

Getting Academic Papers Published

Presented by
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What this seminar is about

Having work published in academically refereed journals, i.e. peer reviewed, is a central requirement for many academics at most universities, business schools and it becoming increasingly important in Institutes of Technology. The ability to write papers that will be accepted by the process of anonymous peer review is seen as a major criterion of academic achievement. It is increasingly the case that employment confirmation as well as promotion is based on an individual's record of published work. Also funding is normally more accessible to academics that have a solid publishing record.

The number of papers published in academically refereed journals is an issue for many institutions. Very low publication rates are not uncommon. Sometimes this is due to there being no research culture in a particular Department or a particular Faculty. But even where research is encouraged there is often a misunderstanding as to how to prepare papers to a standard that will be accepted by an academic journal. The seminar will also discuss how papers are actually reviewed.

The low level of publishing is not only a problem for junior members of staff or newcomers to the academic profession. Established members of staff are also sometimes in this predicament. This seminar has been designed to help individuals improve their publication rate and to assist those who have not yet started to publish to get going.

The seminar will also address what is involved in writing or editing a book and working with a publisher.

The seminar has the following objectives:

1. To consider the range of work that can be published in refereed journals
2. To explain how to get started as a researcher-author
3. To explain how to avoid the factors that contribute to failure to publish
4. To demonstrate how to plan a publishable paper
5. To explain how to write the paper
6. To discuss dealing with an academic journal
7. To understand what is involved in writing or editing a book
8. To discuss further work on the research topic.

Seminar Outline

The business of being published in a peer reviewed journal

The range and quality of journal;
The number of publications
The issue of first and second or third author

The value of publishing academic papers?

Contribution to the body of knowledge
Encouragement of scholarship
Continuing self development and confirmation at a university
Academic performance and promotion
Qualifying for a degree and obtaining funds
Sociology of research

The different type of papers

- Research findings
- Literature reviews
- Theoretical or speculative discussion
- Case Studies
- Methodological discussions
- Comments, communications and reviews
- Solely authored and multiple-authored papers
- Funded and unfunded research

The difficulty in getting started as a published academic

- Not understanding what is required
- Fear of failure; negative motivation
- Lack of commitment to the need to publish
- Lack of support from the institution

Avoiding the factors that contribute to the failure

- Unrealistic expectations, ambitions or targets
- Lack of focus
- A high risk topic
- Lack of theoretical knowledge or methodological skills
- Inability to know when to stop
- Lack of knowledge of appropriate journals

Planning a publishable academic paper

- Selecting a suitable topic area
- Assessing the resources required
- Perform a literature review
- Choose a methodology
- Formalise a research question
- Collect evidence; analyse the evidence
- Write the paper
- Conclusions of the research

Advice from editors

- Fundamentals
- Relevance, rigour and impact
- Writing style
- Choose the proposed journal carefully

Writing the paper

- Instructions to authors
- Critical Issues
 - Specific Journals requirements for:
 - Length of paper
 - Title of paper
 - Names of authors and correspondence address
 - Abstract, keywords and phrases
 - Summary and conclusions
 - Referencing conventions
 - Acknowledgements
 - Tables and figures

Vital issues

Writing to be understood

Can a story be told?

Simple sentence structure; the fewer words the better

Is there another way of understanding the text?

Creating a structure and a flow

Proof reading

Check and check again

Have someone else read your work

Do you need help with the language?

Submission to the journal

Delays in receiving feedback

Coping with changes and re-submitting with changes

Submitting to other Journals