

Getting published

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1908 - 2008



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**ELSEVIER PUBLISHING- UNIVERSITY OF
PRETORIA WORKSHOP 15 November 2013**

Getting published

How to

- determine who the authors should be
- write the paper
- choose the correct journal, and
- select appropriate reviewers

Getting published



 GOCOMICS.

GET A LAUGH!

International standard for research publications

- The research being reported should have been conducted in an ethical and responsible manner and should comply with all relevant legislation
- Researchers should present their results clearly, honestly, and without fabrication, falsification or inappropriate data manipulation
- Researchers should strive to describe their methods clearly and unambiguously so that their findings can be confirmed by others
- Researchers should adhere to publication requirements that submitted work is original, is not plagiarised, and has not been published elsewhere
- Authors should take collective responsibility for submitted and published work
- The authorship of research publications should accurately reflect individuals' contributions to the work and its reporting
- Funding sources and relevant conflicts of interest should be disclosed

Wager E & Kleinert S (2011) Responsible research publication: international standards for authors. A position statement developed at the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, Singapore, July 22-24, 2010. Chapter 50 in: Mayer T & Steneck N (eds) *Promoting Research Integrity in a Global Environment*. Imperial College Press / World Scientific Publishing, Singapore (pp 309-16). (ISBN 978-981-4340-97-7)

Ten simple rules for getting published (1-5)

- **Rule 1:** Learn by reading many papers
- **Rule 2:** Be objective about your work
- **Rule 3:** Good editors and reviewers will be objective about your work
- **Rule 4:** Polish your English language writing skills
- **Rule 5:** Learn to live with rejection. It's the norm rather than the exception!

Ten simple rules for getting published (6)

- **Rule 6: The ingredients of good science are obvious**
 - novelty of research topic
 - comprehensive coverage of the relevant literature
 - good data
 - good analysis including strong statistical support, and
 - a thought-provoking discussion

Ten simple rules for getting published (7-10)

- **Rule 7:** Start writing the paper the day you have the idea of what questions to pursue
- **Rule 8:** Become a reviewer early in your career
- **Rule 9:** Decide early on where to try to publish your paper
- **Rule 10: Quality is everything**

Bourne PE (2005) Ten simple rules for getting published. PLoS Comput Biol 1(5): e57.

Grosch E (2007) Reply to “Ten Simple Rules for Getting Published”. PLoS Comput Biol 3(9): e190. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.0030190

The nuances of the publishing process (1)

The best advice for getting published:

- **Have a focus and a vision**
- **Write clearly**
- **Get a pre-review**
- **Send your manuscript to the right journal**
- **Beef up your cover letter**
- **Don't panic**

The nuances of the publishing process (2)

Do not panic! Read the reviews carefully:

- Anything aside from simply "reject" is a positive review!
 - Accept: "Which almost nobody gets"
 - Accept with revision: "Just make some minor changes"
 - Revise and resubmit: "They're still interested in you!"
 - Reject and resubmit: Though not as good as revise and resubmit, "they still want the paper!"

The nuances of the publishing process (3)

Don't put off the revisions

Be diplomatic if you disagree with the reviewers

Remember the road to being published isn't a lonely one: All authors get lots of rejections- including senior authors. The challenge is to persevere, and improve one's papers over time

Kathryn Hewlett. How to publish your journal paper. Understanding the nuances of the process smooths the publishing ride. *Monitor Staff*, September 2002, Vol 33, No. 8

Who should be authors?

THE AUTHOR LIST: GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The first author
Senior grad student on the project. Made the figures.

The third author
First year student who actually did the experiments, performed the analysis and wrote the whole paper. Thinks being third author is "fair".

The second-to-last author
Ambitious assistant professor or post-doc who instigated the paper.

Michaels, C., Lee, E. F., Sap, P. S., Nichols, S. T., Oliveira, L., Smith, B. S.

The second author
Grad student in the lab that has nothing to do with this project, but was included because he/she hung around the group meetings (usually for the food).

The middle authors
Author names nobody really reads. Reserved for undergrads and technical staff.

The last author
The head honcho. Hasn't even read the paper but, hey, he got the funding, and his famous name will get the paper accepted.

