

# Research Publishing Considerations and Improving Your Success in Academia

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Professional peer reviewed journals have been a staple of academia for more than 100 years. Getting your research published in peer reviewed journals has always been a challenging endeavor for academics. Graduate schools are suppose to be where doctoral students learn the ins and outs of getting research published and where they learn to be a peer reviewer for professional journals. These learning expectations have dwindled dramatically in the last 15 years and the editors of peer reviewed journals have been at the receiving end of this lack of preparation for people new to academia.

This editorial is designed to fill those gaps and to serve as a primer and resource for aspiring researchers and academics. Even experienced researchers and academics can benefit from this editorial as the landscape of the peer reviewed journals has changed in the last 10 years.

## **Core Concepts of Peer Reviewed Journals**

The two core concepts of having research published is that the research is replicable and reproducible by another researcher if they would follow the methods and analysis of the collected data. Replicating someone else's research study is rarely ever done and we need to have this replicability and reproducibility in order to perform quality checks on other published studies.

## **History of Professional Journals**

Professional journals were initially associated with a professional organization in one's field of study. But that has changed in the last fifteen years. Now more journals are owned by

publishing companies, individuals, and less and less by professional organizations.

How did journals sustain themselves? Journals sold annual subscriptions to libraries. Journals sold advertising space in the journal. Cost for the page proofs, publishing the paper copy of the journal, snail mailing it to members, was built into your membership. Journals made money and big money for professional organizations! This does not happen anymore. Journals are a real drain on a professional organization's budget. This is resulting in organizations selling off their journals, scaling back on the number of issues, no longer publishing paper copies and only electronic copies of journals for their members.

So, you want to fulfill the research component of your career and you want to publish your dissertation or had an idea for a research study and have conducted a research study and it is now ready to be submitted to a professional journal. But, what journal should you send the research manuscript to? There are thousands that you have never heard of.

## **Where to Find Quality Peer Reviewed Journals?**

The first location you should go to to find top quality journals is your university library. They have tremendous holdings and relationships with other libraries. Get together with a university librarian and have them help you find peer reviewed journals and their published research articles.

Another great location is the Directory for Open Access Journals (doaj.org). The DOAJ only has peer reviewed journals. To get a journal accepted into the DOAJ is a very technical and detailed approval process. In essence, every

journal listed in the DOAJ has been peer reviewed for meeting the DOAJ expectations for inclusion in their listing and search engine. The DOAJ does dismiss journals that for one reason or another fail to maintain the DOAJ rules for being listed by them.

Currently (July 23, 2019), the DOAJ has 13,500 journals and these are not found via a university library search engine. Of these 13,500 journals, 10,550 journals are searchable at article level via the DOAJ website and there are 4,104,370 articles at the present time and as with all journals, new articles are being added daily. The DOAJ holdings represent 131 countries. All journals and articles in the DOAJ are free.

Do not use Google Scholar to try and find a journal to publish in. Google Scholar has very limited access to journals and their published articles. The only way that Google Scholar has an increased access to journals and their articles is if you combine it with your university library's search engine. This increased access is only going to be available when you are logged into your university library and combine it with Google Scholar. Otherwise Google Scholar is limited. By using Google Scholar, the researcher is taking a huge risk of using articles from predatory journals, and also the risk of referencing fake research that Google finds, and the author does not discern.

### Types of Journals

There are many different types of journals. There are paper and electronic, and even online where a subscription required, and online open access that are free at all times. Journals can be owned by a professional organization, owned by a publisher, owned by an individual for the betterment of their profession, or owned by a university.

### Journal Publishing Schedules

A consideration when you are looking for journals to submit your research manuscript to, is the publishing schedule. The publishing schedule varies by journal. There are journals that publish weekly, biweekly, monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, annually, or immediately. The journals that have the capability to publish immediately are the online and open access journals.

