Publishing Your First Article

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Director of Publishing

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Today’s Program

1. Why should you consider publishing as a graduate student?
2. Selecting an existing text for publication.
3. Targeting the right journal.
4. Preparing your manuscript.
5. Submitting your manuscript.
6. Responding to decisions.
1. Why should you consider publishing as a graduate student?
An editor at *Science*, writes:

“A string of impressive publications can propel a young scientist to the next academic stage, whereas an insufficient publication record can derail a career. Publications are the main way scientists publicize their work, and ultimately it is by their papers that they will be judged.”

(Kelner, 2007)
In a study based on 25,000 scientists’ records in PubMed, researchers concluded:

“Whether or not a scientist becomes a PI [principal investigator] is largely predictable by their publication record, even taking into account only the first few years of publication.”

(van Dijk, Manor, & Carey, 2014)
• A strong early publication record will help you on the job market.
• Publication is a tricky endeavor – it is best to get experience while working with your mentor.
• Scholarly publishing is a conversation; you will never be part of the conversation if you don’t publish.

MYTH: Graduate students are not ready to publish.
2. Selecting an Existing Text for Publication

Your goal: Revise an existing project to make it suitable in size and scope for publication.
What types of existing work can be prepared for publication?

In general, preparing an existing manuscript for publication takes a lot of time and work.

1) Dissertation chapter/article
2) Master’s thesis
3) Research paper
4) Completely new work
3. Targeting the Right Journal

Your goal: Get your article published in the most desirable journal in a timeframe that meets your needs.
The Peer-Review Process

- We recommend submitting your work **only** to **peer-reviewed journals**.
- Peer-reviewed journals send manuscripts to 2-4 anonymous experts for their decisions and comments.

Sarahmirk, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:In_Peer_Review_We_Trust.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:In_Peer_Review_We_Trust.jpg)
Journal Desirability Varies Widely

**COLD**
- Not peer-reviewed
- Not competitive
- Not well known in your field
- Unimpactful (Rarely cited)
- Very new

**HOT**
- Peer-reviewed
- Highly Competitive
- Read by scholars in your field
- Impactful (Cited often)
- Established
Beware of Predatory Publishers!

- **Evaluating OA Journals**
- Is journal listed in [Directory of Open Access Journals](http://www.doaj.org)?
- Is publisher member of [Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association](http://www.oaspa.org)?
- Use Think, Check, Submit [website](http://www.thinkchecksubmit.org) [video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=example_video)

Match Your Article’s Topic to Target Journal’s Scope

Example: **Journal of Number Theory**

The *Journal of Number Theory* (JNT) features selected research articles that represent the broad spectrum of interest in contemporary number theory and allied areas. A valuable resource for mathematicians, the journal provides an international forum for the publication of original research in this field.

The *Journal of Number Theory* is encouraging submissions of quality, long articles where most or all of the technical details are included. The journal now considers and welcomes also papers in Computational Number Theory.

In a few months, JNT will have a new format with 3 sections:

- **Section 1** targets (possibly very long with complete proofs) high impact papers.
- **Section 2** is for shorter papers. We particularly encourage submission from junior researchers. Every attempt will be made to expedite the review process for such submissions.
- **Section 3** is for Computational Number Theory.

Look on journal’s website for:

- About XYZ Journal
- Description
- Scope Statement
- Information for Authors
How do you determine which journals in your field are desirable?

Look for acceptance rate, impact factor (average citation frequency), and history.
How to Check Impact

**Journal Citation Reports**: find journal impact factors

**Cabell’s Directory of Publishing Opportunities**: find basic journal info

**Article-Level Metrics**: find more granular info

Luis Lobo Borobia: [https://flic.kr/p/hmjxo](https://flic.kr/p/hmjxo)
Apply to the UTA Libraries’ Go Open Fund for funding to pay article-processing charges.
4. Preparing your manuscript

Your goals: Prepare a high-quality manuscript that:
1) Follows the stated guidelines.
2) Is meticulously edited according to the journal’s style sheet.
3) Resembles recent issues in form and content.
Acquiring the journal’s style sheet

All journals have editorial guidelines in a document called a Style Sheet. The Style Sheet may be published on the journal’s website or you may have to request it directly. Find out what citation style your journal uses (i.e., Chicago, MLA, APA, IEEE, etc.) and adhere to it.

