



Ten Tips for Publishing in Scholarly Journals

Mohammed Helmy Faris Shalayer^{1*} and Saeed Ali Alsareii¹

¹College of Medicine, Najran University, Saudi Arabia.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Publishing in scholarly journals is not an easy task. It needs patience and a huge effort in order to find your manuscript published in scholarly journals. From our point of view, this mini-review explains the most significant tips that may facilitate this difficult task. Although many researchers fail to find their studies published in impacted journals, others recorded considerable success in this process. This failure may be due to many factors belong to the lab's team, weakness of the research, inability to express their work, defect in the selection of the proper journal, inability to convince the journal's editors and reviewers, and or the negative response to reviewer's comments.

Keywords: Scholarly journal; publish; manuscript; editors; rejection.

1. INTRODUCTION

Academicians and scholars struggle to publish their articles in highly ranked journals to append

some advances in scientific fields. Conducting and reporting on meaningful research is not an easy process. It requires a great effort from all the contributors to be published eventually in

*Corresponding author: E-mail: drmhfs@hotmail.com;

highly reputed journals. This is the dream of scholars and academicians. Publications are the links that help us communicate with the external world, hence accuracy, validity, and reproducibility are crucial elements for the progress of all sciences [1,2].

2. IMPORTANT TIPS

From our point of view, here are ten tips to be considered (Table 1).

2.1 Avoid Publishing in the Scam, Pseudo Journals. You Could Damage Your reputation in the Future

Although some people suggest only the most respected and ranked journals, others believe that the quality of paper overrides the quality of the journal and a sound paper will be recognised regardless in which journal it is published. Both beliefs are considerable but you cannot guarantee the peer review process in low-level journals [3,4]. Nevertheless, data from several evidences pointed out that the quality of scientific methodology carried out by researchers does not increase with increasing rank of the journal [5].

2.2 Your Wish is Your Motivator

To be a part of your community, you have to share your research findings to be more than a drop in the mighty ocean of knowledge. It is not infrequent to conceal only the negative peculiarities attributed to the scientific publication process and justify the inability to publish articles by nonsense reasons. Just ask yourself why you can not publish and others can do [2]. The art of writing can be not only a form of enjoyable ingenuity but also an attractive issue in its own right [6].

2.3 Choose a Good Lab and Strong Colleagues, Including at Least One Who Has Impressive Publications

A better way for you to master writing first-class papers is by getting as much practice as possible. The team's publication record is an important factor in choosing a lab for your project [7]. Nevertheless, don't choose names rather than active persons and only those who have significantly contributed to the research should be on the authorship list [8,9]. Think deeply about the whole project and methodology as well as facilities available for your research. Don't forget

the strong message you want to deliver to readers to be as clear as possible [10].

2.4 Novelty in Relevant Fields is Highly Appreciated Compared to Usual Data in the Fields of Interest

A new vehicle can deliver you much faster than an old one. If you have a novel result, you will be published in a scholarly journal [11]. It is not mandatory to work in your field of interest if other relevant fields may offer promising results. While excellent content is needed for high impact, appropriate structure is also required [12]. Remember the so-called "red thread" which is, in its simplest mean, 'what's new and compelling'? This is the straight line that the reader pursues from the introduction until the end of the conclusion [13].

2.5 Care about Your Figures and Tables

Remembering that old Chinese adage that a picture is worth a thousand words, illustrations (including figures and tables), are the most efficient way to present your results. Figures should be self-explanatory and tables should add data that are not expressed in the text [7,14].

Figures and tables are often the easiest way to link large amounts of congregated information [15]. Tables are used when there is a need to show many and precise numerical values, to compare data values or characteristics, or reveal the presence or absence of specific characteristics. Whereas, figures are used to show relationships and patterns among data sets when the general pattern is much more important than data values, to summarise study results, or to present a visual explanation of a sequence of events [16].