### Journal Article Availability

Some journals do not make their published articles available immediately and instead will embargo their articles. What this does is delay the availability to the general public and the articles are only available first to the subscribers. The embargo period varies by journal. As a researcher, if you published in a journal that embargoes their articles and you are not a subscriber of that journal, you might not have access to your own newly published project until the embargo period ends.

Other journals make their articles available immediately upon listed by the library search engine. The benefits of the articles being immediately available is that it gets your name and research out into the hands of other researchers for use in their literature reviews sooner than an embargoed article does.

### Journal Prestige and Rankings

Journal rankings have been used by some universities to tell their faculty they need to publish in these specific journals. Rankings were intended to associate the prestige with getting a research study published in a particular journal because of its quality and the difficulty in an article getting published in that journal. And the ranking and impact factor were associated with the journal's "influence" in the profession.

A journal included in library search engines gets your article out into the academic world and used in other people's research papers...this is known as the "impact factor". At research universities, impact factor is a big deal and the faculty's research production is evaluated by its impact factor. At all other universities, impact factor is not a factor. And "impact factor" is being viewed as a dying issue in academia. Why? Because free journals and predatory journals from the internet such as those found via Google Scholar are going to get "hit" more by lazy researchers that just use Google Scholar, than are journals that are only listed through a university library search engine. These free journals from the internet are getting used more in literature review sections of new research manuscripts and thus "padding" their journal's impact factor. Google Scholar as a standalone search engine, does not contribute to the statistics of other reputable journals impact factors or to the prestige of a journal through a

ranking process that is occasionally completed in a professional field.

### Types of Journal Manuscripts/Articles

There are many different types of journal articles that an academic person could write and pursue having it published via a journal. The most famous article is the original research study. But there are other types of articles that are published and that we need more of in professional peer reviewed journals. These include: case studies, clinical trials, commentary, concept, conference abstracts or proceedings, letters to the editor, literature reviews, meta-analysis, opinion, perspectives, pilot study, rapid communications, systematic reviews, teaching ideas, and theoretical model or framework.

### Online Journals

There are two types of online journals. Open access journals and online journals. Online journals will require a subscription in order to read the articles or are only available through a library search engine. Open access journals are free and always available to anyone with internet access.

Don't think that just because a journal is online that it will be easier to publish in than a journal tied to a professional membership or subscription. That is simply a false thought. Eight months after the JHET was launched, I received a "manuscript" submission that was entitled: "CPR in the College Classroom". The submission was 12 pictures of students performing CPR on mannequins in a classroom setting. There were no words, just 12 pictures and the pictures did not have descriptions or captions. I emailed the author and inquired about the rest of the manuscript. The author responded that the 12 pictures were their "manuscript". I informed the author that pictorials were not a type of manuscript and their submission was rejected.

A journal with a Library of Congress issued ISSN# is the 1<sup>st</sup> designation to look for in an online journal. The Library of Congress does issue ISSN numbers to online journals that meet the Library of Congress rules and regulations. If a journal does not have an ISSN#, then run away, it is predatory.

An ISSN# gets the journal considered for inclusion in the library search engines like ERIC, EBSCOHOST, Academic Search Premier, CINAHL, etc. When a journal is included in one of these distinguished search engines, the search engine keeps track of the number of downloads of the articles, the number of times the articles have been used by other researchers, and provides a monthly or quarterly report to the editor. A journal included in library search engines gets your article out into the academic world and used in other people's research papers. A journal that is carried by a library search engine guarantees that your paper will be in the published research archives forever. Finally, a quality online journal will list their review and publication statistics.

### Avoiding Predatory Journals

The internet has spawned predatory "journals" that mask themselves as professional peer reviewed journals but are not. These journals do not peer review the manuscripts because they do not actually have a panel of peer reviewers. The owner of the journal is the peer reviewer and almost always instantly accepts the submitted manuscript for publication. The author(s) gets super excited that their project has been accepted. But then comes the astonishing surprises to the author, the journal informs them of the exorbitant fees they are charging to the authors to publish the project. The flabbergasting fees for page proofs that are in the hundreds of dollars per page, publication fees to load the publication to the website, maintenance fees to keep the publication posted on the website.

