From Plan to Published

Developing a scholarly article

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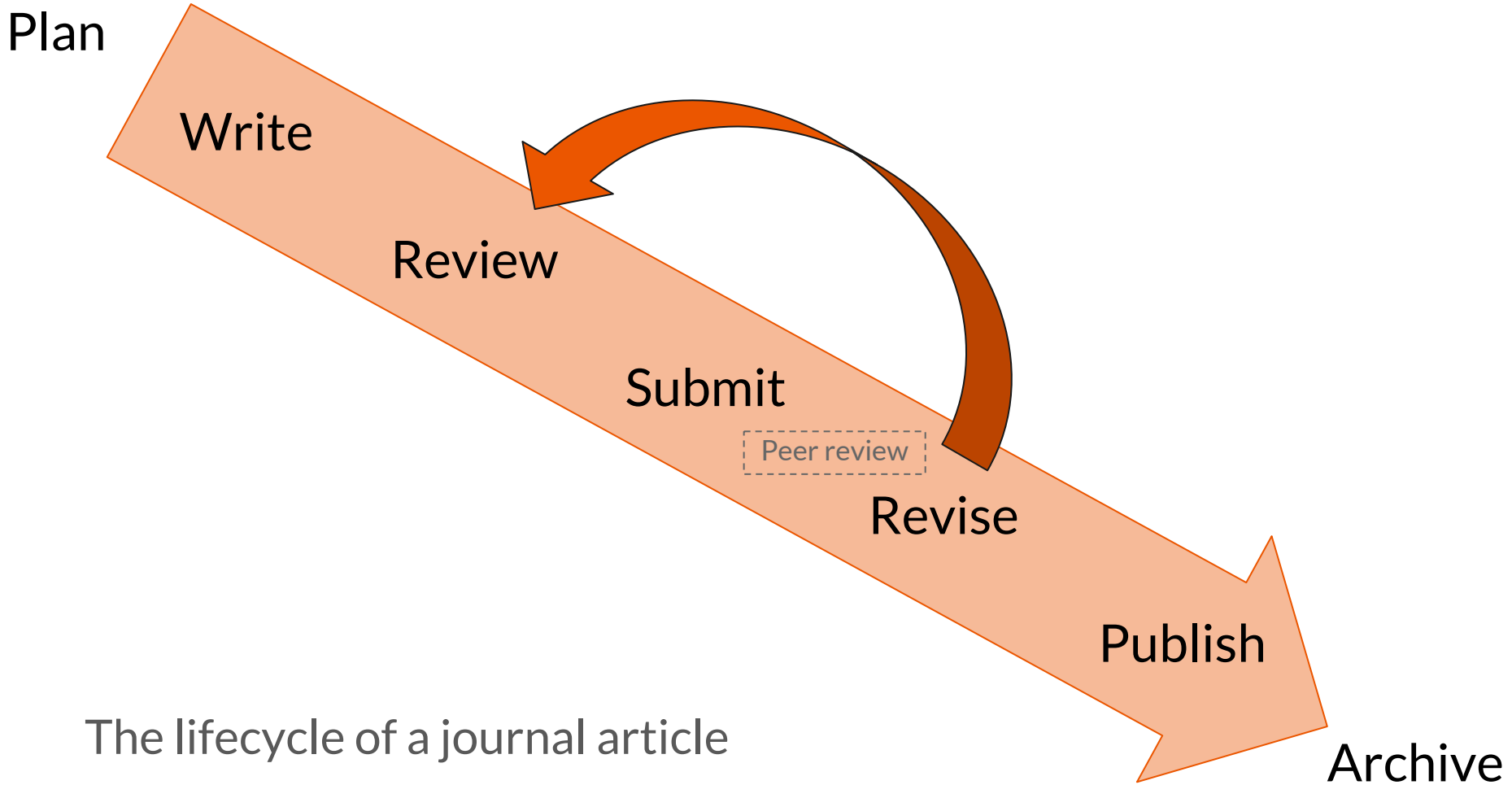
iScientist Workshop
January 22, 2019



