Preparation and Journal Indexing & IF

Faisal Syafar

Outline

- Why do scientists publish?
- What is a good manuscript?
- How to write a good manuscript
  - Preparations before starting
  - Construction of an article
  - Some technical details that need special attention
  - Language
- Revision and response to reviewers
- Ethical Issues
- Conclusion: what leads to ACCEPTANCE

Pressure of publishing more

High submissions + Low quality

STRESS for editors and reviewers…

Editors and reviewers are the most precious resource of a journal!

- Editors and reviewers are practicing scientists, even leaders in their fields. They are not professional journal staff – they do journal work on top of their own research, writing and teaching.
- They are busy people who work for journals to contribute to science.
- Editors may receive a small payment, but reviewers are UNPAID.
- Every manuscript takes up their precious time!

Nowadays they are working even harder!

An international editor says…

"The following problems appear much too frequently"

- Submission of papers which are clearly out of scope;
- Failure to format the paper according to the Guide for Authors;
- Inappropriate (or no) suggested reviewers;
- Inadequate response to reviewers;
- Inadequate standard of English;
- Resubmission of rejected manuscripts without revision;

– Paul Haddad, Editor, *Journal of Chromatography A*

…and my own publishing advice is as follows:

- Submit to the **right** (appropriate) journal;
  - scope and prestige;
- Submit to **one** journal only;
- Do not submit “sembarang” articles;
- Pay attention to journal requirements;
- Pay attention to structure;
- Check the English;
- Pay attention to ethics standards

Why do scientists publish?

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What is ***your personal reason*** for publishing?

However, editors, reviewers, and the research community DO NOT care about these reasons.

Why do scientists publish?

- Scientists publish to share with the science COMMUNITY something that advances (i.e not repeats) knowledge and understanding in a certain field.
- *RULES OF THREE*
  - **Scope**: recent advances in relevant topics, or close to given tracks;
  - **Too preliminary**: thorough an extensive study, conclusions supported by data presented;
  - **Novelty**: must represent a novel approach;

  Failure to meet any one of these criteria leads to immediate rejection

Your paper is worthless if no one reads, uses, or cites it

A research study is meaningful only if…

- it is clearly described, so
- someone else can use it in his/her studies
- it arouses other scientists' interest and
- allows others to reproduce the results.

By submitting a manuscript you are basically trying to sell your work to your community…

A journal is the gateway to a COMMUNITY

- Journals are a core part of the process of scholarly communication, and are an integral part of scientific research itself.

- Journal Editors + Reviewers + Authors + Readers → A community of scientists

You paper is your passport
to your community

When you submit a paper, you ask a group of people to invest in you.

- Editors and reviewers invest time in considering, revising, and editing your paper;
- Researchers invest time in exploring your ideas and findings;
- Publishers invest time and resources producing, printing, and distributing your paper all over the world!
- You are not supposed to create “garbage”:
  - Reports of no scientific interest;
  - Work out of date;
  - Duplications of previously published work;
  - Incorrect/unacceptable conclusions;
  - “Salami” papers: datasets too small to be meaningful

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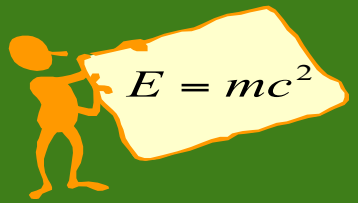
Makes readers (especially reviewers and editors)

grasp the *scientific significance* as EASILY as possible.

- **Content** is essential
  - Contains a scientific message that is clear, useful, and exciting
- **Presentation** is critical
  - **Conveys the authors' thoughts** in a logical manner such that the reader arrives at the same conclusions as the author;
  - **Constructed in the format** that best showcases the authors' material, and written in a style that transmits the message clearly



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How to write a good manuscript

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1. Think about WHY you want to publish your work

Check the originality of the idea at the very beginning of your research.

- Have you REALLY done something **new** and **interesting**?
- Is there anything **challenging** in your work?
- Is the work directly related to a **current hot topic**?
- Have you provided **solutions** to any difficult problems?

If all answers are “yes”, then start preparing your manuscript

It is necessary to TRACK the latest results regularly in your field. Something relevant may have been published in the many months your experiment took. You can easily do this by online searching.

Scopus: 356 | Web (15,108) | Patents (81) | SelectedSources (17) | Search your library

Your query: (TITLE-ABS-KEY(mcmc) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(parameter estimation))

Save as Alert | RSS

Refine Results

Source Title	Author Name	Year	Document Type
ICASSP IEEE International Conference on Acoustics Speech and Signal Processing Proceedings (24)	Doucet, A. (13)	2007 (33)	Article (342)
Computational Statistics and Data Analysis (16)	Andrieu, C. (10)	2006 (71)	Review (14)
Statistics in Medicine (9)	Godsill, S.J. (9)	2005 (59)	
More...	More...	More...	

