The G³ of Writing and Publishing Tips: Gentle Guidelines, Great Stories, and Gigantic Scholarly Gains

Curtis J. Bonk, Ph.D., Indiana University
cjbonk@indiana.edu
Meina Zhu, Ph.D., Wayne State University
meinazhu@wayne.edu

Sidenote: Don’t Just Publish for the Sake of Publishing…

March 27, 2019
One Discipline’s Soaring Publishing Expectations
Colleen Flaherty, Inside Higher Ed

"What does that look like, exactly? In 2017, new assistant professors at the 21 departments included in the study had published 4.8 peer-reviewed articles, on average, on their start date. About 25 years ago, the number was 2.5.”

March 27, 2019
One Discipline’s Soaring Publishing Expectations
Colleen Flaherty, Inside Higher Ed

"Newly promoted associated professors in article-centric subfields in the 2010s also published almost twice as many peer-reviewed articles as their counterparts two decades earlier. And even in book-centric subfields, the number of peer-reviewed articles has risen.”
March 27, 2019
One Discipline's Soaring Publishing Expectations
Colleen Flaherty, Inside Higher Ed
https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/03/27/sociologys-
publishing-
expectations-
have-
doubled-
recent-
decades

- Echoing the "why" piece of his study, Warren said that his findings have potential "human consequences," in that "it's stressful and may push otherwise qualified people out of the field."
- Expectation creep also has "implications both for the quality of scholarship -- which may go down as demands for quantity increase -- and for the topics that sociologists may choose to study," he said.

Purposes of this Session
Part I: The Process
  a. Exploring the process for getting published
  b. Selecting a journal for publication
  c. Academic information resources
  d. Predatory journal issues
  e. Taking the plunge
Part II: Writing Tips and Insights
  a. Examining 20+ writing tips
  b. Making commitments to future writing

February 15, 2019
The Hardest Part of Writing Is Restarting
Rebecca Schuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Hardest-Part-of-Writing-
Is/245720?cid=cp242

March 31, 2019
Step Away From the Delete Button
Rebecca Schuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/Step-Away-From-the-Delete-
Button/246013?cid=cp242

December 12, 2018
Don't Spend Your Holiday Break Writing
Rebecca Schuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education
245292

September 13, 2016
Strategies to Maintain Focus while Writing Your Dissertation
GradHacker, Inside Higher Ed
https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/strategies-
maintain-focus-while-writing-your-
dissertation
September 13, 2016

Strategies to Maintain Focus while Writing Your Dissertation

GradHacker, Inside Higher Ed

https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/strategies-maintain-focus-while-writing-your-dissertation

1. Freewriting 15 minutes per day—don’t worry about grammar and word usage.
2. “Only writing produces text”—words on paper overcomes anxiety and procrast.
3. Meditation and mindfulness—for 5 minutes.
4. Intentions journal…visualize goals and create checklists.
5. Identifying our most productive times of day for writing using heat mapping.
6. Write first…clean house after.
7. Email and smartphone—turn off and abstain.
8. Schedule meetings in the morning/afternoon (protect some portion of day)
9. “Park on a downhill slope”…so you can pick up where you left off.
10. Gain momentum…by focusing on one thing at a time.

January 24, 2020

Advice for Writing -- and Finishing -- Your Dissertation

Bertin M. Louis Jr., The Chronicle of Higher Education

https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2020/01/24/tips-writing-and-completing-your-dissertation-opinion

December 10, 2019

Rewarding Your Writing

Leslie Leonard, Inside Higher Ed

https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/rewarding-your-writing

October 3, 2019

Crucial Co-Writing Considerations

Jordan McNeill, Inside Higher Ed

https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/crucial-co-writing-considerations

1. Clarify authorship order ahead of time.
2. Have an honest conversation about the strengths of each team member—draft, revise, proofread, and format your manuscript.
3. Be clear on division of labor.
4. Nonwriting tasks are important too—taking notes, submission guidelines, and keep track of deadlines.
5. Set up digital collaboration norms and platforms—archiving, tracking, commenting, etc.
6. Respond to feedback professionally.
7. Build in time for feedback and revision.
8. Singular voice throughout paper—assign one member of team to read for writing style and flow.

