ASPA PhD Summit
Getting Published in Middle of the List

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Editor – in – Chief
Armed Forces & Society

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International
Interdisciplinary

~ 40 years

Armed Forces & Society

Armed Forces & Society (*AFS*), a quarterly publication, publishes articles on military institutions, civil-military relations, arms control and peacemaking, and conflict management. The journal is international in scope with a focus on historical, comparative, and interdisciplinary discourse. The editors and contributors include political scientists, sociologists, historians, psychologists, scholars, and economists, as well as specialists in military organization and strategy, arms control, and peacekeeping.

Ranked in the 10 top Military Studies journals on Google Scholar

Two-Year Impact Factor: 0.815
Ranked: 67 out of 138 in Sociology and 52 out of 149 in Political Science

Five-Year Impact Factor: 0.918

Ranked: 64 out of 137 in Sociology and 52 out of 148 in Political Science

Source: 2011 Journal Citation Reports® (Thomson Reuters, 2012)

⚙ **The Atlantic's Cities blog discusses AFS's study on Veterans living in rural isolation**

Armed Forces & Society operates in the broad intellectual and policy spheres where society and the military meet.

Officer Education

Civil-military Relations

Peacekeeping

Coups and conflict

**Military Families
Veterans**
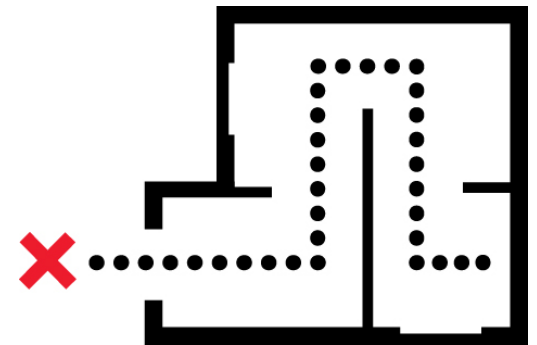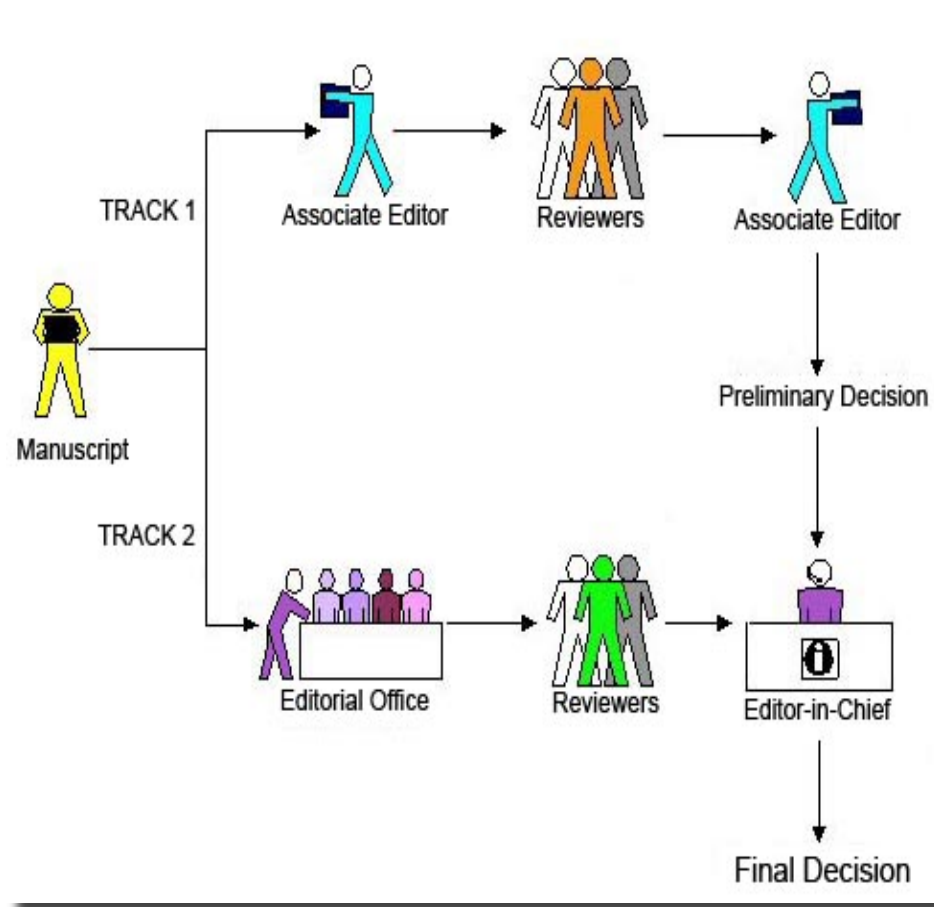

Role of religion

Plan for Presentation

1. Stages in manuscript processing
2. Editor's Perspective
3. Tips for Article Acceptance
4. Handout – Manuscript Evaluation Assessment Matrix
5. Organizational Issues
6. Writers Block Hand out