Authorship (1)

“The **quantity** and, **to a lesser extent**, the **quality** of authored publications have a lot to do with who gets promoted in academia, who gets tenured, and who gets jobs at prestigious universities. So naturally there is a great desire among academics to get their names on as many papers as possible, preferably at the head of the (often lengthy) list of authors”

Kamerow D (2008) Who wrote that article? BMJ 336 (7651):989

Authorship (2)

“How does one compare senior versus junior, staff member versus visitor, money versus time, or backache versus headache versus heartache?”

Hunt R. Trying an authorship index. *Nature* 1991;352:187

ICMJE Guideline

Authorship credit should be based on

1. Substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data
2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
3. Final approval of the version to be published.

All authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3.

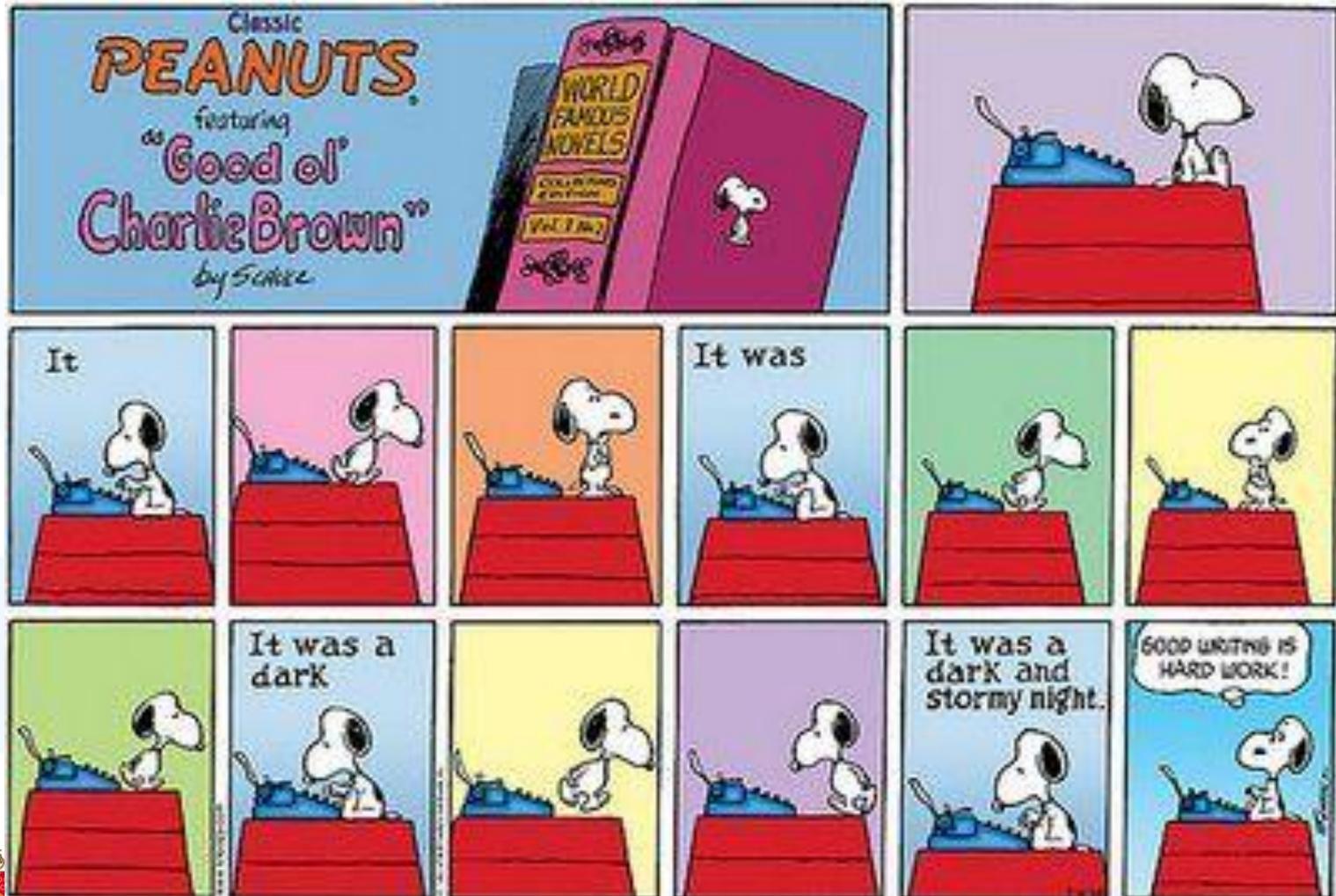
Authorship (3)