May 2, 2017

A GradHacker Writing Round-Up

GradHacker, Inside Higher Ed

https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/gradhacker-writing-round
May 19, 2020

Why It’s Important to Write a Proposal for an Academic Book
Rachel Toor, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/Why-Its-Important-to-Write/248810

Insights and Advice on Getting Published in Higher Education

Part I: The Process

Writing Difficulties and Challenges of a Early Career Scholar

1. Time
2. Writing habits
3. Resources
4. Local/Global Support
5. Starter text
6. Reputation
7. Connections
8. Journal awareness
9. Energy/Stamina
10. Service/Teaching duties

Put Forward your Best Work

1. Collaborative research projects
2. Literature reviews
3. Reflections/conceptual pieces
4. Grant projects
5. Class projects

Finding a Journal that Fits

What to look for?

1. Who will be your target readers?
2. Who are the authors and journals you cite the most related with your research program?
3. Is there a match between your work and the journal aims and scope?
4. What is the journal turnaround time?
5. What is the journal acceptance rate?
6. Do you know the editor(s)?

Where to start?

Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. Top-tier journals: are SSCI-indexed
2. Second-tier journals: have an established history in the field
3. Third-tier journals: often are newer to the field
Where to start?

1. Target practitioners
2. Deal with problems and issues tied directly to practice
3. Receive wider circulations and visibility
4. Refereed or nonrefereed articles

TOP-TIER JOURNALS

British Journal of Educational Technology
Educational Technology Research and Development
The Internet and Higher Education
Instructional Science

SECOND-TIER JOURNALS

Journal of Educational Computing Research
TechTrends
The American Journal of Distance Education

THIRD-TIER JOURNALS

International Journal of Online Pedagogy and Course Design
Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education
Interactive Technology and Smart Education

Resource and Idea Suggestions

• Subscribe to news feeds (not too many)
• Save links and images to interesting articles
• Review saved documents for themes monthly
• Share those links in Facebook, Twitter, etc., for peer reactions
• Write to people interviewed in articles

Academic information/resources (Cont’d)

(Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, 2018)

• Journal selection/evaluation
  — Impact/accreditation (*Predatory Journals)
  — Citation index (Web of Science, Google Scholar, etc.)
  — Impact factor
  — Ranking
  — Open Access vs. non-Open Access
    • Directory of Open Access Journals
    • Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association
The publishing venue preys on academicians for making money without following scholarly publishing standards, commonly seen in the Open Access world.

- Also called “Pseudo-journals,” “fake journals,” and “sham journals.”

Be Aware of Predatory Journals/Publishers!

- Characteristics
  - The journal asks for a submission fee
  - Promises of fast peer review and fast publication
  - Spam emails to attract potential authors
  - Small size of editorial board or not indicated clearly
  - Newness and the quantity: a very new journal that consists of a high quantity of articles in one issue
  - Inconsistencies in the scope and the content or journal title and contact address

Predatory Journals/Publishers

Examples of spam emails to attract potential authors

Be Aware of Predatory Journals/Publishers!

- Be Aware of Predatory Journals/Publishers!
- Characteristics
  - Using the “Think. Check. Submit.” checklist
  - Developed by an initiative of scholarly publishing organizations

Selecting a Journal

Two resources to identify the journals and publishers

   - Identify legitimate and high-quality open access, peer-reviewed journals
   - Identify predatory journals/publishers
Take the Plunge...Part 1

- Look for opportunities to create publishable manuscripts from your dissertation
- Contribute with a chapter
- Conduct an interview
- Write a practical article, newsletter, or book review

Generate Starter Text...

- Author a blog
- Use social media
- Submit a conference proposal
- Write editorials
- Write book and software reviews

Meina Zhu: An Early Career Perspective

1. Goals
2. Strategic Plans
3. Reflection
4. Collaborators
5. Professional Development

Take the Plunge...Part 2

- Write a major grant proposal
- Lead a special journal issue
- Edit a book
- Sole author a book
- Get your name out there!

Insights and Advice on Getting Published from a New Faculty’s Perspective

Writing Tips and Insights

1. Writing Goals
2. Strategic Plans

3. Reflection on Writing

4. Writing Collaborators

5. Professional Development

Curt Bonk: Reflections on a Hot Streak

1. Persistence and grit.
2. Sense of now.
3. One at a time.
5. Intense and Relaxed Planning.
6. Explore Possible Journals and Commit.
7. Everyone has clear role.
8. Set bold and audacious goals.
10. Revel in good luck. Do not sulk if bad luck.

99 Seconds Activity #1

Commit to 1 to 2 things... than take the plunge and share them with your next chair neighbor.
99 Seconds Activity #1

With your next chair neighbor discuss 1 to 2 writing dilemmas currently facing.

