

Successful Writing for Academic Journals

Rev. Dr Sahaya G. Selvam
www.sahayaselvam.org

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Why do I publish?

1. For the glory of God;
2. To project an image of church and priesthood;
3. To enhance human life – proposing alternatives!
4. To achieve this I need to create opportunities > to create opportunities I need to create a profile, establish network...

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Publication Process

Submission of Manuscript

(Most journals: Via email or online submission)

(Blind) Review & Feedback

(Through the editor or online)

Correction & Resubmission

Signing of Contract & Correction of Proofs

Publication

(Author receives pdf version/print version)

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What is academic publication & What is not?

- See my publications list;
- Basic insights: not all publications have equal value; not all publishers have equal value.

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What works in getting articles accepted

- A creative contribution > proposing something new, even if it builds on existing literature.
- Being clear about the nature of your work: conceptual, empirical, review?
- Being meticulous about the preparation of manuscript.
- Choosing the right journal > rejection by one journal may not imply low quality of article.

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Basic Rules for submission

- Submit complete manuscript, and not a draft.
- Meticulous format: heading levels, paragraph formatting, referencing; follow rules of the journal.
- Not to submit to two places at the same time.
- Not to copy from another source – too many verbatim quotes; tables & figures. There is a limit to acknowledgement. You might have to pay royalty for copying long texts and tables. Author takes responsibility not your publisher!

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How to choose a journal?

Criteria for selection:

- Match the domain of human knowledge to which your article contributes and the objectives of the journal.
- Judge the ranking of the journal (Impact factor and H-index)
 - The **impact factor** (IF) of an academic journal is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to recent articles published in the journal.
 - The **h-index** is an index that attempts to measure both the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar. The index is based on the set of the scientist's most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other publications.

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How to choose a journal?

Ways to go about:

Possibility 1: What journals have published the articles that you referred to in your paper?

Possibility 2: Consult a colleague

Possibility 3: Just google

Possibility 4: Use scholar.google.com

http://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=top_venues&hl=en

Possibility 5: Use other scientific journal listings

<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=29719&tip=sid&clean=0>

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Coping with rejection

Pay attention to the feedback...

- Are they making comments about your article or about their journal?
- Are they making comments about the content or the format?
- Have they rejected the article completely or are they expecting corrections (substantial, minor, no correction)?
- Or have they accepted your article but put you on waiting list?

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Contracts with publishers

Terms of contracts vary, but common elements:

- You pay, or no pay...
- You are not allowed to freely distribute;
- You may freely circulate the previous version (post online);
- You are allowed to include in your own book compendium – with or without permission, but usually with acknowledgement.

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Finally...

Tracking Internet hits

Scholar.google.com
Academia.edu
Researchgate.net

Response to criticism

Be happy > someone has read your work!
No need for emotionalism!

Collaborative Work (Multiple authors)

All get equal merit!

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