Results: 356

Search within results

"Save as Alert": Remind yourself about the new findings.

1. A two-state regime switching autoregressive model with an application to river flow analysis — Vasas, K., Elek, P., Márkus, L. — 2007 — Journal of Sta Planning and 137 (10), pp.

Abstract + Refs | View at Publisher | Full Text | Show Abstract

Article Title, Abstract, Keywords, Authors
Chemical Name
CAS Number

Subject Areas

Life Sciences (> 3,400 titles)

2. Decide on the type of your manuscript

- Full articles / Original articles
  - the most important papers; often substantial completed pieces of research that are of significance.
- Letters / Rapid Communications / Short Communications/RIP
  - usually published for the quick and early communication of significant and original advances; much shorter than full articles (usually strictly limited).
- Review papers / Perspectives
  - summarize recent developments on a specific topic; highlight important points that have been previously reported and introduce no new information; often submitted on invitation.

2. Decide on the type of your manuscript…..(contd.)

- Self-evaluate your work:
  - Is it sufficient for a full article?
  - Are your results so **thrilling** that they need to be shown as soon as possible?
- Ask your supervisor and colleagues for advice on the manuscript type.

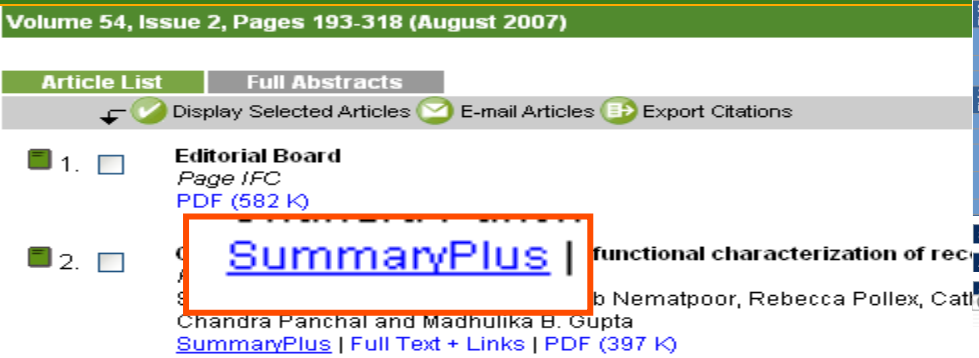
  Sometimes outsiders see things more clearly than you.

3. Identify the potential audience for your paper

- Identify the sector of readership/community for which a paper is meant;
- Identify the interest of your audience;
  - “Privatization of Vocational and Training” in *Education Industry?*
- Is your paper of local or international interest?
  - “A bioequivalence study of malaria tablets marketed in tropical country”

4. Choose the right journal

- Investigate all candidate journals to find out
  - Aims and scope
  - Accepted types of articles
  - Readership
  - Current hot topics
    - go through the abstracts (of recent publications)



4. Choose the right journal.....(contd.)

- You must get help from your supervisor or colleagues

  The supervisor (who is sometimes the corresponding author) has at least co-responsibility for your work. You are encouraged to chase your supervisor if necessary.

- Articles in your references will likely lead you to the right journal.

- DO NOT gamble by scattering your manuscript to many journals. Only submit once! International ethics standards prohibit multiple/ simultaneous submissions, and editors DO find out ! (Trust us, we DO !)

5. One more thing before typing:

Read the '**Guide for Authors**' of the target journal! Again and again!

Apply the Guide for Authors to your manuscript, even to the first draft (text layout, paper citation, nomenclature, figures and table, etc.). It will save your time, and the editor's.

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The general structure of a full article

Make them easy for indexing and searching!
(informative, attractive, effective)

Journal space is precious. Make your article as brief as possible. If clarity can be achieved in *n* words, never use *n+1*.

Writing order

- The progression of the thematic scope of a paper within these sections typically follows a general pattern: general → particular → general
- Each section has a definite purpose.
- I often write in the following order:
  - Figures and tables
  - Methods, Results and Discussion
  - Conclusions and Introduction
  - Abstract and title
  - For example, if the discussion is insufficient, how can you objectively demonstrate the scientific significance of your work in the introduction?

Journal Impact Factors do not reflect the "impact" of an individual author's research articles

- Relative contributions of author and co-authors
- Well-cited articles in low-IF journals, and poorly-cited articles in high-IF journals
  - Also *Nature* (IF_{2006}= 26.681) has 15-20% zero-cited articles
- Reviews journals
- Review articles inflate a journal's Impact Factor
- "Non-source items"
- Editorial policies of journals

Thank You

Discussion

https://faisalsyafar.wixsite.com/myweb