In order to avoid being scammed by predatory "journals" that you find in a random internet search, there are two sources that are best to use to check out the journal: (1) Beall's List (<https://beallslist.weebly.com/>) is searchable by publisher and by journal name; and (2) Think, Check, Submit (<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>) touts itself as "helping researchers identify trusted journals for their research". This is an independent and collaboration of many organizations involved in preventing publishing that is deceptive to the authors. They endorse integrity and foster trust for research publications.

As I reiterated earlier, when you use Google Scholar, you are taking a huge risk of using

articles from predatory journals, and also the risk of referencing fake research in your literature review. You then become a secondary victim of predatory journals.

### Choosing the Right Journal for Your Research

Review the scope/aims of the journal. If your study does not match up, move on to a different journal. Journals are not going to change their mission, scope, aim, or objectives to accommodate your project. Review the published projects to see if they are in sync with your project. Do not compare just the published titles against your project, but compare the content of the articles. Another place to find journals for your research is to look in the reference list of your manuscripts. Is there a journal that has published many articles related to your topic? Then this should be the first journal you explore.

### Preparing the Manuscript

First and foremost, follow the journal's author's guidelines! The guidelines are requirements not suggestions or optional. Don't even think that the journal's editor will change it for you! Just last week I had an author submit a manuscript that did not abide by the author's guidelines for the journal. There were 5 different font changes in the manuscript (interesting that there were 5 different authors listed on the author's page). And none of the 5 fonts were the required Arial font. The project used a referencing software. And the journal does not allow that because if the project gets accepted for publishing, the typesetting company cannot make page proofs when referencing software is used. I emailed the corresponding author and informed her that they had not followed the author's guidelines. She responded in her email back to me: *"just put my project into your own guidelines. And turn off the automated referencing software for yourself."*

A journal's editors are not your secretary, you are expected to do your own manuscript preparation throughout the entire process. The project was rejected in the mechanical review stage and I have not heard from the author. I guess she is looking for a journal that has the same author's guidelines as her project. Good luck.

Never submit the same manuscript to multiple journals at the same time. This is unethical and will result in your being placed on a banned list. Multiple simultaneous submissions of the same project still happen and journal editors communicate with one another! When this is discovered, the editors both send emails to the author's university president, vice president, dean, and department chair, and to the author. They are banned for 5 years from submitting to either journal and some journals ban the author for life.

### Titles, Abstract, and Key Words

The titles, abstract, and key words are the first seen by a reader, but they are the last items that an author spends time with and often are marginal in effort. The titles, abstracts, and key words are the triggers in a library search engine during the literature review. If a title, abstract, or key words are not an accurate reflection of a research study, a researcher can spend time needlessly looking at projects that are not useful to their research. Here are some additional recommendations for the title, abstract, and key words:

#### Title.

Spend time on your title. Your title is the "catch" and needs to be a direct reflection of the study. Titles are not a sentence. They are a summary. Titles must not exceed 12 total words.

#### Abstract.

Spend time on the abstract. The 2<sup>nd</sup> most important part of your manuscript is the abstract. Some journals have a required abstract format and some journals do not. If a journal does not have a required abstract format, use the format recommended by the APA Manual.

#### Key Words.

Spend time on the key words. They should not be a replication of words in your title. Key words are routinely omitted or not related to the study.

### Spell Check, Grammar Check, and Punctuation

Take time to run a spell check and grammar check on your manuscript. Review the entire document's spell check and grammar check reports and make the appropriate changes. I routinely receive manuscripts with misspelled

words, with grammatical errors, and with punctuation errors, especially sentences that do not end with a period. Take a day or two break from the manuscript and then read through the document and keep a keen eye for the wrong versions of words (there/their, here/hear, you get the idea).

