write for publication: understanding the publication process

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Why publish?

- Share knowledge with your community
- Raise your academic profile
- CV and grant applications
- Professional requirement

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The following session will….

- Help you choose the right journal
- Help structure your article
- Guide you through the submission, editorial and peer review process

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Choosing the right journal

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Think about:

- The journals you read
- Your list of references in previous assignments
- Journals academics reference or have published in
- Ranked in Journal Citation Reports or Scimago journal ranking
- Subject guide list of journals

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Call for papers

- Social media
- Professional mailing lists
- Jiscmail.ac.uk

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Finding the ‘best’ journals

- Think about readership
  - Academics or professionals
- Read the journals aims and scope
- Read recent articles

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Beware - Predatory publishing

Think. Check. Submit.

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Think.

- **Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal?**
- **Is it the right journal for your work?**

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Check.

- Do you or your colleagues know the journal?
- Is the publisher contactable?
- Clarity of the peer review process?
- Are articles indexed in services that you use?
- Fees?

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Check

- Do you recognise the editorial board?– Do they belong to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) ?
  – If the journal is open access, is it listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) ?
  – If the journal is open access, does the publisher belong to the Open Access Scholarly Publishers' Association (OASPA) ?

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Other considerations

- Timescales
- Funder considerations
- HEFCE compliance

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Writing your article

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Journal aims and scope

- Read recent articles
- Style guidance (capitalisation, images, referencing)
- Structure of the article
-
- Check author guidance

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Article components

- Title; concise and clear, grab the audiences attention
- Abstract; overview of your article.
  - Why; what's the problem
  - How did you investigate the problem
  - Findings (briefly)
  - What are the implications

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Article components

Introduction:

Why has the research been undertaken?

What was the purpose of the research?

The aims of the research should be clearly outlined in the introduction and should also contain any evidence of a literature review along with any keywords used by the author when searching.

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Article components

Methods

When, where and how was the study conducted?

Who or what was the subject of the study?

Ethical issues outlined?

Pilot study conducted

Is the information provided detailed enough for others to replicate

Methods of data collection including sample size, response rate

Variable and bias

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Article components

Results

What did you find?

Narrative description of pertinent points as well as visual graphs, tables etc where permitted

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Article components

Discussion

Explain the meanings and implications of the your results (difficult bit!!).

You should interpret the results and apply to the subject you are studying

Engage and encourage readers' enthusiasm.

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Article components

Conclusion

Suggest future areas for research or more investigation

Some journals do not allow a separate Conclusion section. In that case, the last paragraph of the Discussion can be used to state the conclusions.

Don’t forget your References (but check the **style** required!!)

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Figures, charts, graphs and images

- Check these are accepted
- High quality image graphs
- Acceptable file types
- Permission from the owner

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Tips for article writing

- Engage your audience – active not passive language
- Formal writing (language, sentence structure)
- Formulate a clear argument

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Ethics

Plagiarism

Copyright

Dual authorship

Work published elsewhere

Conflict of interest

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Proof read

“Good writing is bad writing, ferociously self-revised”

Straight answers from Arthur Plotnik. (2006) **American Librarian**, May, p.20

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Check and double check

- Proof read
- Spelling
- Grammar
- Punctuation

- Keep a copy of your article!!!!

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Submitting, editing and peer review

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The process

- Submit
- Editor checks suitability
- Peer review
- Revisions and resubmit
- Accept/ Reject

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Peer review

“Peer review helps validate research, establish a method by which it can be evaluated, and increase networking possibilities within research communities. Despite criticisms, peer review is still the only widely accepted method for research validation” Elsevier (2017)

Available from: https://www.elsevier.com/reviewers/what-is-peer-review

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What peer reviewers look for?

- Originality of research
- Appropriate methodology described in detail
- Ethical issues
- Conclusions based on evidence
- Clearly structured argument
- Descriptive title and abstract

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Peer review response

- Accept with no changes
- Accept with changes
- Reject but encourage resubmission with changes
- Reject no resubmission

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What’s publishing anyway?

Alternative methods for dissemination:

Researchgate or Academia.edu

YouTube

Prezi

Blogs

Slideshare

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Useful articles

Elsevier (2015) **Understanding the publishing process; how to publish in scholarly journals**. Available from https://www.elsevier.com/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/91173/Brochure_UPP_April2015.pdf. Date accessed 19 January 2017

John Wiley and Sons (2014) **Writing for publication; an easy to follow guide for nurses interested in publishing their work. Available from** http://www.wiley-docs.com/HSJ-14-63694_Writing_for_Publication_lowres.pdf. Date accessed 19 January 2017

Duffy, S, Anderson, J, Barks, L, Cowan, L, Daggett, V, Hendrix, C, Oka, R, Sales, A, & Alt-White, A (2016) **How to get your research published**. *International Journal Of Nursing Studies*. Available from: http://ezproxy.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=cmedm&AN=27697282&site=eds-live&scope=site. Date accessed 19 January 2017

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