Editorial Process
(submission - publication)
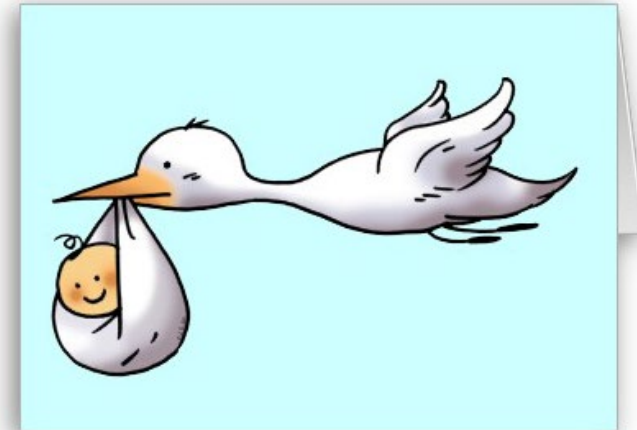
Editorial Process

- **Manuscript arrives**

  Scholar One

- **Editor's Review**

  Editor's Reject 40% (Handout – criteria)
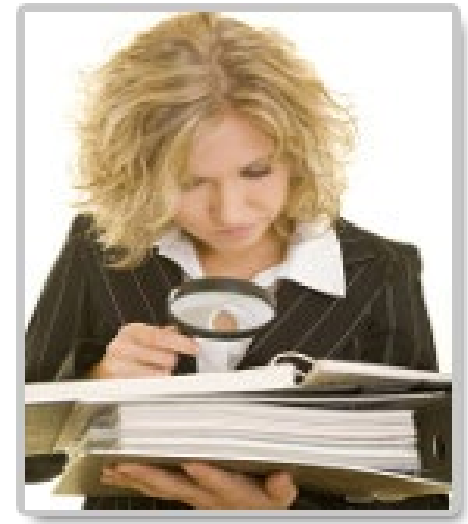
- **Find Reviewers**

  - look at bibliography
  - Reviewer Data base
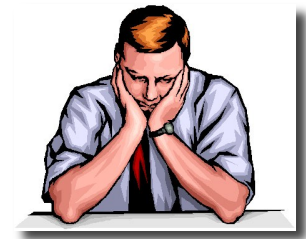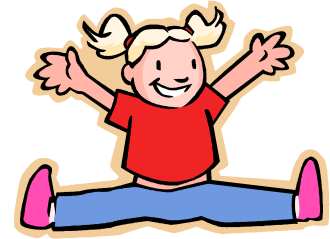 - Key words

Editorial Process (cont.)

- Send out for review
  2-4 reviewers

- Reviews in
  Send reminders

- Reviewers assessment
  Accept, Reject, Revise and Resubmit

Editorial Process
First Round Decision

- Accept   Very rare (1 in 50)

- Reject   (1 in 2)

- Revise and Resubmit (most common)

Editor's Comment
- How to weigh reviewers' comments (Top scholar, graduate student)
- Find additional problems

Persistence

Editorial Process (cont.)

- Revise and resubmit 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

Like a sports team - it often takes practice and more practice to achieve the goal.

- Copyediting by Sage

- Author queries – Clarification

- [On line first](#)

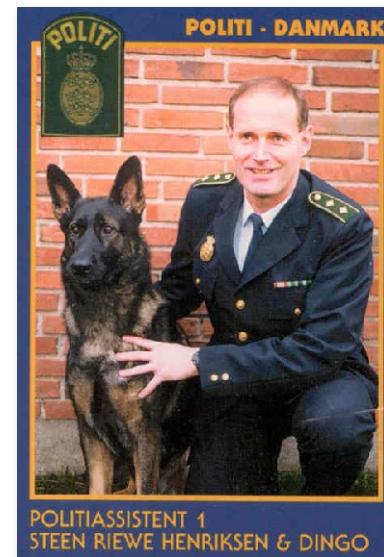- Assigned to an Issue

Tips for publishing

Editors
Perspective

Scholars perspective

Editor as Coach and Cop

Improve the manuscript

Make sure poor material gets caught

Tips Article Acceptance
(any journal)