- **An author of a scientific paper**
 - anyone who made a creative contribution to the words or ideas being presented that are claimed to be novel, and
 - who share **responsibility** and **accountability** for the results
 - Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not justify authorship
 - **Acknowledgement.** Mention all those who contributed to the work but whose contributions did not rise to the level of authorship

Hunt authorship index (≥ 25)

- **Intellectual input (25)**
 - (planning/designing/interpreting)
- **Practical Input: data-capture (25)**
 - (setting-up/observing/recording/abstracting)
- **Practical input: beyond data-capture (10)**
 - (Data processing/organizing)
- **Specialist input from related fields (15)**
- **Literary input (25)**
 - (Contribution to first complete draft of manuscript)

How to write the paper



IMRaD The structure of a scientific journal article

- **Introduction** - Why was the study undertaken? What was the research question, the tested hypothesis or the purpose of the research?
- **Methods** - When, where, and how was the study done? What materials were used or who was included in the study groups (patients, etc.)?
- **Results** - What answer was found to the research question; what did the study find? Was the tested hypothesis true?
- **and**
- **Discussion** - What might the answer imply and why does it matter? How does it fit in with what other researchers have found? What are the perspectives for future research?

Kipling's guide to writing a scientific paper

Kipling's "The Elephant's Child" can help the novice writer build on the IMRaD structure:

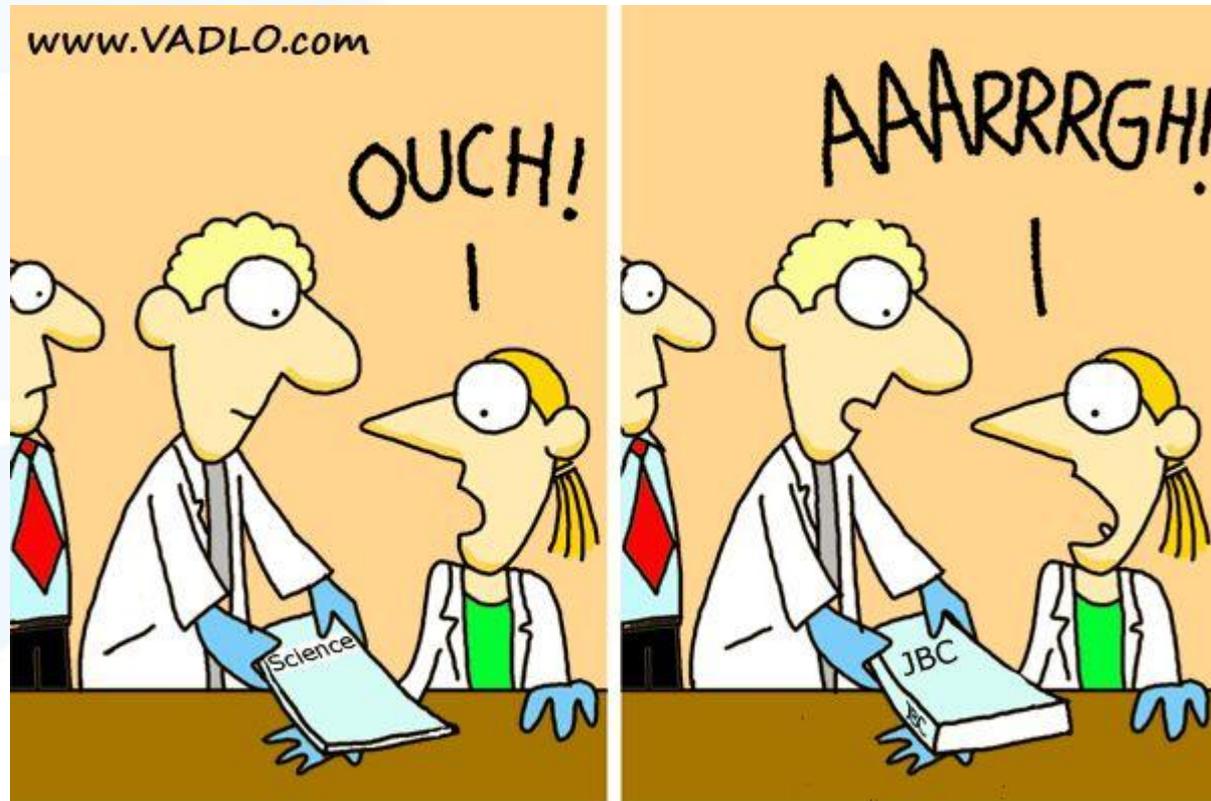
*"I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew)
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who"*

