



Getting published

Monographs

Edited volumes

Journal articles

Book chapters

Peer review the gold standard

Journal articles

Primary outlet for high-quality original research and scholarship.

You must write these to further your career.

Process can be time-consuming and challenging.



First step: manuscript

Target your paper to the appropriate journal: check editorial policy and contact editor if necessary.

Read 'instructions to authors' BEFORE you start.

Make your ms look good: spelling, grammar (get a colleague to check if necessary), well formatted including references in journal style.



Next step: submit

When a ms is ready to go, send it!

Many journals use online submission managers: these can be different, so follow the instructions.

Suggesting referees is optional for many journals but is worth doing. It is also worth mentioning people who you would rather not review the ms in certain cases: but be careful of this.



Peer review

Editor will read your ms and decide whether to send for review. Might use Editorial Board or Associate Editors.

Ms then sent to several peer reviewers (often three, sometimes more).

They read the ms critically (and hopefully constructively) and make written comments for the author. Comments can also be made privately to the editor.



Comments I have received

‘This is the worst paper I have ever read...’

‘This paper is so well-written I am sure it conceals serious flaws in the analysis... I just can’t find them’

‘I almost fell off my chair in horror when I read the abstract’

But all of these papers were published!!!!



What happens to comments?

Comments on the same ms may vary a lot.

Editor will decide whether to accept, reject, ask for minor changes or a major revision, and will tell you whether the ms will go back out for review when changes have been made.

Editor takes an overview of the comments. If they decide it is worth publishing, they will also guide you in what you must do to make the paper acceptable.

What you need to do

Read comments carefully.

Don't panic or get upset. All comments will generally help in some way. Peer review IS helpful!

Talk to your co-authors and colleagues.

If your paper is accepted...

Make changes that are reasonable and sensible.

Make the changes as quickly as you can, remembering that revisions may take as long to do as the original ms.



Write to the editor

Send your revised ms back with a detailed letter:

Be polite and thank the editor and reviewers.

Explain what changes you have made.

If you choose not to follow a reviewer's suggestion, explain why: be logical and firm but not dogmatic.



Final stages

Complete copyright declaration and reprint forms.

Cover image?

Check proofs carefully and send them back quickly.

Ask editor or production editor if you have any queries.

Send reprints to people and be pleased that your paper is out!



If your paper is rejected...

Don't throw it away!

Reflect on why it was rejected.

See if the reviewers' comments help and make sensible changes.

Send it somewhere else!