

# **PUBLISH WHILE STUDYING: WHY, WHEN AND HOW?**

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# Why do you want to publish?

- Your motivations for publication is the most important matter to determine your success! Why do you need publication? Where will you use the publication? Who is your target audience? Who will be benefited from the publication?
  - To fulfil the requirement of degree or scholarship
  - To get a better job in future
  - To fulfil the KPI or promotion criteria
  - To let other know about your invention/ ideas/ knowledge
  - To promote yourselves and become a renowned scholar
  - To fulfill self-actualization

# When should start thinking for publication?

- Prepare yourself and develop CV for the job market from the very beginning of starting your study
- Find out the requirements & quality for academic job, consultancy, corporate job, international organization job, etc.
- Focus on gaining some useful & related knowledge and skills that will help you to get priority than others in job application - learn basic office software, communication tools and methods, learn good communicational English
- Try to get some industry experience and memberships of related associations and try to work as Research Assistant, even if it is without pay; but make sure you will get an experience certificate
- Ensure a good number of publications ready just after your viva for applying in job market, which might not relate to thesis, because publication from thesis will take time;
  - To get this publication, you may work with your supervisor or other lecturers or students on different topics/ projects outside of your thesis

# Appropriate area/topic for research career

- Future job market demand
- Availability of scholarship/ project/ fund/ grants
- Easy, availability of expertise, and within capacity
- Select multidisciplinary, innovative, narrow focus, publishable topic
- Relate to the applied side rather than focusing on the mainstream discipline
- Relate your past study or interested area
- Select few alternative topics
- Determine the future value of the topic
- **Subscribe top 10 journals and regularly see the theme of their special issues to know the future direction of research**

# Discipline Vs. Publication: Not Level Playing Field

- Discipline is a big matter for good publications.
- Normally science, medical, engineering has very high impact factor journals and many journals.
- Social science, business, economics has very few journals and also very low impact factor journals.
- Some discipline has no indexed journals at all.
- Better to work on multidisciplinary to link with science and social science to get a chance in high impact factor science journals.
- But don't publish completely outside of your discipline !
- Knowledge & publication are different matters.
- Knowledge is long run and publication is short run issue.
- Good contribution in knowledge will give long run benefits and bring real prestige.

# Know the Direction of Future Publication World

- See Elsevier Report on [“What will the world of research look like 10 years from now?”](#)
  - China is coming in the leading role for funding, university ranking, research; and already able to attract top researchers and make a big syndicate among the top journals !
  - Research and academia is going to more technology oriented. Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, online teaching, etc. will be leading and way to disseminate service
  - Publications are more open source oriented, but Funder are more from private sources.
  - So, make future focus by linking/working/collaborating with China, technology-oriented work, and link with industry and try to publish in open sources.

# How to Select an Appropriate Journal?

- Many factors are involved in the decision
  - Impact of the journal vs probability of acceptance
  - Number of Years in Publication (number of volume)
  - Publisher (size, familiarity, prestige, continuity)
  - Publication lag (forthcoming article queue)
  - Number of articles published per year/ volume/ issue
  - Frequency of publication (number of issues)
  - Desired audience (academic, practitioner, policy)
  - Circulation Count (subscribers, number of sales)
  - Availability of electronic or print formats
  - Open access & copyright
  - The Language(s) of the Journal
  - Publication or processing Fees or charge
  - Quality of reproduction of figures

# Journal Quality, Indexing & Ranking

- Journal's quality can be measured in many ways like publisher, editorial board, h-index, citation or impact factor, number of download, Eigen factor, indexing/ranking, etc.
- High impact factor journals are the ones which have high frequency of citations
- It is a superficial, but internationally accepted, measure of quality of journals
- Frequency Example :
  - [Journal of Cleaner Production](#) (annually publish 3900+ articles, 30 issue, 100-130 articles in per issue, 300+ in press)
  - [Environmental Science and Pollution Research](#) (annually publish 3600+ articles, 36 issue, 100+ articles in per issue, 1000+ in press)
  - [American Economic Review](#) (annually publish 120 articles, 12 issue, 10 articles in per issue, 40+ in press)