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

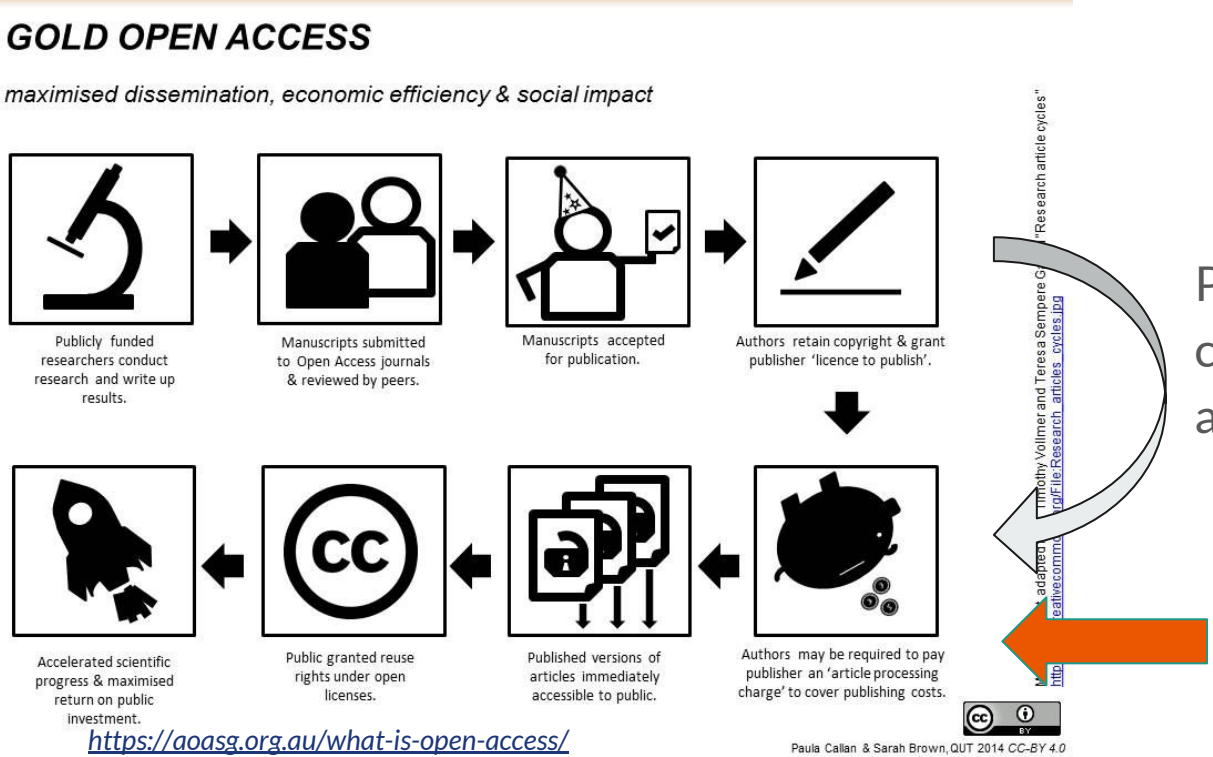
- Acceptable types of articles; word/page count limits
- Processing fees (per-article, per-figures, per-page, APC)
- Copyright restrictions & open access

