Publishing in Academic Journals
Some Helpful Tips from an Experienced Editor

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Overview of Presentation

1. Manuscript Review Process
2. Editors Perspective
3. Editors Desk
4. General Tips
5. To Do -- Before submit
6. To Do – R&R
7. Keys to Success
8. Discoverability
9. Assessment Matrix
Double Blind Peer Review

Promotes Fairness in Process
Stage 1

• Manuscript arrives

• Editor’s Review
  Reject 40-60%

• Find Reviewers
Stage 2

• Send out for review
  2-4 reviewers

• Reviews in

• Reviewers assessment
Stage 3
First Round Decision

- Accept     Very rare (1 in 100)
- Reject     (1 in 2)
- Revise and Resubmit (most common)

Persistence
Stage 4 +++

- R&R decision, comments sent to author
- Revised Manuscript and letter with explanation arrives
- Re-review Re-review (could be 2 - 4 rounds)
- Decision - Accept/Reject
- If Accept publisher takes over
Editors
Perspective
Steward or Caretaker Role
Impact Factor measures the average number of citations to recent published articles.
Most Precious Asset

Reviewer time
Editor as Coach and Cop

Improve the manuscript

Make sure poor material gets caught
Tips Article Acceptance

Getting past the Editors Desk
POOR FIT

Outside scope or mission of the journal
Audience -- Scholars/Policy Makers
International & Interdisciplinary

AVOID

- Purely Military topics (strategy, tactics)
- Purely International Relations Topics
- If audience is military leadership of a particular country
- Lots of country specific acronyms
Strong Abstract

Reviewer comment

Poor abstract
Poor paper
Include

- Purpose
- Method
- Key findings
- Take-away
Introduction

• Big Picture
• State purpose or aim early
• Compelling Case for research question
• Strongest Writing
Bibliography

Overall Quality
Cites to AF&S
Find Reviewers
Easy to Navigate

• Clear logical subheadings
• Tables – Stand alone quality
Inadequate sample size
(7 interviews, 2 focus groups @ university Y)
Quality Threshold

Poor Writing
Tired ideas
Lacks Coherence
To ensure meets quality threshold
Strong
External Validity
Broadly Defined

Survey Research
Case Studies  multiple countries
Theoretical  analytical generalizability
Enough Information

Imagine **how to Replicate**
State Hypotheses in testable form

Does Hypothesis connect to research purpose/question? Does the evidence collected test the hypothesis?

e.g., A is necessary for mission effectiveness
Do Data and Claims match?

- Inappropriate generalization
- Recognize Alternative Hypotheses
Before you send it out
Cite the Journal!!!!
Strategize the best fit journals

What did you cite?
What is journal’s quality threshold?
Have they published articles on similar topics?
Preferred Methodology?

End with a plan and a ranking of journals
Revise & Resubmit Decision
Get control of emotions
Open minded Creative Thinking
Revise & Resubmit Explanation Letter

- Organized
- Thoughtful
- Disagree OK – good reason
Additional
• Don’t take it personally (key test how you deal with first rejection)
• Try again (use comments from reviewers)
• Share your work widely – present at conferences
• Conference Papers/Syllabi on Academia.edu, Institutional Repository, Research Gate
Cultivate Collaborators

No down side to “Good” co-author(s)
Two Personal Rules for Successful Scholarship

1. The only good dissertation is a completed dissertation.

2. Better in a library than a file cabinet.
EXTRA ATTENTION

• Key Words
• Abstract
• Title
Incentives
Useful Manuscript Assessment Tool

- Structure
- Grammar/Punctuation
- Content
- Paragraphs
- Use of Scholarly Literature
- Audience
Tools for Writing Excellent Papers

American Society for Public Administration
Student Summit

March 8, 2015
12:45 – 1:45

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1. Conceptual Frameworks
2. Project Management