Many courses in journalism teach items of this sort as the basic elements of good report writing. WWWHWW can be just as useful in the world of scientific writing!

Excellent references

- Sharp D (2002) Kipling's guide to writing a scientific paper. Croatian medical journal 43 (3):262-267
- Whitesides GM (2004) Whitesides' Group: Writing a paper. Advanced Materials 16 (15 SPEC. ISS.):1375-1377
- Plaxco KW (2010) The art of writing science. Protein Science 19 (12):2261-2266
- Rosei F, Johnston T (2011) How to 'survive' after graduating in materials science - IV: Writing compelling papers. Journal of Materials Education 33 (3-4):161-178
- Kallestinova ED (2011) How to write your first research paper. Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine 84 (3):181-190
- Rolandi M, Cheng K, Pérez-Kriz S (2011) A brief guide to designing effective figures for the scientific paper. Advanced Materials 23 (38):4343-4346

How choose the correct journal



“Issue settled. JBC has it higher!”

Publishers suggestions (Elsevier, ACS & Wiley)

- **Aims and Scope**
 - Scope may be focused research or an interdisciplinary approach to a particular field
- **The topics the journal publishes**
 - Applied science or basic research?
- **The types of articles the journal publishes**
 - case reports, review articles, essays, etc.
- **The journal's target audience**
 - broad range of topics or a field-specific

Publishers suggestions (Elsevier, ACS & Wiley)

- **Length restrictions**
 - Some journals limit the number of words/pages
- **The reputation of the journal**
 - **Impact factor** not always the most important
 - Consider the **prestige of the authors** that publish in the journal, and the **size of the journal's readership**
- **The importance of your research**
 - Objectively consider how important your research is and what level of journal it is best suited for. Otherwise, you may find yourself wasting your valuable time submitting to one journal after another

Useful software

Elsevier journal finder tool

<http://journalfinder.elsevier.com/>

Simply insert your title and abstract and select the appropriate field-of-research for the best results!

Journal Finder uses smart search technology and field-of-research specific vocabularies to match an article to **Elsevier journals**

