Motivation and Strategies for Publishing in Academic Journals

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Why to publish?
– motivation and strategies

1) Writing to learn
2) Career building
3) Measuring scientific quality
4) It is strategical activity
1. Writing is the mother of learning
What is self-regulated learning?
(Järvelä & Hadwin, 2013; Pintrich, 2000; Winne & Hadwin, 1998)

• Active and proactive learning
• “Experimenting your learning”
• Process of learning to monitor, evaluate, and regulate (or change) your own
  • Learning and thinking
  • Motivation and emotion
  • Behaviour
• Lifelong process that can be developed and refined over time
Winne & Hadwin’s (1998) Model of SRL

- Understanding tasks
- Monitoring, Evaluating (Feedback)
- Applying strategies
- Adapting & Regulating
- Goals & Plans
Psychology of writing

• **Writing is a strategical expertise** (Scardamalia & Bereiter, 1987)

• **Writing is one of the most effective way to learn** (Lonka & Ahola, 1995)

• **Writing is researcher’s main daily activity** – everything else is activated though writing

• **Writing and reading go together**

• **Nobody ”owns the ideas”** – the ideas derive from collaborative knowledge building
Writing is a collaborative knowledge building

Distributed cognition (Salomon & Perkins 1999)
Creative collaboration (Sawyer, 2006)
Knowledge building (Bereiter, 2000)
Shared understanding (Resnick et al., 1999)

➡ Individual learning
➡ Development of expertise
2. Career building
Why to publish in international journals?

- Participate to the international scientific discussion
- Objective feedback
- Measuring ”the scientific level” of your study
- Building your own scientific career
- Create opportunities for international research collaboration
- Evidence for your CV and funding agencies
Facts:
Publishing & change in research culture

• Scientific research = international collaboration
• ICT makes things global and fast
• International research funding e.g. EU
• Empirical research designs are more complex and often in authentic contexts
• Competition in research funding – distributed expertise and collaboration is needed
3. Publishing is strategical activity

The easiest thing is that scientific articles have an agreed structure and ”rules”.
What steps to take in the process of writing and publishing – tell the lessons learned!
Show the flow!

Author

START

Submit a paper

Reviewer

Review and give recommendation

Editor

Assign reviewers

Basic requirements met?

[Yes]

Collect reviewers’ recommendations

[No]

Make a decision

[Reject]

[Accept]

Reviewer

ACCEPT

[Revision required]

Reviewer

REJECT

[Reject]

[Accept]

Reviewer

ACCEPT

REJECT

[Reject]

[Accept]
What is a strong manuscript?

• Has a clear, useful, and exciting message

• Presented and constructed in a logical manner

• Reviewers and editors can grasp the academic significance easily

Editors and reviewers are all busy academics – make things easy to save their time
How to choose a right journal?

• Study journal’s Guide for Authors:
  – Types of papers accepted
  – Specifications
  – Paper length

• Look at the editors and editorial board

• Look at the journal impacts

• Flip through the last three volumes

It is a waste of time to submit to a wrong type of journal!
Before Submitting

• Get feedback & don’t resent it!
• Proof, proof & proof
   —sloppy write-up irritates reviewers
• Follow the style instructions in details
• Use professional English language editing
SUM up – critical issues!

• TITLE – ”sell you study”

• ABSTRACT – spend much effort! (context, aim, method, results, conclusion)

• KEY WORDS – choose correct and descriptive (reviewers, search engines)

• INTRODUCTION – show the need of your research & earlier gaps in the field

• METHOD – in details (your study have to be replicated)

• RESULTS – the most important first – answers to your research questions

• CONCLUSIONS – discuss what your findings mean
Explain what is a review process?
What are Reviewers looking for?

- Authors must explain why the manuscript is of interest for the reader, and indicate the new information.
- Authors must address the question of how their research compares with previously reported methods or research.
- Figures used only to improve the quality of understanding.
- ‘All relevant references’ should be incorporated in the manuscript and be up-to-date.
- Ethically sound
How to react to the referees feedback?

Don’t give up!!!!!
There are never first round acceptances!
Rejections are part of the game. Revising is to mature the paper (& researcher)
How to interpret the reviewers feedback?

• Don’t expect praise from the editor or the reviewers
• Don’t take criticism personally – there is no perfect study!
• Read the reviews carefully; put them aside and read again
• Make a strategy and timetable what and how to revise
  – Steal time for revision- don’t leaver the MS to the desk!
  – Be realistic – can you revise or should to resubmit to other journal
  – No need to do all the reviewers wish, but must address each point
• Write a detailed point-by-point response letter
What to expect after resubmission?

• Another revision! (or rejection)
• If you are asked to revise second time, consider carefully:
  – What was the editor’s tone?
  – Are more revisions to be expected?
  – Are you able to respond to the most critical reviewers’ feedback?
  – Do you have ”potential” for the revisions.
Teach what is unethical!

- Multiple submissions
- Redundant publications
- Plagiarism
- Data fabrication and falsification
- Improper use of respondents
- Improper author contribution
In sum
Strategies and motivation

International publishing is…

1. A “tool” for learning – writing activates you thinking and collaborative knowledge building
2. A gateway to career building
3. A way of measuring and improving your scientific quality
4. Always strategic activity