# Journal Quality, Indexing & Ranking **Cont...**

- A good high impact journal may publish a paper which have low to zero citations- 23% articles of Nature are never cited !
- No/ low impact factor or even not listed in index -- does not mean low quality. Don't blindly judge according to the process of academic business syndicates
- **Understand the objective / purpose of knowledge**
  - **Challenge** is not index or even not Peer- reviewed journal
  - Current Editorial board includes Nobel Laureate economists -- Kenneth J. Arrow, Paul R. Krugman, Robert M. Solow, Joseph E. Stiglitz
- **What does your boss/supervisor want or what do you want?** -- Setup journal list based on specific target or diversify based on different index?
- My articles in different index: ERA/ ABDC (75: A-5, B-14, C-56), SCOPUS (74), WoS (51), ABS (20: 3\*-1, 2\*-3, 1\*-16)

# Predatory Journals Must Be Avoided

- “Journals” that obtain publication fees but are not valid peer-reviewed scholarly publications
- Some clues that a journal might be predatory (especially if several such items are present):
  - Unrealistically broad scopes
  - Unrealistically short stated turnaround times
  - Flashy but poorly crafted, ungrammatical websites
  - Fake metrics
  - Incomplete contact information, such as no specific editor
  - Inclusion in [Beall’s List](#) (questionable), [List of Predatory Journals](#), Black listed by [Malaysia Ministry of Education \(MOE\)](#)

# Predatory Journals Must Be Avoided Cont...

## Scientometrics

**Table 4** % of predatory journal articles in total articles by field of research, top 20 countries 2015–2017. Source: Scopus (2018a), author's calculations

Health sciences		Life sciences		Physical sciences		Social sciences	
China	11.72	Kazakhstan	28.10	Indonesia	22.31	Albania	37.04
Libya	6.20	Iraq	16.55	Malaysia	11.77	Malaysia	29.15
Taiwan	4.87	Syria	14.29	Philippines	10.90	Yemen	28.89
Egypt	4.84	India	13.59	Iraq	10.66	Indonesia	27.21
South Korea	4.73	Algeria	10.99	Jordan	9.19	Tajikistan	25.64
Algeria	4.58	Egypt	10.94	India	8.65	Ukraine	22.63
Luxembourg	4.57	Togo	10.37	Yemen	8.36	Kazakhstan	21.78
Suriname	4.55	Palestine	10.09	Sudan	8.05	Russia	17.54
Saudi Arabia	4.54	Libya	9.39	Morocco	7.86	Brunei	12.60
Nigeria	4.48	Indonesia	9.11	Oman	7.70	Oman	12.39
Iraq	4.36	Nigeria	9.10	South Korea	7.54	Iraq	12.24
Palestine	4.13	Oman	8.77	Kazakhstan	7.17	Azerbaijan	12.15
Indonesia	4.05	Morocco	8.42	Bahrain	6.70	Iran	11.32
Sudan	4.01	Sudan	7.91	Liberia	6.45	Syria	10.11
Iran	3.83	Iran	6.93	Palestine	6.31	Thailand	9.94
Malaysia	3.79	Russia	6.61	Nigeria	6.31	Nigeria	9.28
Chile	3.76	Yemen	6.49	Brunei	5.96	Slovakia	9.27
Italy	3.63	Macedonia	6.19	Egypt	4.99	Bahrain	9.04
United Arab Emirates	3.62	Niger	6.02	Saudi Arabia	4.85	Jordan	8.13
Oman	3.56	Mauritania	6.00	Libya	4.62	Kyrgyzstan	8.06
All countries	1.98	All countries	3.39	All countries	1.96	All countries	3.99

Reference: Macháček, V., Srholec, M. Predatory publishing in Scopus: evidence on cross-country differences. *Scientometrics* (2021 – 7 Feb).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-020-03852-4>

# Careful about Fake and Hijacked Journals

- Careful about fake journals
- Careful about [hijacked journals](#)
  - Cyber crime as developing a website for an original journal and uses every information same and publish article with fees but their article does not show in Web of Science & SCOPUS

Example: [Sylwan](#) , [The Veliger](#) , [Wulfenia](#) , [Journal of Natural Products](#)

