Publishing Your Research in a Peer-Reviewed Journal with an Impact Factor

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Citation indices

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Citations to my articles

Can quantum-mechanical description of physical reality be considered complete?

http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=qc6CJjYAAAAJ&hl=en
Title / Author

- The effect of condensed tannins from two lotus species on protein degradation and bacterial growth in the rumen

http://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=dYYvF3sAAAAAJ&view_op=list... 3/8/2014
NEGATIVE THINKERS FOCUS ON PROBLEMS
POSITIVE THINKERS FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS

Academic thinkers focus on …………….
In life, be as the coffee’s drinker, he/she enjoys it regardless of its bitterness and darkness
Japanese attitude of work:
“If one can do it, I can do it. If no one can do it, I must do it.”

Middle Eastern attitude for work:
“Wallahi if one can do it, let him do it. If no one can do it, ya-habibi how can I do it?”
It is never too late

Woman turns 100 and still goes to work
Respect the existence, or expect resistance.

Please let us live in peace.
A lot of problems in the world would disappear if we talk to each other instead of about each other.
Overview of Presentation

- What is the impact factor?
- How to publish?
- Why publish?
- What to publish?
- When to publish?
- Where to publish?
- Things that prepare you for publishing?
Impact factor

The impact factor (IF) of an academic journal is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to recent articles published in the journal.
Starting with Six Simple Facts

• Publishing papers is like playing tennis: You don’t learn it by reading a book or attending lectures. You need to practice.

• It is a very difficult task that requires years of experience, determination and patience.

• If you do not publish in reviewed journals, your ideas are likely to remain neglected.
• No one would like to experience rejection.
• If you don’t submit your research to a peer-reviewed journal for consideration of publication, it can’t be rejected.
• If you submit your research to a peer-reviewed journal, there is a chance of getting it published.
It is not just what you do, but how you sell it?

- Innovation can be an empty shell, many innovative papers actually sell hot air, but the terminology is important as every paper needs a unique selling point.

- Every business (including publication) should have one "USP": a Unique Selling Point. This is something which sets your product or service (apart from your competitors) in the eyes and minds of your customers.
Psychology of Writing

- The more you write the easier it gets.
- The less you write the harder it gets.

Consequently, people who write less can easily lose self-esteem over writing and have a more difficult time of writing.
Publishing in a reasonably good journal requires:

1. A research agenda of general interest.
2. A good idea.
3. Methodological skills.
4. Writing skills.

Note: If you are lacking one item of the above list, consider co-authoring papers.
HOW TO PUBLISH

• Start with a good idea.
• Plan a good study.
• Conduct a good study.
• Use the right statistical procedures for your analysis.
• Write a good manuscript.
• Select a journal with the best fit.
Sections of Research Paper

• Title
• Abstract
• Introduction
• Materials and Methods
• Results
• Discussion
• Tables
• Figures
• References
Title

• Appropriate length.

• Should attract the attention of the Editor first and then the reviewers.
Abstract

• Appropriate length (150-250 words).
• Basically, there are two styles: structured and unstructured.
• What should the abstract include?
  1. Purpose of the study.
  2. A brief description of the methods used.
  3. The key results.
  4. The main conclusion.
  5. Should provide your take home message (what you want readers to know?).
Introduction

- Concise.
- Thorough review of the literature.
- Establish importance of your study and important previous research.
- How does your study add to the literature?
- Objective(s) of your study.
Materials and Methods

- Adequate details.
- Road map for replication.
- Measurements [reliable and valid measures].
- Sound procedures.
- Statistical analysis.
- Ethical approval.
Ethical considerations

- Protecting human subjects and animals from physical and psychological harm.
- Protecting endangered populations.
- Informed consent and full disclosure.
- Confidentiality and anonymity (privacy).
- You have to get the approval of the Human/Animal Ethics Committee(s) before you start your study.
The rats were cared and maintained in compliance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (National Research Council, 1996) and Massey University guidelines. Ethical consent for the study protocols was obtained from the Massey University Animal Ethics Committee (Approval Number 12/28).
Gavaging technique
Results

- Clear and detailed description.
- Necessary tables and graphs are provided and describe significant findings.
- Arrange your results in a proper way and invest your findings wisely.
- Include statistics for major findings, even in tables.
We should think smarter rather than work harder.

