Scholarly Writing and Publication

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Today’s Topics

• Reasons to write
• Tips for doing writing
• Publication outlets in the field
• Tips for writing scholarly articles
• The review and publication process
• Final thoughts
Reasons to Write
Reasons to Write

• Scholarly writing is an expectation of university faculty members at most institutions, even those that may not have an overt research focus.

• So, in a very real sense, scholarly writing is a job expectation and a requirement for financial rewards and advancement in higher education.
Reasons to Write

• In addition, scholarly writing is a way to:
  – Share your ideas and research and so contribute to the knowledge base and dialogue in a discipline
  – Enhance your personal reputation and the reputation of your institution
  – Collaborate with others
  – Obtain personal satisfaction
Tips for Doing Writing
Tips for Doing Writing

• Scholarly writing is a skill like any other that requires time to develop and takes practice. So, write and write often!

• Set aside regular time, at least once each week, when you can work on doing writing.

• Read lots of current literature in the field to get a sense of what people are writing about and what academic writing looks like.
Tips for Doing Writing

- Set specific writing goals for yourself to accomplish each week, month, semester.
- Monitor yourself, and find the times that work best for you to do writing.
- Team with other students to write, read drafts, and provide each other with constructive feedback.
- Seek collaborators including faculty members and other graduate students.
Tips for Doing Writing

• Look for opportunities to write:
  – Research project → Journal article
  – Conference paper → Journal article
  – Course or pre-lim paper → Journal article
  – Special issue call → Journal article
  – Hot/new topic in the field → Journal article

• Be persistent! Some days, writing will flow, but others it will be a struggle. Keep at it. Write and write often!
Publication Outlets
Publication Outlets

• What are some of the key publications in our field of study?
Publication Outlets in LDT

- Educational Technology Research & Development
- Computers & Education
- Journal of Educational Computing Research
- Journal of Research on Technology in Education
- Journal of the Learning Sciences
- Instructional Science
- British Journal of Educational Technology
- Performance Improvement Quarterly
- Educational Technology
Publication Outlets in LDT

- *Education, Communication & Information*
- *Educause*
- *Interactive Learning Environments*
- *International Journal of Instructional Media*
- *Journal of Computing in Higher Education*
- *Journal of Educational Multimedia & Hypermedia*
- *Journal of Instructional Delivery Systems*
- *Journal of Interactive Learning Research*
- *Tech Trends*
Publication Outlets in LDT

- American Journal of Distance Education
- Journal of Asynchronous Learning Networks
- International Journal on E-Learning
- International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning
- Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication
- MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching
- Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration
- Open Learning
Publication Outlets in LDT

- *Computers in the Schools*
- *Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education*
- *Journal of Information Technology for Teacher Education*
- *Journal of Technology and Teacher Education*
- *Leading and Learning with Technology*
- *Technology and Learning*
Tips for Writing Scholarly Articles
Tips for Writing Scholarly Articles

• Review journals to determine what they commonly publish.
  – Particular content focus?
  – Research or practitioner oriented?
  – Length and stylistic practices/requirements?

• Select an appropriate journal for a particular manuscript (e.g., don’t send a practitioner article to a research journal).
Tips for Writing Scholarly Articles

• Carefully read the journal’s information for authors, and adhere closely to the formatting and style requirements.

• Carefully proofread your manuscript before submission to ensure it is stylistically correct and free of errors.

• Ask one or two others to read your manuscript for content and clarity before submission.
Tips for Writing Scholarly Articles

• Give your article a clear and concise title.

• Include the following key components for research articles:
  – Abstract
  – Introduction
  – Literature Review / Theoretical Framework
  – Methodology
  – Results
  – Discussion and Conclusions
Tips for Writing Scholarly Articles

• Use active voice in your writing.
• Use a clear organizational structure with appropriate headings.
• Be thorough but concise. Journals unlike theses have space limitations, so eliminate unnecessary material and focus your content.
• Make sure your references are up-to-date, complete, and in the style required by the journal.
Journal Review and Publication Process
Review and Publication Process

- Manuscript requirements vary by journal. Be sure to read the information for authors, which often appears inside the journal or on the journal’s website. (See ETR&D.)