**Statistics, Tables, Figures, Diagrams, and Graphs**

The statistics that you use must be appropriate and accurately displayed. As an author of a research manuscript, know the difference between a table, figure, diagram, and graph. Most people know what a table is, but just do not know the difference between a figure, diagram, and graph. Here is that primer.

**Table Example.**

**Table 1: Grade Level Frequencies of Girls Per Week**

| Grade Level | Week 1 Girls | Week 2 Girls | Week 3 Girls | Week 4 Girls | All Weeks Girls |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Pre-K       | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0               |
| K           | 2            | 6            | 3            | 1            | 12              |
| 1           | 1            | 1            | 1            | 5            | 8               |
| 2           | 2            | 3            | 3            | 4            | 12              |
| 3           | 1            | 1            | 1            | 3            | 6               |
| 4           | 4            | 1            | 2            | 5            | 12              |
| 5           | 1            | 0            | 1            | 1            | 3               |
| 6           | 1            | 1            | 3            | 3            | 8               |
| 7           | 1            | 0            | 1            | 0            | 2               |
| Total       | 13           | 13           | 15           | 24           | 65              |

**Figure Example.**

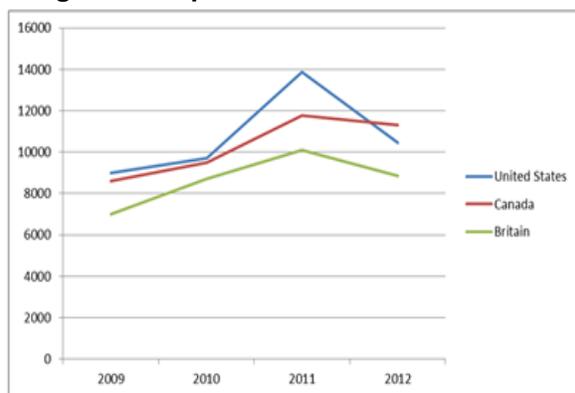
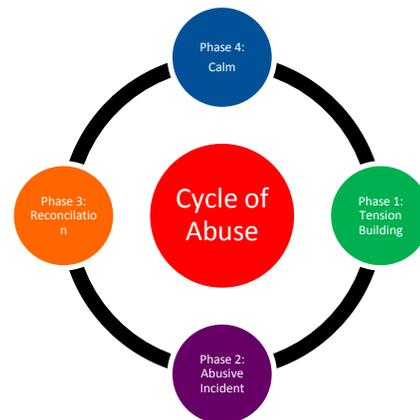


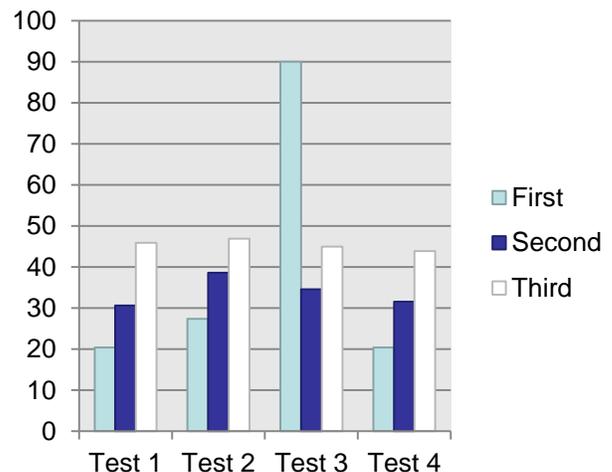
Figure 1. Sale of luxury goods in the United States, Canada, and Britain by value 2009-2012. Data for the United States from Euromonitor (2013a), for Canada from Statistics Canada (2012), and for Britain from Kurtzman (2013).