It doesn't matter how many resources you have if you don't know how to use them, they will never be enough.
Do not beat in the bush, **be to the point.** [Avoid wordiness in writing]

**Examples:**

1. There have been a number of studies that have identified........”. [10 words].

2.“Several studies have identified.......”. [4].

3.“Studies have identified.......”. [3 words].
Discussion

- It is the backbone of the paper.
- 4-5 pages.
- Don’t restate the results.
- Discussion should not go beyond findings.
- Discuss how study is unique and major findings.
- Compare findings with previous research.
- Implications, limitations, and future research.
Referencing (References)

• Always cite peer-reviewed journal papers.

• Ensure correct format (style varies according to the journal).

• Basically, there are two referencing systems: the *Vancouver* system and the *Harvard* system (also called the author-date system).
Before submitting your paper ask yourself the following questions:

• Have you written your paper in a good style which is relevant to the journal’s readership?
• What are the key points that you need to make?
• What are the limitations of your paper?
• Have you been concise with your paper title and abstract? These are the parts of your paper that editors and referees will see first.
• Have you avoided “lazy” errors? These may affect the quality of your paper.
SELECTING A JOURNAL WITH A GOOD FIT

• Read sample papers in journals related to your topic.

• Read the instructions to authors carefully.

• Factors to consider:
  – Impact factor.
  – Page limit/words limit.
  – Types of papers (theoretical, applied, \textit{in vitro}, \textit{in vivo}, etc.).
What happens once you submit the Paper

- Editor-in-Chief determines suitability of paper.
- Editor-in-Chief sends it to an action (Associate) editor who will send the paper to 3-5 reviewers for **blind** review.
- Reviewers take between 4-6 weeks to review.
What happens once you submit the Paper (Cont.)

• Action editor reviews the reviewers comments and makes one of the following recommendations to the Editor-in-Chief:

1. Accept (as is) (very rare).
2. Accept with minor revisions (20% of the papers).
3. Accept with major revisions (60% of the papers).
4. Reject (20% of the papers).
Understanding Human Behavior

• First impression lasts (neatness counts).

• Looking for a reason.
  – Avoid simple mistakes.
  – Check your statistical analysis.

• Don’t argue with reviewers or ignore their feedback.
Revising and Resubmitting

• Read editor’s letter and get his/her feeling about the paper.
• Read reviewers comments carefully and highlight each concern.
• Always do what the reviewers ask.
• Never be defensive or challenging even when the reviewers are incorrect.
Have you gotten a paper rejected recently?

- Only about 20-30 percent of the submitted papers get accepted for publication in the academic journals (70-80% rejection rate).

- Editors reject a large number of submissions without sending them for review.
Criteria for Evaluating Journals

• Inclusion in Thomson-Reuter’s ISI Database (Web of Science / Social Science Citation Index).

• Total Citations.

• 5-year Impact Factor (rather than 2-year Impact Factor)
The Advantages of Submitting to a Reasonably Good Journal

- **If published:**
  - better visibility
  - higher credibility

- **If rejected:**
  - useful reviews
Five Don’ts

1. Don’t be afraid of a rejection letter.
2. Don’t submit the paper to more than one journal at a time.
3. Don’t submit unfinished/unpolished paper.
4. Don’t throw the paper away if it gets rejected by the referees.
5. Don’t ignore the referee reports if your paper gets rejected.
Conclusions

• Start with a good idea, a good plan, and a good study.
• Write a good paper and submit it to the right journal.
• Reduce reviewers’ opportunities to find reasons to reject your paper.
• Understand human behavior.
Conclusions (Cont.)

- The English language used in your paper should be of high quality.
- Your results may be significant but your inability to express them in standard English may hold the chances of publication and leading to rejection.
- Getting papers published is a skill that can be learned.
Thank you