



## How Do I get my Name on that?

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*“How is your research coming?”*  
*“What have you written today?”*  
*“Where have you submitted lately?”*

My advisor is fantastic, faithfully using these questions to encourage me through the PhD process. He provides perspective, opportunity, and accountability. Sometimes, though, I avoid going down the hallway housing his office. Coursework, teaching responsibilities, and the ever-elusive work/life balance have deadlines screaming for attention. Carving out writing time is tough. Navigating the submission/revision/publication pipeline is intimidating, but the process of exploring questions and sharing findings is essential, if I am to contribute to the field. I know how to do coursework; I am an experienced teacher; and although word on the street is that work/life balance remains elusive, I am familiar with its challenges. When it comes to publishing, however, I am overwhelmed and scared. How do I know where to publish? Should I find collaborators? How do I keep track of my writing? Once I submit, what happens next? I am tired of avoiding my advisor, and I think soon he might start to notice. It is time to figure out this publishing thing. I asked for advice from trusted mentors, did some research, and, if you are reading this, have found some useful answers.

### How Do I Know where to Publish?

One common student question concerns how to know where to publish. Schneegurt (2015) proposes that intentional decisions regarding where to publish are as important as those determining what to publish, and there are ways to become informed about our options. A discipline related Internet search will return an initial listing of potential journals. The

listing can be refined by using databases such as Ulrich’s Web to evaluate options in both scholarly and non-scholarly periodicals. Consider with whom you wish to be in conversation. Notice which journals and authors you tend to cite, and explore associated submission opportunities. Consider both your target audience and your personal research interests. For instance, my target audience is like-minded PhD students, and my personal research interest is publication as a PhD student, making the Graduate Member Musings portion of this journal the ideal medium. Professional organizations offer publication opportunities with affiliated journals, some of which are tailored specifically for graduate student authorship. Skim the table of contents of journals to determine the aim and scope – every article has a home and the submission process is, in large part, about finding that home (Asino et al. 2017).

### Should I Collaborate?

The answer to this question is yes and no. Sole authorship provides evidence of independence and initiative, while collaborative authorship provides evidence of effective teamwork. Strengths of collaboration include the ability to diversify and explore a broader range of topics, as well as potentially faster project development. A balanced CV includes sole author, first author, and multiple author lists. Get involved with student groups such as the AECT Graduate Student Assembly for a fun, friendly means through which collaborative writing relationships can be formed. Your network of connections grows to include the connections of your collaborators, increasing your ability to forge networks helpful to the publication process.

### How Do I Track my Writing?

Many universities offer access to reference managers and citation tools such as Endnote or Zotero. A consistent system for tracking and organizing literature such as a literature analysis chart will increase efficiency. This system may involve formal reference managers stored in the cloud, a personal spreadsheet

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backed up onto a flash drive, or even piles of yellow legal pads. Remaining disciplined and consistent with your chosen system will minimize the frustration of lost or poorly noted resources. The slow process of publication, with long waits between submission and acceptance, provides both opportunity and need for management of several projects in differing stages. Set goals and create a specific timeline. Document a personal research pipeline through which you can track your ideas from inception through publication. Include with each idea potential publication targets, including conference presentations and appropriate journals. Maintain your pipeline in tangible form with a white board, a spreadsheet, or a cloud management system such as Trello. Once you have created your pipeline, manage your progress so that each category always has one or two ideas at all times. When a presentation opportunity or publication call arises, peruse your pipeline for projects which might with focused attention be prepared in time for submission.

## What Happens Next?

You wait. A follow-up email in three to six months inquiring about the process is appropriate; consider rescinding the submission if there has been no communication after six months. On very rare occasions articles will be accepted *as is*. The typical best case scenario is *accepted pending revisions*, in which your article has been selected for publication in the journal upon completion of revisions suggested by assigned reviewers. The effective route to publication in such scenarios is to, in fact, make the suggested revisions and resubmit, a process which may go through several iterations. Authors do have the option of implementing only some of the suggested

revisions, but may then find the piece placed back in queue for the lengthy review process, with little guarantee of publication. Editors may return a manuscript rejected for publication but including suggested revisions. This valuable step in the publication process can assist in the refinement of an article destined to find a more appropriate home in another journal. Occasionally, an article will be rejected without comment. Then, according to my advisor, you cry. But only for a bit, because you have other ideas in play. You go look at your full research pipeline and decide which to tackle next.

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As I follow the suggestions shared above I anticipate answering these questions with confidence. I will be able to articulate publication projects I have underway and explain through which stage each of them is progressing. I will have specific targets on which to spend daily writing time. I will have a ready list of journals, calls, and deadlines for which my work is appropriate. I will fearlessly traverse any hallway I like.

## References

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