Traditional vs. Open Access Publishing Models

https://aoasg.org.au/what-is-open-access/

Publishers provide copy-editing, publish the article to their platform

Traditional vs. Open Access Publishing Models

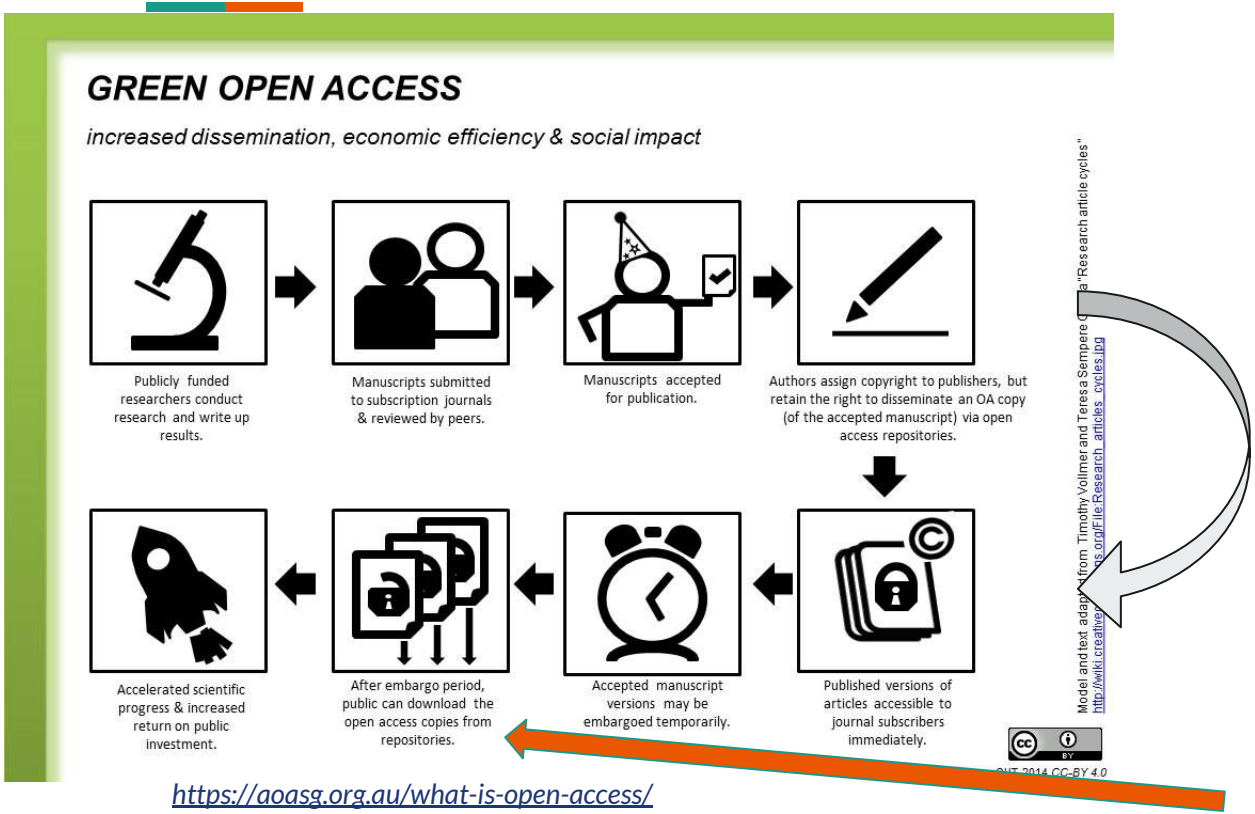


https://aoasg.org.au/what-is-open-access/

Publishers provide copy-editing, publish the article to their platform

Author may pay Article Processing Charge (APC)

Traditional vs. Open Access Publishing Models



https://aoasg.org.au/what-is-open-access/

Publishers provide copy-editing, publish the article to their platform

Author places a copy in an open access repository

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:

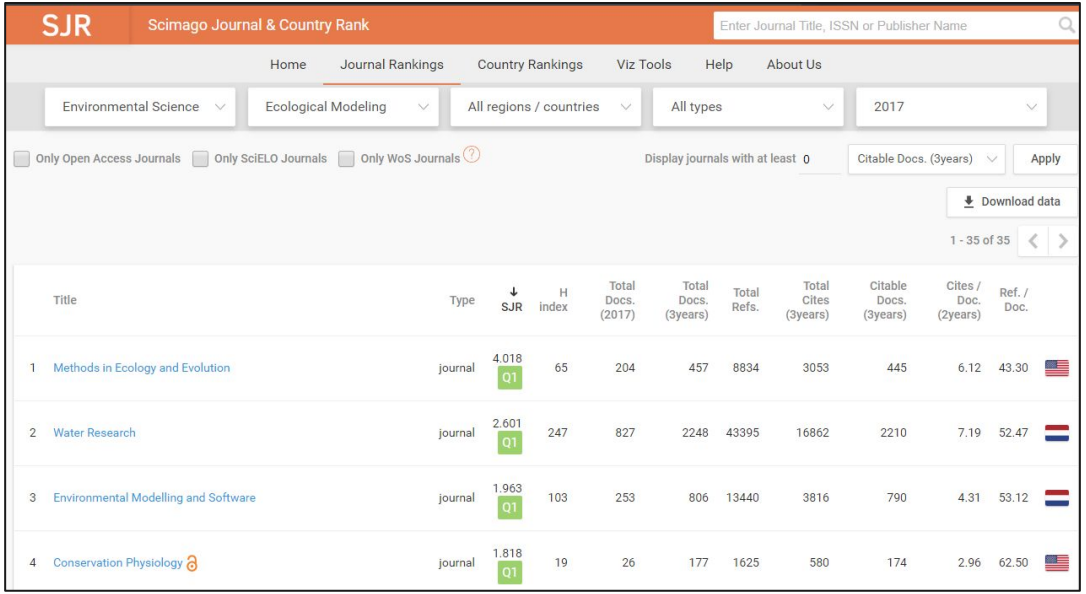
- **Vanity publishing**: no peer review; author pays to publish
- **Predatory open access**: Author pays APC charges; phantom peer review

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Vanity_and_predatory_publishing

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

Write | Review

Writing
Figures
Preprints

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.

