From Plan to Published

Developing a scholarly article

Jay Brodeur
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The lifecycle of a journal article
Plan

Why publish?
What, Who, How?
Where to publish?
Why Publish?
Get organized (What, Who, How)

What are you writing about?

Who are your co-authors (if any)?
  ● Communicating expectations, responsibilities and timelines.

How to manage documents and materials?
  ● Where are you storing your materials?
  ● How are you keeping them organized and backing them up?
  ● How are you sharing with collaborators?

Who might help review your work?
  ● Contact them early to schedule potential times for review
Where to publish? Choosing a journal

Explore potential journals and their scope / focus
- Check their ‘about the journal’ section
- Search past issues to find articles similar to yours in approach & quality
- Investigate the journals you commonly cite in your research
- Talk with colleagues and mentors
- Contact the editor to gauge interest

Look for planned special issues that cover your topic

Explore journal restrictions & processing fees
- Acceptable types of articles; word/page count limits
- Processing fees (per-article, per-figures, per-page, APC)
- Copyright restrictions & open access
TRADITIONAL SUBSCRIPTION PUBLISHING

limited dissemination, economic efficiency & social impact

Publishers provide copy-editing, publish the article to their platform.
Traditional vs. Open Access Publishing Models

GOLD OPEN ACCESS
maximised dissemination, economic efficiency & social impact

- Publishers provide copy-editing, publish the article to their platform
- Author may pay Article Processing Charge (APC)

[Diagram of the publishing process]

https://aoasg.org.au/what-is-open-access/
Traditional vs. Open Access Publishing Models

**GREEN OPEN ACCESS**
increased dissemination, economic efficiency & social impact

1. **Publicly funded researchers conduct research and write up results.**
2. **Manuscripts submitted to subscription journals & reviewed by peers.**
3. **Manuscripts accepted for publication.**
4. **Authors assign copyright to publishers, but retain the right to disseminate an OA copy (of the accepted manuscript) via open access repositories.**
5. **Accelerated scientific progress & increased return on public investment.**
6. **After embargo period, public can download the open access copies from repositories.**
7. **Accepted manuscript versions may be embargoed temporarily.**
8. **Published versions of articles accessible to journal subscribers immediately.**

- Publishers provide copy-editing, publish the article to their platform
- Author places a copy in an open access repository

[https://aoasg.org.au/what-is-open-access/](https://aoasg.org.au/what-is-open-access/)
Where to publish? Choosing a journal

How to know a journal’s business model and OA policies?

- Read the journal’s about page and guide for authors
  - OR view the journal’s terms on SHERPA RoMEO
- DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals

Beware of:

- Vanity publishing: no peer review; author pays to publish
- Predatory open access: Author pays APC charges; phantom peer review

Where to publish? Choosing a journal

Review journal rankings / impact factors

- Many types of ranking measures: **SJR, H-index, IPP, SNIP, JIF**
- All related to number of citations per article in a specific journal

Journal Ranking Resources

- Scimago Journal Ranking
- Incites Journal Citation Reports
- CWTS Journal Indicators
- Scopus Sources
Writing

Read the journal’s *guide for authors*!

Start writing early

- Good writing (almost always) takes a considerable time investment
- Good writing is a creative (and usually iterative) process
- Find a system and schedule that you can maintain

Experiment and look outward for inspiration

- Explore varying structure; review similar published articles for ideas

Keep your narrative in mind

- What are your article’s main findings / arguments?
- What is the significance of these results?
Writing

Strive for clarity, but don’t over-edit yourself
- Accept that writing will be iterative. Set aside ample time for review
- Sometimes it’s best to empty out your thoughts and sort it out later

Get out of your own head
- If you’re stuck, step away
- Seek feedback early and regularly
Writing

Design your figures as you write

- Figures can take a long time to get right
- Review the guide for authors to understand any requirements/limitations

Learn and use reference management software

- E.g. Zotero, Mendeley, BibTex, RefWorks, EndNote
- Learn how to integrate them with your editing software
Review: Internal reviewing

Have a plan/schedule for article reviews
- Who will assume primary responsibility for the manuscript?
- How will co-authors and other internal reviewers contribute?
  - Simultaneous review vs individually-scheduled review periods
  - May depend on software being used

Keep track of versions and revisions
- Google Drive: Use named versions
- Microsoft Word: Use a careful naming convention.
Consider pre-publication review by releasing a preprint

- **Preprint** = version of a paper before undergoing formal peer-review
- Useful for rapid dissemination of information and feedback

[Links]
- [ChemRxiv](https://chemrxiv.org/)
- [arXiv.org](https://arxiv.org/)
- [SOC ARXIV](https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv)
- [AgriXiv](https://agrixiv.org/)
Submit

When to submit
The peer review process
When to submit for peer review

✓ All major issues have been resolved
  ○ ...though it may not always be perfect

✓ Article has been reviewed internally for consistency

✓ A clear and compelling cover letter is drafted

✓ All requirements in the journal’s guide for authors are met
Submitting for peer review

Author submits article to journal

Journal Editor screens paper

Reviewer 1

Reviewer 2

Author makes revisions

Editor assessment of reviews

REJECTED

REJECTED

ACCEPTED

No revisions required

https://editorresources.taylorandfrancis.com/reviewer-guidelines/
Notes on peer review

- Peer review is a process designed to improve the quality of your work
  - Many journals ask you to suggest reviewers — good opportunity to get the best feedback possible
- It’s also an academic conversation — don’t hesitate to engage with the editor to express your views or receive clarification or updates
- Peer review is carried out by humans, with their own viewpoints, strengths, weaknesses, and emotions.
  - Reviews may not always be completely correct or relevant. You may disagree, but be polite, courteous, and mindful of others’ viewpoints
Publish

Copyright
Copyright

Know your copyright rights and options

- Review journal policies
- Review [SPARC author rights and author addendum](#)
Archive

Making your article (and data) openly available
Open Access Repositories
Data Repositories
Repositories

Open Access Repositories
- OpenDOAR - Directory of Open Access Repositories
- MacSphere - McMaster’s Institutional Repository

Data Repositories
- re3data.org - Registry of research data repositories
- Scholars Portal Dataverse - Local data repository
THANK YOU

Useful resources:


