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

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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

III. Slaying I-Monsters
a. Detailing the pros & cons of SSCI publications

October 2, 2018
A New Series on Scholarly Productivity: ‘Are You Writing?’
Rebecca Schulman, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/A-New-Series-on-Scholarly-/244689

November 4, 2018
The Worst Writing Advice in the World
Rebecca Schulman, The Chronicle of Higher Education

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

February 15, 2019
The Hardest Part of Writing Is Restarting
Rebecca Schuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education
March 31, 2019
Step Away From the Delete Button
Rebecca Schuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education

99 Seconds Activity #1
With your next chair neighbor discuss 1 to 2 writing dilemmas currently facing.

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)?
Finding a Journal that Fits

Where to look for?

1. *Social Sciences Citation Index* (SSCI) is a commercial citation index product of Clarivate Analytics. It was originally developed by the Institute for Scientific Information from the Science Citation Index.
2. *European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences* (ERIH PLUS) was created and developed by European researchers under the coordination of the Standing Committee for the Humanities of the European Science Foundation.

Where to start?

Practitioner Journals

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

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

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

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

- Tools for research
  - Citation/reference management
    - Ex. Endnote, Zotero, Refwork, Paper, etc.
  - Incorporate other software
    - Ex. Nvivo (qualitative analysis tool, Network analysis i.e.)
- Writing Tutorial Services
- Tutoring Services
- Writing Tools (e.g., Grammarly)

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

Academic information/resources

(Cont’d)

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

- Journal evaluation & legitimacy
  - Consult with a librarian
  - Visit & Examine the journal’s web site.
  - Reach out to journal’s editorial board members.
  - Aim and goals of journal. Read the scope of the journal.
  - Read their peer review policy.
  - Check to see what “author fees” are being requested
  - Research industry associations.
    - DOAJ = Directory of Open Access Journals
    - OASPA = Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association

Journal Impact Factor

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

- Impact = The frequency in which the average article in a journal has been cited in a specific period of time.
- Rank or importance of a journal = the higher impact factor, the better rank.
- The calculation is to dividing the number of times articles were cited by the number of articles that were citable. It is usually based on a two-year period.

Tools to measure journal impact factor

- Journal Citation Report, https://goo.gl/yYw881
- Scimago Journal Rank (SJR), https://www.scimagojr.com/

Predatory Journals/Publishers

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

Be Aware of Predatory Journals/Publishers!

- The publishing venue prey 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.”

(Beager, 2017; Clark & Smith, 2017)
Predatory Journals/Publishers
(Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, 2018)

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

(Debege, 2017; Prater, 2018)

March 27, 2013
Investigating journals:
The dark side of publishing (The explosion in open-access publishing has fuelled the rise of questionable operators), Declan Butler, Nature
http://www.nature.com/news/disciplinary-action-1.12668

March 27, 2013
Sham journals scam authors:
Con artists are stealing the identities of real journals to cheat scientists out of publishing fees.
Declan Butler, Nature
http://www.nature.com/news/sham-journals-scam-authors-1.12681

April 7, 2014
Scientific Articles Accepted (Personal Checks, Too)
Gina Kolata, The New York Times

Examples of spam emails to attract potential authors

Predatory Journals/Publishers
(Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, 2018)

Examples of spam emails to attract potential authors

Predatory Journals/Publishers
(Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, 2018)

Examples of spam emails to attract potential authors
Selecting a Journal  
(Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, 2018)

Be Aware Predatory Journals!

• Criteria to check the journal
  – Do you or your colleagues know the journal?
  – Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?
  – Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?
  – Are articles indexed in services that you use?
  – Is it clear what fees will be charged?
  – Do you recognize the editorial board?
  – Is the Publisher a member of a recognized industry initiative?

Access the checklist in detail at http://thinkchecksubmit.org/check/

February 18, 2019

A Turning Point for Scholarly Publishing

Lindsey Ellis, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/Trend19-OpenAccess-Main

Selecting a Journal  
(Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, 2018)

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

Be aware of predatory journals! Using the “Think. Check. Submit.” checklist.
– Developed by a initiative of scholarly publishing organizations

Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal?