- <https://predatoryjournals.com/hijacked/>

# Find out a List of Good Journals

- First see the reference list of your manuscript
- Search journal title in [science direct](#) or [Elsevier Journal Finder](#) , or [SCOPUS](#) by **using key words**
- Download the journal list (excel/ pdf file) which are indexed/enlisted in [ISI Journal Citation Reports](#) , [SCOPUS](#), [ABDC](#), [ERA](#), [ABS](#), [IDEAS/RePEc](#), etc.
- Download the list from searching google, university library or directly from the website
- Download the updated SCOPUS list/delist:
  - Open - <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/how-scopus-works/content> >
  - Go bottom of the page - **Looking for something else?**
  - Click – “[Download the Source title list](#)”

# Manuscript Revision before Submission

- By submitting a manuscript, you are basically trying to sell your work to your target audiences/ community
- No one get it right at the first time! So, write, write & re-write.
- After writing a first version, take several days of rest. Refresh your brain with different things. Come back with critical eyes.
- Don't write anything that you don't understand or cannot explain; if you cannot, your audience also cannot understand
- Ask your colleagues and supervisor to review your manuscript first. Ask them to be highly critical and be open to their suggestions.
- Take every attempt to make the manuscript as good as possible
- Preparation is important but do not spend too much time on your preparations
- Check similarity report and unique referencing style
- Check the English carefully before submit

# Extract Maximum Number of Articles from Thesis

- Assess your full thesis for maximum number of tentative articles
- Segregate the unique ideas into different draft articles
- Find major and minor ideas & avoid repetition
- Find the way to aggregate or segregate ideas
- Improve and prepare article one by one
- Try to fulfill the thesis submission criteria at your earliest
- Don't publish everything at a time and don't rush for publishing from thesis
- After achieving the degree next two years (until start any new project/ work) you need to continue publications from your thesis

# Review Journal Info before Submission

- Know the audience and the journal by reading the ‘Scope’ of the journal
- Read carefully the “Instructions for authors”
- Pay attention to journal requirements (fees, number of author)
- Review back issues of journals to assess the scope of the journal and author affiliations
- Check submission style of publisher, Editor(s) & Editorial board members
- Tentative networking, collaboration, pre-submission consent before submission !
- Make a list of choice for tentative journals
- Do not submit to more than one journal at the same time
- Be honest with data, result, authorship, funding, & other declarations !



# Journal Submission Process

- Understand the differences (formatting, structure, word limit, figure & table limit, etc) among journal articles (full length research, short research article, review article, communication, opinion, letter, data/ method/ process article, etc), conference article, book or book chapter, working paper, policy brief, newspaper article, thesis, project proposal, blog, and tweet/ status !
- Read Tutorials from [SCOPUS](#), [ELSEVIER](#), [SPRINGER](#), etc.
- Follow submission guidelines carefully - Authors name, affiliation, email, **Corresponding author**, Key words, link authors' profiles from ORCID, Researcher ID, Kudos, etc.
- **Letter to the editor** (small/large, minimum confirmation)
- **Suggest reviewers** (official email, international diversity, inform)
- Journals have different format styles - citations & references
- Upload correct version of file, ALL author's name and affiliations
- Know the reasons for returning the manuscript: [link](#)

# Who Is Handling Manuscripts in Journal?

- Many journals use initial screening (e.g. format, style, English, references, etc.) system checked by solarized staffs of journal/publisher.
- The Editor and Reviewers are not the salaried staffs of the journal/ publisher
- They work to serve the scientific community. Some cases Editors get some honorarium but mostly the reviewers work as volunteer.
- So, understanding their motives will help authors to approach them properly.
- Editor and reviewers are same as like as other authors. They have their own job, supervision, project, articles, KPI, family, etc. This is their volunteer job. So, in every communication, editor and reviewers deserve the full respect from authors.

# Understand the Motivation of Editor

- Many journals use a system of initial screening (e.g. format, style, English, references, etc.) by journal staffs.
- When manuscript goes to managing Editors, S/he may reject without sending it for review (desk rejection)
- The peer-review system is grossly overloaded and editors wish to use reviewers only for those papers with a good probability of acceptance.
- Some Top journals also has publication capacity constraint. Suppose they publish (10article x 4 issue) in a year. So, editor may consider to send only double number in review.
- It is a disservice to ask reviewers to spend time on work that has clear and evident deficiencies.
- In Top journals, Editor looks the benefit of his journal. The big motivation is the probability of citation of the article to increase impact factors of journal
- Also cite some article of that journal & editor !