Useful software

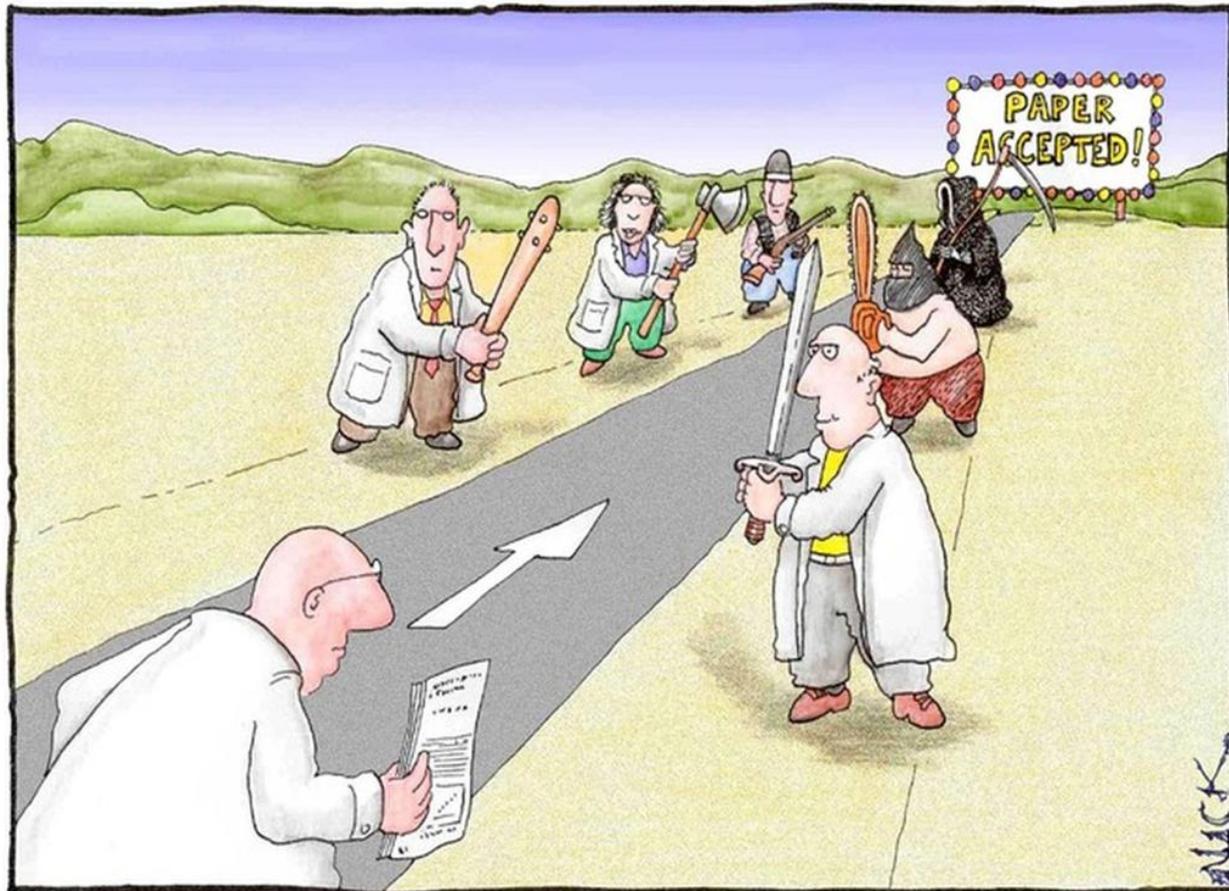
JANE (Journal/author name estimator) Biosemantics group

<http://www.biosemantics.org/jane/>

Assists with finding suitable journals, relevant articles to cite and to find potential reviewers for a particular paper

By entering the title and/or abstract of the draft manuscript, Jane compares your document to those in **Medline** to find the best matching journals, authors or articles

How to select appropriate reviewers



Select reviewers (1)

- **Picking reviewers is the closest most scientists will ever come to picking their own jurors!**
- **Facts:**
 - Author suggested reviewers were more likely to recommend publication (55.7% vs. 49.5%), and
 - less likely to recommend rejection (14.4% vs. 24.1%)

Grimm D. 2005. Suggesting or excluding reviewers can help get your paper published. *Science* 309:1974.

Select reviewers (2)

Ideally reviewers will

- Have a strong publication record
- have expertise relative to the subject of the manuscript
- be one of the leaders in a field closely related to your manuscript
- are also cited in the manuscript
- be from countries in different continents

Select reviewers (3)

Do not suggest reviewers that

- are from your own institution
- collaborated in the last 5 years with any of the authors of the manuscript

Potential reviewers with these attributes can be found using search engines such as Scopus, Science Direct and Jane.

Closing remark

- **Remember that anything that matters in the world of science is first peer-reviewed before it is seen by the ultimate readers**
- **Therefore, place yourself in the mind-set of those who are going to evaluate your written work to anticipate their reactions and forestall any objections**

Rosei, F., Johnston, T. How to 'survive' after graduating in materials science - IV: Writing compelling papers Journal of Materials Education Volume 33, Issue 3-4, 2011, Pages 161-178

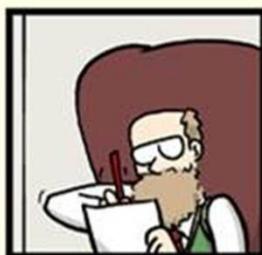
"FINAL".doc



FINAL.doc!



FINAL_rev.2.doc



FINAL_rev.6.COMMENTS.doc



FINAL_rev.8.comments5.
CORRECTIONS.doc



FINAL_rev.18.comments7.
corrections9.MORE.30.doc



FINAL_rev.22.comments49.
corrections.10.#@\$%WHYDID
ICOMETOGRADSCHOOL?????.doc

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