**Diagram Example.**

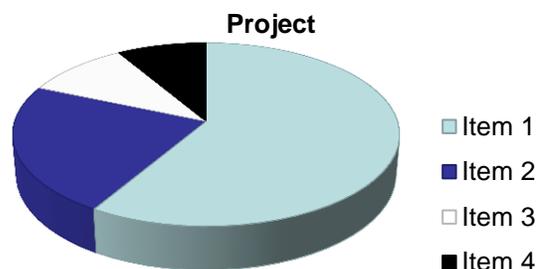


**Graph Examples.**

**Example 1: Bar Graph.**



**Example 2: Pie Graph.**



**References**

The reference format for the journal must be followed and that format is found in the author's

guidelines. The two most common formats are APA and AMA. Your own dreamed up format is not a recognized format in the world of academic publishing. The wrong format is one of the most common reasons why a manuscript fails the mechanical review stage and gets sent back to the authors. Do not use a referencing software computer program. They are not accurate. They routinely make the same errors over and over when making the references into the format you've requested. Spend time putting your references into the correct format within your reference pages.

Never do a word search and replace. It will change that word if it also appears in your references. This is a big no no! Fake references will get you banned. In 2012, I received a manuscript submission that did the search and replace and it changed some of their references into fake references. In 2017, I received a manuscript that had all fake references (and it was not related to the search and replace feature). The author had used journals that I'd never heard of before. I went to my university library and tried searching for the journals and could not find them in any of the five library search engines that I used. I then asked my librarian to help me and she could not find these journals or articles either. I could not believe that an author would go to the effort of faking references, and I contacted the author and inquired about the journal names and articles they had used. I asked for PDF copies of the articles. I never heard from the author, after 2 weeks I emailed the author a second time with another request and have never heard from that author again. I shudder at the thought that some other journal did not catch the fake references and has published that project.

### Hitting the Submit Button

You have your manuscript finished and you are ready to submit it. How are submissions handled by journals? Some journals have authors submit their manuscripts via email. The email address might be directly to the editor's email address or the email address is a designated dropbox. When submitting through email, always pursue confirmation that submission was received and was not lost through a spam filter. Other journals have a website and the author is to submit through the website submission process. Still other journals use a journal management system and this

tracks the submission through the entire process.

### The Process that a Manuscript Goes Through from the Time it is Submitted

Once the submission has been received, a number is assigned to the project. The manuscript is taken through a mechanical review. This is when the manuscript is checked against the mechanical review rubric. The mechanical review ensures that the manuscript is a match with the journal's aims and scope and the author's guidelines have been followed. If the manuscript fails the mechanical review, it is returned to author. If the manuscript passes the mechanical review, it moves on to peer reviewers.

### Peer Review Process for Journals

Once a manuscript passes the mechanical review, the editor matches up the topic with peer reviewers who are familiar with the subject and the research method. There will be 2-3 peer reviewers who are asked to review the manuscript. The title and abstract is sent to the potential reviewers so they can determine if they are interested in conducting a peer review of the manuscript. If they agree, then the entire manuscript is sent to them. The reviewers are given a time period in which to review the project. Prior to sending out the entire manuscript, the author's names and all identifying information is removed before it is sent to the peer reviewers. The evaluation rubric is given to the peer reviewers to use.

### Evaluation Rubrics

An evaluation rubric is considered a best practice. However, the evaluation rubrics vary greatly from one journal to another. For example, as a peer reviewer I have experienced a journal that only asks the peer reviewers to say either:

- Yes
- No
- Revise and resubmit

My response was **REALLY?** I ask you, if you would want your hard work to be simply evaluated with a yes, no, or revise? And is this fair to the researcher/author? An evaluation rubric ensures every aspect has been looked at by the peer reviewers and written

comments/feedback is provided by the peer reviewers. Some journals openly share their rubric on their website. Some journals do not. Why? Because the rubric is proprietary and the journal is trying to protect the rubric that they developed, and the integrity of their peer review process. A thorough peer review evaluation rubric will have the following criteria evaluated: Title, Abstract, Key Words, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Tables, Graphs, Figures, Charts, Pictures, References, Writing Dynamics, and overall formatting of the paper such as APA. These criteria will be evaluated in detail not just a checkmark.

