



**How To Get Your Article Published –**  
*From title to references*  
*From submission to revision*



**Why publish?**

**Publishing** is one of the necessary steps **embedded in the** scientific research process

**We should publish:**

- To present **new or original results or methods**.
- To rationalize (**refine or reinterpret**) published **Results**.
- To **review the field** or to summarize a particular subject.
- **Findings that advance**, not repeat, **knowledge** and understanding in a certain, scientific field.

**We should not publish:**

- Reports of **no scientific interest**.
- Work that is **out of date**.
- **Duplications** of previously published work.
- **Incorrect/invalidated conclusions**.

**What type of manuscript?**

**Full articles / Original articles:** the most important papers. Often substantial completed pieces of research that are of significance. Generally 10 – 25 manuscript pages.

**Letters / Rapid Communications/ Short communications:** quick and early communication of significant and original advances. Much shorter than full articles (usually strictly limited).

**Review papers / perspectives:** summarizing recent developments on a specific topic. Highlighting important points that have previously been reported and introduce no new information. Often submitted on invitation only.

**Choose the target journal**

- **Choose one right journal for your work**. DO NOT gamble by scattering your manuscript to many journals. Only submit once!
- Articles in your own **references** will likely lead you to the right journal.

**Peer Review**

- Consider reviewing as a procedure in which several peers discuss your work. Learn from their comments, and join the discussion.
- Nearly every manuscript requires revision.
- Bear in mind that editors and reviewers mean to help you improve your article
- Do not take offence.

**Practical Advise**

Find out what's hot

<http://info.sciverse.com/topcited/>

<http://top25.sciencedirect.com/>

Subject Specific Impact Factor (<http://tinyurl.com/scopusimpact>)

SCImago Journal & Country Ranking (<http://scimagojr.com/>)

## Article Structure

1) **Title** – what is the paper broadly about?  
- Your opportunity to attract the reader's attention.

2) **Abstract** – tell the prospective readers what you did and what were the important findings.  
- This is the advertisement of your article.  
- Make it interesting, and easy to be understood without reading the whole article. Keep it as BRIEF as possible!!!

3) **Keywords** – mainly used for indexing and searching  
- It is the label of your manuscript.  
- Avoid words with a broad meaning, but do neither use too narrow terms (get into the Google groove...)

4) **Introduction** – to convince readers that you clearly know why your work is useful  
- What is the problem? Are there any existing solutions? What are their main limitations? And what do you hope to achieve?  
- Provide a perspective consistent with the nature of the journal.  
- Never make this section into a history lesson. Long introductions put readers off. Introductions of Letters are even shorter.

5) **Methods** – how was the problem studied  
- Include detailed information, so that a knowledgeable reader can reproduce the experiment.  
- Extensive detail can be described in the supplementary material.

6) **Results** – What have you found?  
- Only representative results, essential for the Discussion, should be presented.  
- Add Supplementary Materials for data of secondary importance.  
- Do not attempt to “hide” data in the hope of saving it for a later paper.

7. **Discussion** – What the results mean  
- It is the most important section of your article. Here you get the chance to SELL your data!  
- Make the structure & sub-sections of the Discussion corresponding to the Results.  
- You need to compare the published results with yours.  
- Do NOT ignore work in disagreement with yours – confront it and convince the reader that you are correct.

8. **Conclusions** – How the work advances the field from the present state of knowledge  
- Without clear Conclusions, reviewers and readers will find it difficult to judge the work, and whether or not it merits publication in the journal.  
- Do NOT repeat the Abstract, or just list experimental results.

9. **References**  
- Typically, there are more mistakes in the references than any other part of the manuscript.

10. **Cover letter** – your chance to speak to the Editor directly .

## Watch Your Language!

Key to successful scientific writing is to be alert to common errors:

### Scientific Language – Sentences

Write direct and **short** sentences

**One idea** or piece of information **per sentence** is sufficient

### Scientific Language – Tenses

- **Present tense for known facts and hypotheses:**

*“The average life of a honey bee is 6 weeks”*




- **Past tense for experiments you have conducted:**




*“All the honey bees were maintained in an environment with a consistent temperature of 23 degrees centigrade...”*

- **Past tense when you describe the results of an experiment:**

*“The average life span of bees in our contained environment was 8 weeks...”*

**Scientific Language - Grammar** - Use active voice to shorten sentences. Write in the first person plural.

-  - **Passive voice:** “It has been found that there had been...”
-  - **Active voice:** “We found that...”
-  - **Avoid abbreviations:** “it’s”, “weren’t”, “hasn’t”  
Never use them in scientific writing

-  - **Minimize use of adverbs:** “However”, “In addition”, “Moreover”
-  - Eliminate redundant phrases
-  - Double-check unfamiliar words or phrases

### Author names: common problems

Keep consistent in the style of writing your full name and the abbreviation for all your publications – for the efficiency of indexing and searching.

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### Ethics: Publish AND Perish! – if you break ethical rules

Ethics problems with scientific articles are on the rise *globally*.

#### **Ethics Issues in Publishing**

- Falsification of results
  - Plagiarism
  - Duplicate submission
  - Submission without all author’s knowledge
  - Inaccurate acknowledgement of sponsors, funders or other potential conflicts of interest.
  - Duplicate publication
  - Inappropriate acknowledgement of prior research and researchers
  - Inappropriate identification of all co-authors
  - Data fabrication and falsification
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Notes:

