PUBLISHING 101: NAVIGATING THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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SESSION OVERVIEW

- Culture of Academic Publishing
- Publishing Best Practices
- Navigating the Publishing Process
Why do you want to publish your research?
It is a VERY different process from other areas of publishing.

There is no direct payment; the focus is on the prestige of the journal.

No multiple submissions!!

Process is different for scholarly monographs (books); this presentation will focus on journal articles.
SELECTING A JOURNAL

- Understand the journal’s audience: is this a good fit for your article?

- READ the journal!!

- Always read the instructions to the author:
  - Formatting requirements and length
  - Content expectations (editorial scope)
  - Submission instructions
What is an open access journal?

Considerations when selecting an open access journal.

How can I learn more about open access options?
Open Access

What is Open Access?

When you make your work Open Access, you grant the public the right to:

- Download, print, and read your work
- Copy and distribute it
- Search within or link to the full text of it
- Crawl it for indexing

Open Access means free online access to research and data for the public, as opposed to traditional fee-based access. It makes research articles, data, presentations, and other types of research freely available through Open Access journals, university-based repositories, discipline-based repositories, and other open sources. This is work created through labor from researchers, peer-reviewers, and editors, and it is made possible by the generosity of universities and frequently government- or non-profit-based grant funding.

SELECTING A JOURNAL: RESOURCES

- Professors/Advisors
- Scopus (CiteScore metric)
- Literature in your field (highly cited or impactful journals)
- Your literature review
AVOIDING PREDATORY JOURNALS

- Characteristics of a Predatory Publisher:
  - The primary goal is to make money.
  - The focus is on the fee collected; little review of the work is provided.
  - Often makes false or misleading claims about access, indexing, and their reputation.
  - Often fails to follow accepted best practices in academic publishing.

- Publishing in a predatory journal will NOT enhance your research reputation!
COMMON COMPLAINTS FROM EDITORS

- Didn’t read the journal before submitting an article.
- Failed to follow submission requirements.
- Didn’t proofread material prior to submission.
- Failed to conduct a thorough literature review.
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- Step 1: Write the article.
  - Revise, revise, revise!
  - Articles written for a class MUST be revised before sending them to a journal.
- Step 2: Submit the article according to the journal’s instructions.
Step 3: Wait

While you’re waiting:
- Editor (or Associate Editor) assigns your article to (1-3) reviewers
- Reviewers evaluate the article and provide feedback to the editor
Step 4: Response from the journal:

- Acceptance (yeah!!)
- Acceptance pending revisions (yeah!)
- Revise and resubmit (ok....)
- Rejection 😞
Step 5a: Revise and Resubmit

- Address ALL comments by reviewers
- Respond as quickly as possible
- Produce a “clean” copy with revisions
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- **Step 5b: Rejection**
  - ALL scholars/writers are rejected at some point in their career
  - Never try to argue with an editor
  - Revise the article and send it to another journal
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- Step 6: Acceptance
  - If revisions are needed, do them quickly
  - Process page proofs, if appropriate
  - Sign author’s permission form
Step 6: Acceptance – copyright

- You own the copyright to your work UNTIL you transfer that right
- Common contract terms and conditions
  - Preprints, post-prints, published works
- For more information, attend the “Before You Sign” workshop!
Step 7: Update your CV and celebrate!

Always keep a copy of the published article for your records.
USEFUL RESOURCES


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Your feedback on this session is greatly appreciated!