### Peer Review Decisions

There is no such concept as “Yes” without revisions. There is no such thing as a perfect manuscript. Every manuscript needs revisions if it has been peer reviewed. If a journal accepts your manuscript without revisions...run! It is a predatory journal!

### The Decision

Once the peer reviewers have completed their reviews, the journal’s editor receives the peer reviews and merges them into one document. The editor communicates the decision and reviewer’s comments to the corresponding author. If the peer reviewers are divided in their decision, the editor breaks the tie.

### Revisions

All manuscripts will need revisions, get them done ASAP. Many journals consider a submission dead if it is not revised immediately. If the revisions take more than 4 weeks, the journal can require it to start all over and be peer reviewed again. This will result in new peer reviewers being secured, and the next peer reviewers might reject the manuscript. This will delay its possible publication because you will have to submit it to a different journal. If it is not a priority for you, as the author, it is not a priority for the journal’s editor to get it into the publishing que.

### The Publishing Process

If or when the manuscript is accepted for publication, **congrats!** But your work is not done. The authors are involved in the publishing

process. The journal will have your accepted manuscript made into professional page proofs by a typesetting company. The authors are required to approve the typeset page proofs. When reviewing your page proofs, be slow, detailed, and careful. The final page proofs are what the readers and researchers see. The page proofs are a reflection of the author’s work and you need to ensure they are accurate. It is not the journal’s responsibility to ensure that they are accurate, it is the author’s responsibility.

Some journals will require the page proofs to be returned within a specific time period. Some do not, but, return them to the editor within a week. There are journals that are now requiring the author’s to put their accepted paper into the journal’s template for page proofs. I say **YIKES!** Authors struggle to follow the journal’s author’s guidelines and for authors to follow a template and made their own page proofs is scary and is going to result in differences in one article to the next and a mismatch within the same journal’s pages and articles.

### Fees that Journals Charge

There are fees now being charged by journals since most are now independent and not associated with a professional membership. The three most common fees are: submission fees, page proof fees, and change fees.

#### Submission fees.

Submission fees have been common in medical, engineering, and agricultural journals for 35 years but not found in the vast majority of journals. In the last decade some other journals have started to charge for submission. Submission fees are here to stay. More and more journals will be charging submission fees until everyone charges. Submission fees are non-refundable and do not guarantee a project will be published by the charging journal. To pay submission fees, you must be very confident in your project and its ability to be published by the charging journal.

Submission fees have been embraced by predatory journals, too. I do not recommend paying on the front end to submit to a journal because you are running the risk that the journal is a predatory journal. The best practice is that a journal always offers a free submission option,

along with a tiered system. The newer concept in the last decade is a tiered structure and these are becoming commonplace. A tiered system provides authors with a free review period and then review periods that are faster if the author wants their project reviewed quicker. The tiered system review period varies by journal. Be sure to review the journal's timelines.

For example:

Tier 1: Submission is free with a review period that usually ranges from 12-16 weeks.

Tier 2: Submission fee is charged for a faster review period that usually ranges from 8-11 weeks.

Tier 3: A more expensive submission fee is charged for a quick review period that usually ranges from 4-6 weeks.

A common misperception is that if an author pays for a faster review, their chances of it being accepted is greater. This is not true. Just because someone pays for a faster review does not mean it will get accepted or published.

#### **Page proof fees.**

Page proof fees are becoming more and more common. The fees are frequently ranging from \$25.00 to \$100.00 per page. Some journals just charge a flat rate that is not based upon the number of pages. These flat fees are ranging from \$500.00 to \$5,000. Yes, I have seen journals charging \$5000 for their page proofs. I caution against paying more than \$1000 for the page proofs for an entire manuscript. The more you are willing to pay, the more incentive there is for a journal to increase their page proof charges. Also you risk falling prey to a predatory journal because all predatory journals have exorbitant page proof fees.