Look on journal website for
• Guide to/for Authors
• Instructions for Authors
• Author Guidelines
• Manuscript Preparation
Sample Style Sheets

- Science
- IEEE Computer Society Style Guide
- Journal of Cell Biology
- Journal of American History
- Criminology
- Renaissance Quarterly
- Journal of Accounting and Public Policy
Publication Ethics

Consult your discipline’s primary professional organization’s code of ethics. Examples from American Psychological Association:

1) “Psychologists do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due.”

2) “Authorship is reserved for persons who receive primary credit and hold primary responsibility for a published work.”

3) “Duplicate publication distorts the knowledge base by making it appear there is more information available than really exists.”

4) “Researchers must make their data available to the editor at any time during the review and production process.”

5) “Standards 8.02-8.09 specify the standards psychologists are to follow in conducting research with humans and animals.”
5. Submitting your manuscript

Your goals:
1) Submit your manuscript according to the publisher’s guidelines.
2) Compose an appropriate and compelling letter of submission to accompany your manuscript.
Submission guidelines or requirements

Most journals have *submission guidelines* on their website. Follow these guidelines exactly.

- *Journal of Cell Biology*
- *Journal of Addictions Nursing*
- *Artificial Intelligence*
- *Journal of Social Work*
- *William and Mary Quarterly*
- *Getting Published in Nature: The Editorial Process*
Letter of Submission

Your letter of submission should:

1. Appear on letterhead.
2. Provide your full long-term contact information.
3. Address the editor directly.
4. Provide the title of the article, the word count.
5. Summarize the article and its primary finding.
6. Describe the article’s appeal.
7. Explain why you are submitting to this particular journal.

September 17, 2017

Rafia Mirza
Executive Editor
Journal of Comparative Psychology
University of Imaginary State
Any City, ST 76019

Dear Dr. Mirza:


Best regards,

Jody Bailey
Director of Publishing
Letter of Submission

Your letter of submission might also need to include a statement similar to the following examples:

1. We/I are/am the sole author(s).
2. We/I currently own the copyright to this work.
3. The article has not been published before (in any form).
4. The article is not currently under submission at any other journal or publisher.
5. Mention corporate funding and IRB approval (if applicable).
Your goal: Respond to any decision in a way that promotes your work and your academic career.
## Interpreting Editorial Decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLD</th>
<th>HOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unconditional reject with no reviews.</td>
<td>Unconditional accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article was bad or inappropriate for journal.</td>
<td>Great news for you!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconditional reject with reviews.</td>
<td>Accept with minor/major revisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad news, but here is some feedback.</td>
<td>Great news for you (But you still have work to do).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reject but may resubmit with revisions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorry for now, but we may entertain a revision.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Most Common

- Unconditional reject with no reviews.
- Unconditional reject with reviews.
- Reject but may resubmit with revisions.
- Accept with minor/major revisions.
- Unconditional accept
Possible courses of action:

1) Resubmit somewhere else without revision.
2) Resubmit somewhere else with revision.
3) Protest the decision (not recommended).
4) Abandon the project (not recommended).
If article is accepted, read your publication contract before signing!

Copyright and Authors’ Rights Workshop

Everything you write for publication is your intellectual property, yet many publishers ask you to sign over your property to them for free. Find out how you can retain some or all of your copyright when you publish, even in prestigious publications. Retaining your rights allows you to reuse and share your work more freely and often results in higher visibility of your work and more citation counts.

Can’t attend? See this guide!
Summary

- Seriously consider publishing your work.
- Select an appropriate text for revision and submission.
- Learn as much as you can about journals in your field so you can submit your work somewhere appropriate.
- Prepare and submit your manuscript according to the publisher’s guidelines.
- Retain as much of your copyright as possible if accepted.
- Follow a calculated course of action after a rejection.
References


THANK YOU!

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