2.6 Finalise Your Research Story When You Get Enough Data with a High-Quality Paper

Three questions should be addressed here. The first: Does your manuscript contain adequate novel material. The second: Does it concisely present material in a well-organised manner. The third: will the editors and readers come to the same conclusions you have with regard to your results? Revise and proof the paper so that it is wholly free of data errors. This is crucial [7]. The initiating words of a letter give some impression about its content. Consequently, try to make a

good first impression with your title and abstract [17]. Writing in a way that is accessible to non-specialists, can open the door for your article to be cited by researchers in other fields [10]. This concept is advocated by Doubleday and Connell (2017) who recommended accessible prose to

boost the influence of publications so as to easily read, understood, and remembered [18]. Don't forget the fact that attractive title and abstract could make the reader not only to read them but to complete the whole article as well [19] (Fig. 1).

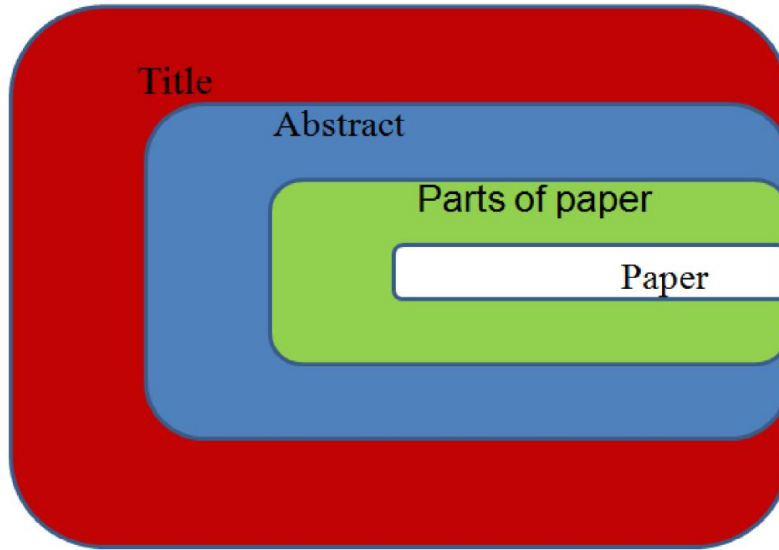


Fig. 1. Relative visibility of paper's parts by readers

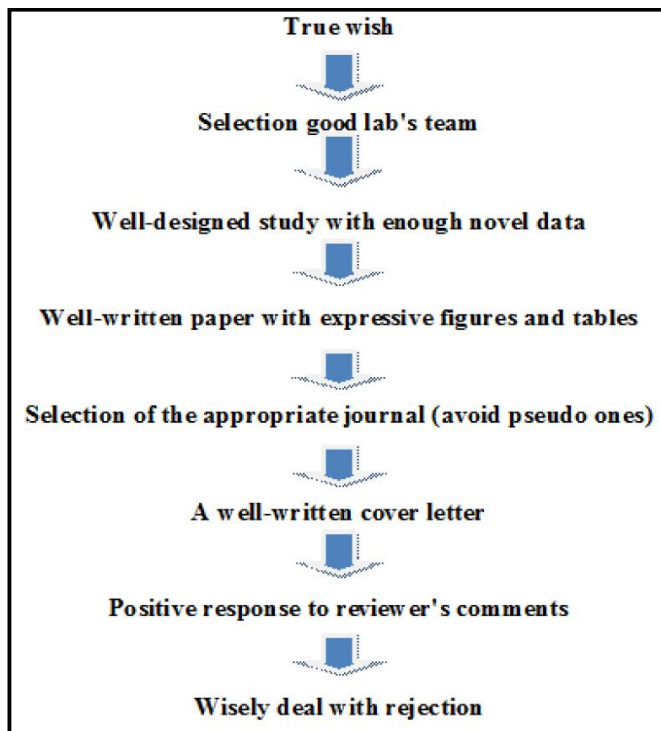


Fig. 2. A flow chart for the important tips required to get published in scholarly journals

