



Getting Your Research Published in Peer Reviewed Journals

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Starting with Three Simple Facts

Fact 1

- Most people, if they can help it, would rather not experience rejection

Fact 2

- If you don't submit your research to a peer-reviewed journal for consideration of publication, it can't be rejected

Fact 3

- There is a statistically significant causal relationship between submitting your research to peer-reviewed journals and getting it published.

How to Publish

- Overview of Presentation
 - Why publish
 - What to publish
 - When to publish
 - Where to publish
 - Things that prepare you for publishing

Why Publish

- Passion for conducting research and sharing knowledge
- Disseminate important research findings
- Disseminate not so important research findings*
- Feedback in shaping ideas
- Achieve status and recognition
- Career advancement
- Promotion and tenure

- *Not recommended

What to Publish

- Original empirical research (qualitative or quantitative)
- Replication/extension of previous studies
- Theoretical/conceptual pieces
- Literature reviews
- Meta analysis
- Case studies
- Book reviews

When to Publish

- While an undergraduate
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year graduate school
- Post doc
- Academic appointments
- Clinical practice
- Community agency
- When you have an idea/data/case

Where to Publish

- Top tier journals (prestige vs. visibility)
- Second tier journals
- Third tier journals
- Edited books/chapters
- Professional newsletters
- Professional reports
- Popular magazines
- Op ed

Things that Prepare you for Publishing

- Read lots of journal articles
- Take extra statistics/research methods courses
- Discuss research design/issues with colleagues
- Review manuscripts for colleagues
- Serve as ad hoc reviewer for journals
- Submit manuscripts for publication
- Resubmit manuscripts when invited
- Write, write, and write some more

How to Publish

- Start with a good idea
- Plan a good study
- Conduct a good study
- Use appropriate statistical procedures for your analysis
- Write a good manuscript
- Select a journal with the best fit
- Know the players
- Understand the politics
- Be persistent

Selecting a Topic

- Topics should be:
 - Relevant and timely
 - Practical and doable
 - Builds on previous research/expands knowledge
 - Groundbreaking and cutting edge
- How to select the right topic
 - Review relevant literature
 - Brain storm
 - Define topic as a focused research question
 - Formulate thesis statement

Planning

- Background and literature review
- Type of study to be conducted (cross sectional, experimental, observational, case study, qualitative, etc.)
- Objectives
- Methods and procedures
- Statistical design
- Logistics
- Budget
- IRB

Ethical considerations

- Protecting human subjects from physical and psychological harm
- Protecting vulnerable populations
- Informed consent and full disclosure
- Confidentiality and anonymity (privacy)
- Deception (minimal risks and no alternatives)
- IRB
 - Exempt
 - Expedited
 - Full review

Conducting a Good Study

- Thorough review of the literature
- Strong theoretical/conceptual framework
- Provable hypotheses
- Measurement - reliable and valid measures
- Sampling (probability vs non-probability)
- Sound procedures
- Statistical analysis

Selecting the Appropriate Statistics

- Descriptive statistics
- Testing assumptions
- Primary analysis
 - Group/mean differences
 - Correlation/regression
 - Structural equation modeling
 - Causal modeling
 - Factor analysis

Writing a Good Manuscript

- Abstract
 - Concise
 - Mentions all variables in study
 - Appropriate length
- Introduction and Literature Review
 - Concise
 - Thorough
 - Theoretical/conceptual framework
 - Current literature

Writing a Good Manuscript (cont.)

- Methods
 - Adequate detail
 - Road map for replication
- Results
 - Clear and detailed description
 - Analyses appropriate for question
 - Necessary tables and graphs are provided
- Discussion
 - Doesn't go beyond findings
 - Provides alternate hypotheses to explain findings
 - Implications, limitations, and future research

Selecting a Journal with a Good Fit

- Read sample articles in journals related to your topic
- Observe trends in published articles (oversaturation of some topics)
- Contact the editor to see if there is interest
- Factors to consider:
 - Impact factor, acceptance-rejection rate, etc.
 - Turn-around-time
 - Page limit
 - Types of articles (empirical, theoretical, applied, etc.)

What Happens Once You Submit the Manuscript

- Editor-in-Chief determines suitability of manuscript
- Editor-in-Chief assigns to action editor
- Action editor assigns to 3-5 reviewers for blind review
- Reviewers take between four and six weeks to review
- Action editor reviews reviewer comments and makes a recommendation to the Editor-in-Chief
 - Accept
 - Accept with revisions
 - Reject with invitation to revise and resubmit
 - Reject

Know the Players

- It may be a good idea to anticipate who might review your manuscript
 - Be familiar with the most recent scholarship on the topic related to your manuscript
 - Cite all relevant work of primary scholars in the area
 - Avoid being overly critical of any scholar's work
 - Consider using positive language to critique/review the work of others
 - Be humble

Understanding Human Behavior

- First impressions are lasting
 - Neatness counts
 - Professionalism counts
- Looking for a reason
 - Proof read (seek professional help if necessary)
 - Avoid simple mistakes (they have a cumulative effect)
 - Check your math (participants, tables, graphs, etc.)
 - APA Style (6th ed.) – aka The New Testament

Understanding Human Behavior (cont.)

- In case of a “revise and resubmit”
 - Revise and resubmit within 2-3 weeks
 - Be sure to read reviewer comments very carefully
 - Be sure to address each of the reviewers’ concerns
 - Include a detailed description of how you addressed each reviewers’ concern.
 - Don’t argue with reviewers or dismiss their feedback
 - Be humble
- In case of rejection
 - Refer to 1-3 of revise and resubmit

To Summarize

- Start with a good idea, a good plan, and a good study
- Write a good manuscript and submit it to the right journal
- Reduce reviewers' opportunities to find reasons to reject your manuscript
- Know the players
 - *"By the time a fool learns the rules, the players have dispersed"*
- Understand human behavior – read the intro to psych text you never opened
- Be persistent