# Journal Reviewing Process

- Most articles usually reviewed by 2 to 4 external reviewers
  - These are experts (!) in your field who read the article and give their opinions
- They comment on scientific merit, suitability to the journal for which you are applying, and readability
- They are not likely to correct grammar or poor organization; however, negatives in these areas will probably lead to a negative assessment of the scientific merit
- By writing the best literary article, you maximize the chances that the reviewers will be favourable
- The bulk of the decision will then land where it should: on the scientific merit of your contribution
- The best-written article that presents poor science is still not publishable

# Understand the Reading Style of Reviewer

- Your reviewers are time-passed academics, not vacationers on a beach
- Most are going to read thing as quickly as possible to get the gist
- A few are going to read things carefully and critically (except paid & top-class journals)
- Your reviewers may be reading long pieces in short bursts (e.g., the reviewers read a section or two at one time, with long interruptions)
- Your reader may be frequently interrupted (e. g. a surprising number of things get read on airplanes and your reader may be disrupted by crying babies or flight attendants selling duty free goods)

# Understand the Reading Style of Reviewers **Cont...**

- Logically think how busy people read something
- Your reviewers should be able to get the basics of your article by:
  - Reading the abstract
  - Skimming the into/ objective/ motivation
  - Reading the into-methods transition
  - Looking at the figures and major output table
  - Skimming the discussion
  - Search the key words - theoretical & practical contribution, limitation of study, future scope
  - Count the number of latest references & check the journal name
  - Some repetition is good (but do not overdue it)

## Reviewers' Comments Adjustment **Cont...**

- Consider reviewing as a procedure in which several peers discuss your work. Learn from their comments, and join the discussion.
- Nearly every manuscript requires revision.
- Bear in mind that editors and reviewers mean to help you improve your article – Do not take offense.
- Minor revision does **NOT** guarantee acceptance after revision.
  - Do not count on acceptance, but address all comments carefully
- Revise the whole manuscript – not just the parts the reviewers point out
- Send query email if already over the given time or if it will take more time to adjust the given comments. Find the editor's personal email and give CC !

## Reviewers' Comments Adjustment **Cont...**

- A second review of the revised manuscript is common. Cherish the chance of discussing your work directly with other scientists in your community. Please prepare a detailed letter of response.
- Cut and paste each comment by the reviewer. Answer it directly below. Do not miss any point or hide or change comments.
- State specifically what changes (if any) you have made to the manuscript. Give page and line number, show the track change open, or color the content.
- Provide a scientific response to the comment you accept; or a convincing, solid and polite rebuttal to the point you think the reviewer is wrong.
- Write the response in a way that it will read by the reviewer.



# Planning after Receiving a Rejection Letter

- Try to understand the reasons of rejection; reevaluate & revise.
- Never treat publication as a lottery by resubmitting a rejected manuscript directly to another journal without any significant revision!!! It won't save any of your time and energy...
- The original reviewers (even editors) may eventually find it, which can lead to animosity towards the author.
- A suggested strategy (*If rejected from top journal*)
  - In your cover letter, declare that the paper was rejected and name the journal (only for top journal)
  - Include the referees' reports and a detailed letter of response, showing how each comment has been addressed.
  - Explain why you are resubmitting the paper to this journal, e.g., this journal is a more appropriate journal; the manuscript has been improved as a result of its previous review; etc.

# Issues After Acceptance of the article

- Fund/ project acknowledgement
- Fees/ change payment
- Copyright transfer
- Author Add/ Drop repositioning & conflict of interest
- Sharing with others & upload in Self-Repository sites
- Preparing short video or podcast
- Focus on increasing citation and uploading in repository websites

# Ethics, Reality and Gray Area

- Is there any syndicate in the publication process?
- Is there any discrimination among discipline/ topics?
- Does network/ relationship help?
- Are boss, funding, project matters?
- Are corresponding author, corresponding organization matter?
- Student/supervisor author position, project member author, ghost author has any role in publication?
- Do fees & waivers related to submission/ processing/ publication/ proof editing/ administrative/ open access/ conference linked journal/ special issues have any role in publication?

# Thank You