- Many journals now use an online submission system. For those that do not, prepare a short cover letter and submit the manuscript according to the directions.
Review and Publication Process

• Many journals require that manuscripts undergo blind review. If the journal requires blind review:
  – Prepare one version of the manuscript with author information included.
  – Prepare a second, blinded version of the manuscript in which all references to the author, the author’s institution, and other identifying information are removed.
Review and Publication Process

• After submission, journals editors often first scan a manuscript to ensure that it fits the journal. Poor fits may be rejected without further review by the editor.

• If the content fits the journal, it is common for the editor to ask 2-4 reviewers to review the manuscript and make recommendations. This process ordinarily takes several months or more.
Review and Publication Process

• Following completion of reviews, the journal editor will synthesize the reviews, make a decision, and communicate it to you.

• Three (or sometimes four) choices are:
  – Accept without revisions (very rare)
  – Accept with revisions (may distinguish between major and minor revisions)
  – Reject
Review and Publication Process

• Handling an “accept with revisions” decision
  – Carefully read the editor’s letter and reviewers’ comments to determine what changes are needed.
  – Put aside your ego, and take the reviews as constructive feedback to improve your work. Extensive reviewer feedback is guidance and encouragement for you to get published.
  – Don’t delay; make revisions as soon as possible and within whatever timeline the editor gives.
Review and Publication Process

• Handling an “accept with revisions” decision
  – Whenever possible, make changes to respond to
    the editor’s or reviewers’ comments.
  – If reviewers’ suggestions conflict, confer with the
    editor. In most cases, the editor’s letter outlines
    the key changes that are expected.
  – It is okay to disagree with a recommended change
    if you have a defensible rationale for not making
    that change.
Review and Publication Process

• Handling an “accept with revisions” decision
  – Keep a running account of all the changes that you make to the manuscript.
  – When you submit your revised manuscript to the editor, include a letter in which you detail all of the changes that you have made in response to the editor’s and reviewers’ comments and suggestions.
Review and Publication Process

- After you submit a revised manuscript, the editor may:
  - Accept your revisions and agree to publish the article.
  - Request additional changes before agreeing to publish the article.
  - Send the revised manuscript out for additional reviews (particularly if the decision was “accept with major revisions”).
Review and Publication Process

• Handling a “reject” decision
  – Do not get dejected if you get rejected. Analyze the reasons, and determine a course of action.
  – If “fit” with the journal was an issue, consider submitting to a more appropriate journal.
  – If the issue was the content/quality, use the reviewers’ comments to improve the manuscript and either resubmit it to the same journal or submit it to another journal.
Final Thoughts
Authorship

- Authorship and credit can be issues in works with multiple contributors such as works co-authored by a faculty member and graduate students.
- Whenever possible, contributors should discuss authorship and credit in advance to determine who should get credit as an author and what the order of authors should be.
Plagiarism

- Plagiarism can have serious consequences, and you can be cited for plagiarizing yourself (so-called self-plagiarism).

- To avoid problems, use Purdue’s Check Yourself (iThenticate) system to scan your work before submitting it to a journal.
Rights and Fees

• When an article is published, you must transfer the copyright to the publisher. Use the CIC Copyright Addendum to retain some rights for yourself.

• Some journals have page charges. Watch out for these fees (often hundreds of $$$), which are becoming more common in newer open-access, online journals.
Final Thoughts

• Think about where you want to publish your work. Aim for top-tier journals in your field. Avoid less selective publications.

• However, it is also valuable to spread your publications among a variety of different journals because they reach different audiences.

• Remember: write and write often!
Questions?

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