



Writing for Publication : What's involved

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Six Myths that Haunt Writers

K. Henson

- ✓ **I am not sure I have what it takes**
- ✓ **I do not have time to write**
- ✓ **I do not have anything worth writing about**
- ✓ **The editor will reject my work because my name is not familiar to them**
- ✓ **My vocabulary and writing skills are too limited**
- ✓ **In my field there are few opportunities to publish**

Successful Writing

- ✓ Writing is hard work
 - ✓ Self discipline
 - ✓ Sacrifice
 - ✓ Rejection is high
- ✓ Successful writing can be learned

Why publish?

- ✓ Organizational credibility and prestige
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Forces clear thinking and understanding
- ✓ To share results to improve programs



Pre-Submission: Issues to Consider

- ✓ National Journals
- ✓ Reputations
 - ✓ National, Regional, State
- ✓ Focus
 - ✓ Practitioners
 - ✓ Faculty and Researchers
 - ✓ Style/format/content
- ✓ Shoot for journal above expectations
- ✓ Consider turn around time
- ✓ Acceptance rate
- ✓ Who are authors/reviewers?
- ✓ Understand the review process
- ✓ Follow referencing style

Getting Started: Preparation

- ✓ Find your best time-be realistic, honor it
- ✓ Proper tools-dictionary, post it notes, etc.
- ✓ Keep highlighter close
- ✓ Keep files of quotes
- ✓ Writing first sentence is hardest

Getting Started: Preparation

- ✓ Read, read, and continue to read
 - ✓ Know your audience
 - ✓ Follow deadlines/guidelines as stated
 - ✓ Proof read and proof read again
 - ✓ Select journal in advance
-
- ✓ Henson, K. T. (1999). *Writing for professional education*. MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Steps in publishing

1. Identify the purpose of your article
2. Choose a relevant journal / audience
3. Write, following journal's criteria
4. Edit, share drafts, revise
5. Submit article to journal, following "Instructions to authors"
6. Revise based on reviewers' comments, resubmit
7. Make copies widely available. Send copies to everyone !!!

Step 1:

Identify the purpose of your article

Possible purposes

- ✓ Report of project results (*e.g., survey findings*)
- ✓ Project component description and results (*e.g., training*)
- ✓ Multi-project or literature review
- ✓ Policy analysis, conceptual piece
- ✓ Letters to the Editor

Step 2: **Choose a relevant journal / audience**

- ✓ Match journal to purpose
- ✓ Types of journals
- ✓ Nursing
- ✓ General Health Related (Health Services)
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Specialist Journals (ANNA/ EDTNA/D&T)

Step 3:

Write, following journal's criteria-

What do journals look for?

- ✓ Originality
- ✓ Interest to scientists and/or practitioners
- ✓ Relevance to the field
- ✓ Coverage of appropriate existing literature
- ✓ Adequacy of methodology, analysis and interpretation
- ✓ Significance of contribution
- ✓ Clear, concise and jargon-free writing
- ✓ Logical organization

Step 4: **Edit, share drafts, revise**

- ✓ Edit your own writing
- ✓ Share draft
- ✓ Revise
- ✓ Share draft
- ✓ Revise
- ✓ Share draft
- ✓ Revise

Step 5:

Submit article to journal, following instructions

- ✓ Pay careful attention to “Instructions to authors”
- ✓ Read articles published in journal for section headings, length, style
- ✓ Usually double spaced
- ✓ Format tables and graphs as instructed
- ✓ Format citations as instructed
- ✓ Email or mail *n* copies of article, as instructed

Reasons for Rejecting a Manuscript.

- ✓ Lack of a theoretical framework: work needs to be situated in the literature;
- ✓ Tries to do too much, cover too many topics with the result no depth;
- ✓ Focus of ms. is unclear, and/or inconsistent throughout the manuscript;
- ✓ Implications not explicit or well developed;
- ✓ No support for sweeping assertions.

Step 6:

Revise and resubmit

- ✓ Submissions are screened by journal's editor
- ✓ Then reviewed by 2-3 professionals in double-blind process
- ✓ Reviewers give detailed comments and recommendation to:
 - ✓ accept with no or few revisions
 - ✓ reconsider after major revision
 - ✓ revise and resubmit
 - ✓ reject
 - ✓ why? start over with *Step 1*.

Step 7: **Make copies widely available**

- ✓ You will receive or can buy hard copy 'reprints'
- ✓ Distribute them widely
- ✓ Learn if journal makes articles available on its web site; publicize link
- ✓ Ask permission to post it on your organization's web site

Keep in mind

- ✓ Process takes a long time.
- ✓ Rejection is discouraging. Keep submitting.
- ✓ Publishing does not substitute for other types of dissemination.
- ✓ Include Acknowledgements (especially sponsors)

Increasing your Chances

- ✓ Present your work at a conference or workshop/brown bag session for feedback before writing the article;
- ✓ Ask colleagues, professors, friends, to read a draft of your article;
- ✓ Develop a writing/reading group to help each other;
- ✓ Make a careful selection of the journal *before* you write the article;
- ✓ Follow “author” or “submission” guidelines and format according to the journal;
- ✓ Submit to one journal at a time; After 3 months query the editor about the “status” of your manuscript.



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General Author Guidelines

Scope

The Editors welcome scholarly papers that contribute to the development and understanding of all aspects of advanced nursing and midwifery care. Manuscripts of up to 5000 words (for the main text, excluding the abstract, summary statement, tables and references) on nursing and midwifery practice, education, management, and research with a sound scientific, theoretical or philosophical base, are encouraged. Papers will be accepted in two parts where the content in each paper addresses a different aspect of the research undertaken. Each part must stand alone and should reference but not replicate the other in any way. The submission of shorter papers (maximum of 2500 words of text and a maximum of 12 references) is actively encouraged. This option should be used for reporting research that is small in scale or exploratory and/or with findings that are

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