Insights and Advice on Getting Published Higher Education from An Experienced Faculty Member Perspective

Part II: Writing Tips and Insights

October 2, 2018
How to Learn to Write Like a Machine
Rose Jacobs, Inside Higher Ed

The Top 20 Writing Tips

1. Mark Writing Days in Planner

2. Maintain a List and Network of Potential Research and Writing Collaborators
Sidenote: Find Good People to Work With...Life is Short—Avoid Egomaniacs and People Who Lie

3. Draft a Timeline or Multiple Timelines with Flexible Goals

4. Think Ahead About the Publishing Potential of Each Project

5. Be a Bumblebee and Butterfly

October 10, 2018
Perhaps write to your future self about your goals...
FutureMe.org
Write a letter to the future
https://www.futureme.org/

October 10, 2019
The following is an email from the past, composed on October 10, 2018. It is being delivered from the past through FutureMe.org
FutureMe mailer@futureme.org
6. Find, Save, and Use Starter Text (overcomes writer’s block)

7. Always Scan the Reference Sections of Other Articles to See What Journals are Popular

8. Avoid High Quality (i.e., SSCI) Journal Fixations

9. Be Second or Third Author Sometimes to Spread Limited Resources

10. If Need Summer Money, Teach Short Term or Intensive Courses

11. Edit Your Papers a Lot! (Mozartian vs. Beethovenian)
1. Writing is an exercise (write!).
2. Set goals based on output not input (e.g., 3 pages double-spaced).
3. Find a voice (don’t just focus on getting published).
4. Give yourself time (not deadlines).
5. Pick a puzzle (your writing is an answer to that puzzle).
6. Edit your work (over and over and over again...just like Beethoven).
15. Be Creative Somewhere (e.g., unique model, figure, chart, etc.)

Sidenote: Modify Your Environment (Find or Create Your Personal Sandbox)

But not too much!

16. Try Not to Give Up: Persistence and Grit Wins the Day

17. Be Polite and Thankful to the Journal or Book Chapter Editors

18. Recap Reviewer Points and How You Attempted to Address Them
From Dreaded to Amazing
Cathy N. Davidson, Inside Higher Ed
https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2019/02/12/how-use-reviewers-revise-and-resubmit-comments-most-effectively-opinion

Perhaps the biggest turning point in my career as a researcher and writer came the day that I learned how to process and respond to a “revise and resubmit” readers’ report — or any kind of professional feedback — as a gift, not a curse and a condemnation. The first few times it felt like, no matter what I did, some “authority figure” was going to tell me how wrong or bad or stupid I was. Sound familiar?

From Dreaded to Amazing
Cathy N. Davidson, Inside Higher Ed
https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2019/02/12/how-use-reviewers-revise-and-resubmit-comments-most-effectively-opinion

1. Read as peer reviewer; mark up everything.
2. Catalog problems on a 1 to 3 difficulty scale (Level 1 takes less than 30 minutes, Level 2 takes 2 hours or less; Level 3 takes more time).
3. Fix the easy ones and gain momentum for the harder ones!
4. Take breaks as needed.

Tackling Revisions
Alexandra Gold, Inside Higher Ed
https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/tackling-revisions

A New Series on Scholarly Productivity:
‘Are You Writing?’
Rebecca Shuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/A-New-Series-on-Scholarly/244689

Share Your Publication Efforts
(e.g., Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, email, ResearchGate, Academia.edu, etc.)
20. Celebrate Your Writing Accomplishments with Friends

You never know where you’ll be celebrating your writing accomplishments… Even at a wedding of your nephew!

Just don’t celebrate too much!

Bonus #1. Be Careful Committing to Other People’s Projects (OPP)

Bonus #2. Look for Special Issues that You Might Contribute To

Bonus #3. Save Research Articles for a Rainy Day (file folders on different topics)
Bonus #4. Treat Graduate Students as Colleagues
(hec, treat everyone as a colleague)

Bonus #5. Find a Mentor and Ask Senior People for Advice

Bonus #6. Form a Writing Group

Bonus #7. Write for the General Public

Bonus #8. Keep a Notebook of What Thinking

Bonus #9. Engage in Free Writing
**Bonus #10. Read Everyday!**

**Time to Recap...**

1. The process for getting published  
2. The process for selecting a journal for publication  
3. Writing tips and insights  
4. Curated resources  
5. You commitments to future writing

**Concerns? Comments? Commitments?**

Curt Bonk, IUI, Email: cjbonk@Indiana.edu  
Meina Zhu, WSU, Email: meinazhu@wayne.edu  