How do you know if you are getting ripped off on the cost of page proofs? By knowing what typesetting services charge a journal to typeset per page. Typesetting services charge between \$10.00 - \$50.00 per page. The high end of this scale is almost always due to multiple colors in the manuscript, and lots of pictures, tables, graphs, and diagrams which are all special technical services. The typesetting service that I use for the *JHET* I run, charges \$10.00 per page. And that is exactly what I charge the authors. Journals are charging \$20.00-\$50.00 per page as a way of making money and gouging the authors who are usually desperate

to get something published. How much are you willing to pay per page?

#### **Page Proof Charges are Here to Stay.**

The reality is that page proof charges are here to stay. More and more universities are acknowledging that page proof fees are not going away, and are willing to pay the fees for their faculty. New faculty or renewing faculty should negotiate page proof fees into their contract with the university. Universities are not yet paying for submission fees or for sped up review periods, those are still on the faculty member to absorb. Some grant funded researchers are writing submission fees and page proof fees into their research grants and thus using grant monies to pay for submission fees and page proof fees.

Never pay page proof fees before your manuscript has even been peer reviewed. This is a predatory practice.

#### **Change fees.**

Change fees are charged if the author's approved their page proofs and then found an error in their manuscript and want it changed or if the authors just want something changed that does not affect the study. Typesetting services charge the journal to make changes to an approved paper and thus the journal has to charge the authors for their requested changes. These changes can only be made prior to the study being published. Once it is published, it is final. If there is an obvious error that is found, then the journal will publish one of two corrections. An erratum is used if the error was made in the production or a corrigendum correction is made if the error was by the author. Journals do not charge for either of these error corrections.

Changes to a published article are not made if an author changes employers and wants it changed. Once it is published, no changes are allowed to the author's affiliation. You cannot take your publication with you to your new university. And you might chuckle at the thought of an author thinking they want to change their university affiliation on a published project, but I've had it asked of me 4 times in the last 10 years.

### Warning Signs

If a journal accepts your manuscript immediately...run away it is a predatory journal. No manuscripts get accepted immediately. Nor do manuscripts get accepted without revisions. The journal must have their fees listed on their websites. If there is no indication that you have to pay for the page proofs, and then you get shocked and socked with a bill, this is a predatory practice. Simply decline and specifically state that you are removing the manuscript from submission to that journal. If a journal does not have a guaranteed review period, look out! It could take a year or more to get your paper reviewed. This is simply unethical, but is still common in some journals and a holdover from decades ago when the entire manuscript submission and review process was conducted by snail mail.

Predatory journals are charging fees to submit the manuscript at the front end, then page proofs, then to upload it to their website, and then to maintain the article in print. These maintenance fees are usually either a monthly or an annual charge to the author to keep the paper on their website. This is a predatory practice and run away and never look back!

### Final No No's...

(1) Do not harass the editor and ask them to "take a quick look" at your manuscript to see if it is appropriate for their journal. Do your own decision making and look at the scope and aims of the journal and ask yourself: "does my manuscript match up with this journal's purpose"? Ask a colleague if they think your manuscript matches a particular journal. Ask your spouse or significant other if they think your manuscript matches the aim and scope of the journal. Ask anyone, just don't ask the editor.

(2) If your manuscript gets rejected by one journal, don't just send it to another journal without adapting the manuscript to the next journal's author's guidelines.

(3) Don't send all of your research manuscripts to the same journal. Send them to different journals to get your name into different journals in your professional field.