Review: Preprints

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

ChemRxiv™ https://chemrxiv.org/

arXiv.org https://arxiv.org/

SOC ARXIV https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv

AgriXiv Preprints for Agriculture and Allied Sciences https://agrixiv.org/

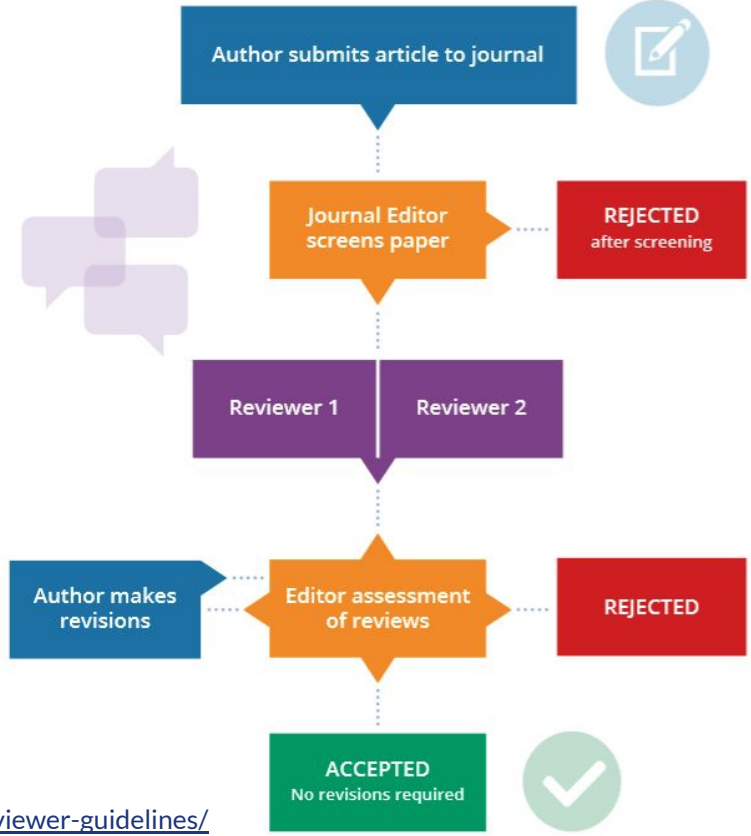
Submit

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



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

POL RÉMY
FRANCE
FRANCE
POL RÉMY
VIN MOUSSEUX
Demi Sec

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

Scholars Portal Dataverse

dataverse.scholarsportal.info/

MacSphere
McMaster University Libraries | Institutional Repository

macsphere.mcmaster.ca/

THANK YOU

Useful resources:

- *LibGuides: Academic Publishing : Academic publishing*. (2019). *Libguides.royalroads.ca*. Retrieved from https://libguides.royalroads.ca/academicpublishing/acpub
- *12 Tips for Accelerating Manuscript Publication | AJE | American Journal Experts*. (2019). *Aje.com*. Retrieved from https://www.aje.com/en/arc/12-tips-accelerating-manuscript-publication/
- *Choosing the Right Journal for Your Research | AJE | American Journal Experts*. (2019). *Aje.com*. Retrieved from https://www.aje.com/en/arc/choosing-right-journal-your-research/
- *Author Rights & the SPARC Author Addendum*. (2019). *SPARC*. Retrieved from https://sparcopen.org/our-work/author-rights
- *Journal ranking*. (2019). *En.wikipedia.org*. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journal_ranking
- *Vanity and predatory publishing*. (2019). *En.wikipedia.org*. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Vanity_and_predatory_publishing
- *What is Open Access?*. (2013). *Australasian Open Access Strategy Group*. Retrieved from https://aoasg.org.au/what-is-open-access/