- Introduction
- Easy to Skim

Tips Article Acceptance
(any journal)

- good fit for journal

- Be familiar w/ journal

- Cite the journal

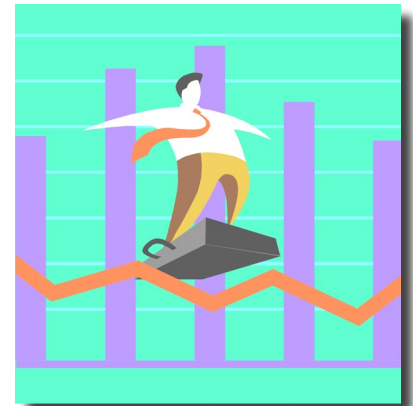- Contacting editor is okay (ask status of ms)

Tips for Article Acceptance

- Adequate sample size
- State Hypotheses in testable form

Tips Article Acceptance

- Literature review that demonstrates mastery of the subject matter and connected to subsequent hypotheses/variables/analysis of findings
- Clear comprehensive methodology section.

Additional Tips

- Share your work widely – present at conferences

- Develop cadre of research colleagues Co-author(s)

- Don't take it personally (key test how you deal with first rejection)

- Try again – use comments form reviewers

Two Personal Rules for Successful Scholarship

1. The only good dissertation is a completed dissertation.

2. Better in a library than a file cabinet.
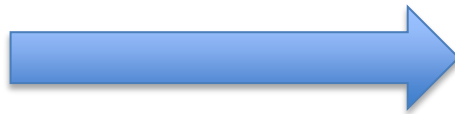
Discoverability
Optimizing Article For Search Engines

Change in the way knowledge is being generated and distributed.

In 20 years most knowledge will not be trapped in paper.

Correlation between downloads and citations

Tips from SAGE

- Pay extra attention to writing the **Abstract**
- Write naturally but repeat key phrases in the abstract
- Get the title right
- Choose key words carefully

Evaluation Matrix
Armed Forces & Society

Structure: Purpose, Introduction, Headings

Grammar/Punctuation: Grammar, Style
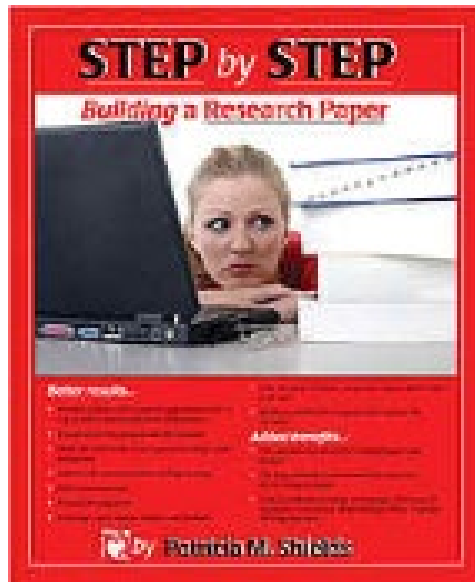
Content: Significance, Theory, Method, Depth, Findings

Paragraphs: Key terms, Body, Coherence, Cohesion

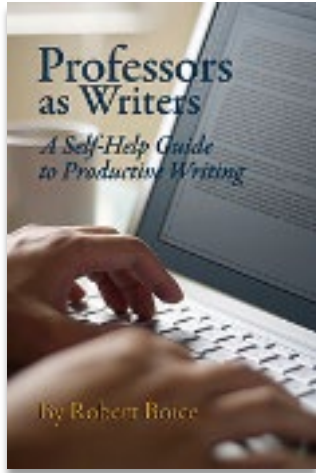**Use of Scholarly Literature:** Citations, Appropriate

Audience: Topic, International, Interest

Managing your Busy Life

Organize
Time, Materials, Ideas

Professors As Writers

Robert Boice

Self –help manual for professors who want to write more productively, painlessly, and successfully

85/15

Avoid
Binge Writing

Planning, Persistence, Practice
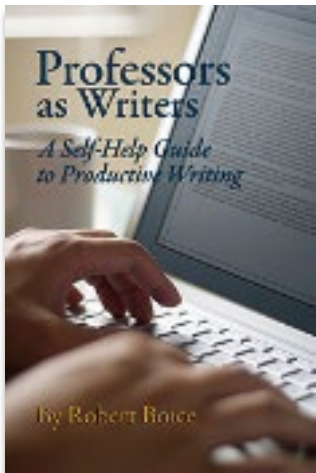
Writers Block Questionnaire

References

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