(4) Don't harass the journal's editor, managing editor, or anyone serving as a peer reviewer for the journal where you have submitted a manuscript. Do not do this while the manuscript is being peer reviewed and do not do

this if it gets rejected. If you do, this will result in your getting red flagged and automatically rejected for anything you submit to that journal.

### How to Become a Peer Reviewer and What is Expected of a Peer Reviewer

Being a peer reviewer is a privilege. Peer reviewers do not get paid for serving. It is considered a service to your profession to give back as a peer reviewer. If you are interested in serving as a peer reviewer for a journal, watch for a journal's "call for reviewers" on their websites or that statement in the paper journal. Some journals have an online peer reviewer application form that you fill out on their website. The editor reviews the application. An invitation or declination is emailed to you. You can directly contact a journal editor and professionally inquire if they are seeking reviewers.

Some journals require prior publications of the person who wants to be a peer reviewer. Some journals do not. Journals do not provide trainings for people who want to be a peer reviewer. Why? They expect you to have learned how to be critical of research in grad school. There are a few journals that are giving the potential peer reviewer a manuscript to evaluate and then submit their review to be compared to the journal's other 2 experienced peer reviewers. This is a practice peer review to see if you are good enough to serve as a peer reviewer for that journal by comparing your review to the actual peer reviewers. If you are offered this practice opportunity, get the review done by the due date. Perform a quality review and don't just say..."good study".

Don't pursue becoming a peer reviewer if you do not have the time to include this in your academic life. Don't pursue becoming a peer reviewer if you are not going to take time to conduct a thorough review of a research manuscript for a journal. If you are asked to serve as a peer reviewer, a journal will typically ask you to peer review 1-3 manuscripts per year. When a journal receives a manuscript that matches your interest or research methodology expertise, the journal's editor will give you a timeline in which to complete your review. The timelines range from 2 weeks to 12 weeks. Do you have this time available in your schedule? It takes at least 2 hours to read the manuscript and then perform the review and provide additional comments. If you do not have time in

your life during that timeline, then kindly deny the invitation to review that project. Peer reviewers must review at least one manuscript per year to remain as a peer reviewer for a journal, keep this in mind.

As a peer reviewer, don't rip a project to shreds to somehow prove your own intelligence. You can be critical without ripping to shreds, instead phrase your review in neutral or positive tones even when rejecting the project. And always get your peer review finished and submitted before the deadline.

Being a peer reviewer is a privilege. Always remember this! You need to remember this (1) when seeking involvement as a peer reviewer; (2) when chosen as a peer reviewer, and (3) when performing a peer review for that journal.

Peer reviewers who perform outstanding peer reviews over and over will get asked to move up to managing editors. Managing editors can become editors. Whether you are a peer reviewer or become a managing editor, serving a journal in these capacities makes you a better researcher. Being a peer reviewer can help you fulfill the third part of your faculty responsibility...service.

### The Future of Research

There is scholarship in publishing teaching research and in publishing quantitative studies and qualitative studies. We need more research that supports teaching methodologies, pedagogies, teaching practices, and teaching ideas need to be quantified through research and not just a teaching idea or technique. The academic world is filled with teaching techniques, but they are infrequently developed through quantitative research first or ever. We need more published quantitative studies and qualitative studies about teaching and about student learning. We need more quantitative and qualitative research related to traditional teaching and online teaching and about student learning through these settings. We need more quantitative and qualitative teaching about large lectures and classrooms with small numbers of students. Plus we need more online teaching ideas that work to enhance the learning experience for students.

When there is teaching research conducted, it is almost exclusively in undergraduate

teaching. We desperately need teaching research conducted with masters and doctoral education and with the graduate student's experience in learning.

You want to fulfill the teaching component of your career, and when you are involved in conducting quantitative or qualitative research on teaching, you become a better teacher and your students are the beneficiaries.

I hope you find this editorial helpful as you pursue your academic responsibilities of the trifecta: research, service, and teaching.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Dewald, EdD, ATC, MCHES®, F-AAHE  
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