Take control of your career at think.check.submit.org, 2018
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!

Generate Starter Text...

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

99 Seconds Activity #2

Commit to 1 to 2 things that take the plunge and share them with your next chair neighbor.

Insights and Advice on Getting Published Higher Education

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. WRITE
   2. WRITE
   3. WRITE
   4. WRITE
   5. WRITE
   6. WRITE
   7. WRITE
   8. WRITE
   9. WRITE
   10. WRITE

11. WRITE
12. WRITE
13. WRITE
14. WRITE
15. WRITE
16. WRITE
17. WRITE
18. WRITE
19. WRITE
20. WRITE
1. Mark Writing Days in Planner

February 13, 2019
Is Email Making Professors Stupid?
Cal Newport, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/is-email-making-professors-stupid

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

October 10, 2018
Perhaps write to your future self about your goals...
FutureMe.org
Write a letter to the future
https://www.futureme.org/
4. Think Ahead About the Publishing Potential of Each Project

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

• Asked whether he thought his findings would apply to other social science fields, Warren said recently that he suspected “the larger macro forces at work -- which really have to do with the organization and financing of higher education -- apply at least to the other social sciences and economics."
• In any case, he said, sociologists now face “much greater pressure to publish” and “to publish often.”

March 27, 2019

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

• 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.

March 27, 2019

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

In other words, the trend toward more publications might also mean a trend toward “topics or approaches that ensure quicker and more certain publication.”

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)

October 1, 2018
6 Tips to Shape Up Your Writing
Two-Minute Tips: Short videos to help you excel in the academic workplace
Fernanda Zamudio-Suárez, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/6-Tips-to-Shape-Up-Your/244281?cid=rss21

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).
October 8, 2018
How to Improve Your Teaching
- Philosophy Statement
Two Minute Tips: Short videos to help you excel in the academic workplace
Fernanda Zamudio-Suárez, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-to-Improve-Your/244283
https://www.chronicle.com/specialreport/Two-Minute-Tips/221

October 15, 2018
How to Become a Highly Productive Writer
Two Minute Tips: Short videos to help you excel in the academic workplace
Fernanda Zamudio-Suárez, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-to-Become-a-Highly/244351
https://www.chronicle.com/specialreport/Two-Minute-Tips/221

12. Organize Conference Symposia Which Can Lead to Special Journal Issues and Books

13. Sponsor Visiting Scholars to Work with You; They Often Have Writing Plans

14. Try to Submit or Publish Your Paper Before the Conference

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

February 12, 2019
From Dreaded to Amazing
Cathy N. Davidson, Inside Higher Ed
19. 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!

January 6, 2019
You’re a Full Professor. Now What?
Kathryn N. McDaniel, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/You’re-a-Full-Professor-Now/245403

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)

February 24, 2019
The Importance of Friendships
Sophia Sanchez, Inside Higher Ed
https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/university-venus/importance-friendships

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

February 25, 2019
Dear Faculty: You Matter More Than You Know
Brandon Busteed, Inside Higher Ed
https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2019/02/25/faculty-mentors-provide-students-exceptional-educational-benefits-opinion

Bonus #6. Form a Writing Group

December 2, 2018
On the Value of Dissertation-Writing Groups
Leonard Cassuto, The Chronicle of Higher Education
https://www.chronicle.com/article/on-the-value-of/245184
**March 25, 2019**

**Writing for Peers vs. the Public: When Academic Writing Falls Short**

Diana Brazzell, Inside Higher Ed


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**January 29, 2019**

**The Professor Who Quit His Tenured Job to Make Podcasts and Lecture Videos**

Jeffrey R. Young, EdSurge


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**February 24, 2019**

**'Slouching Toward' Productivity,**

Deidra Faye Jackson, Inside Higher Ed


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**Bonus #8. Keep a Notebook of What Thinking**

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**Bonus #9. Engage in Free Writing**

[5 Simple Moves to Free the Stuck Writer](https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/professor/2019/02/24/slouching-toward-productivity)
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?

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