Table 1. Ten tips for publishing in scholarly journals

The important tips
1. Do not damage your reputation by publishing in the scam, pseudo journals.
2. Your wish is your motivator.
3. Choose a good lab and strong colleagues, including at least one who has impressive publications.
4. Novelty in relevant fields is highly appreciated compared to usual data in the fields of interest.
5. Care about your figures and tables.
6. Finalise your research story when you get enough data with a high-quality paper.
7. Select the appropriate journal for your paper.
8. Submit a well-written cover letter with the manuscript.
9. Your constructive and positive response to reviewer's comments is the cornerstone for acceptance.
10. Wisely deal with rejection.

2.7 Select the Appropriate Journal for Your Paper

To save time and effort, your paper should be submitted to the journal. The so-called highly indexed journals consider novelty and unforeseen findings, but other good journals may concern papers with delicate and protracted analyses. When you define the targeted journal, read thoroughly the aims and scope of the journal as well as the author guidelines [17]. It does not make sense to submit your manuscript to more than one journal at the same time. Policies and ethics of all scientific journals predetermine that authors should submit a manuscript to only one journal at a time. Desk rejection should be avoided as much as possible. Papers are desk rejected for three main reasons. The first is simply that the paper does not fit with the journal's scope. The second is that the paper appears to have some deficiencies in delivering its worthy message to the reviewing desk. This may be due to rustiness in the research or in its presentation. The final reason is plagiarism [7,20]. When you cite, just try to express with your own words.

2.8 Submit a Cover Letter with the Manuscript

It is worthy to help the revision process to flow smoothly by submitting a cover letter that clearly encompasses a compendious narration of the whole dialectics of the paper that points its context and importance [7]. All of the related data that are not included in the paper should be accessible to the reviewers, either as appendices or available database to be given upon request. A well-written cover letter should focus on three issues. Firstly abridges the main theme of the

manuscript; secondly, debates the novelty of your work; and thirdly, justifies the relevance of your paper to the targeted journal [17]. In addition, all authors are requested to disclose any potential conflicts of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other organisations or people.

2.9 Your Constructive and Positive Response to Reviewer's Comments is the Cornerstone for Acceptance

You would do all your best to comply with editor and reviewers' requests even if you believed that some of which are misjudged or based on erroneous reasoning [7,17]. Although full compliance is highly recommended, authors can agree or disagree with the comments of the reviewers. In either case, they should give a justification for their response in a well-prepared rebuttal [17]. Take in account that the reviewing process can significantly ameliorate the quality of your manuscript by giving you the opportunity to take into consideration many advices raised by experts in your scientific field. Although the revision process may have some negative emotional impacts on authors, try to be respectful of all reviewers even if you are persuaded that the reviewers lacked the intellectual capacity in their judgment [21].

2.10 Wisely Deal with Rejection

Rejection is a usual portion of the publishing process and nearly all authors and writers have been rejected at one station or another [22]. A rejection is horribly disappointing. It is plausible to let a few days pass before considering your next step. Never fire off a regressive letter to the editor criticising their judgment on your paper.

This may affect your future submission to that journal. It is better to quickly reassess your journal choice, re-read the paper with a close sight to rule whether the points of criticisms were statutory and how to address them, fix and amend any weaknesses or defects that may have been pointed out by the reviewers, prepare the paper with the format of your second-choice journal, and submit it again [7,23]. The whole tips are summarised in Fig. 2.

3. CONCLUSION

Writing a robust manuscript is not an easy assignment especially if it is prepared to be submitted to the highly-ranked journals. It requires a good lab and strong coworkers that have the capability to perform not only novel studies but finalise their work with high-quality papers as well. In addition, expertise in the selection of the appropriate scholarly journals and wisely deal with their decisions are the cornerstone of paper acceptance.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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