



Webscout:

Getting published

by Joeyn Flauaus

Writing a manuscript is quite a challenge. When you have almost finished writing your manuscript, you need to think about the next step which is to decide where to publish it. In an ideal world this would be the first step but in reality clients prefer to see the manuscript before they decide where to publish it. When adapting the manuscript to the specific journal style, consider your intended audience. Each journal has specific instructions for the submission of manuscripts for publication. The easiest way to access these instructions for authors is via the journal homepage. The instructions usually specify the length of a manuscript and, however difficult it may seem, you should avoid submitting a manuscript that is appreciably longer or shorter than specified. It is worth the effort to cut out every unnecessary word or phrase. Be precise and define the take-home message clearly!

I have put together a selection of articles, blogs and websites on publishing manuscripts and on Open Access Journal Publishing. These provide some useful tips and advice from the experts to help you to make your manuscript stand out.

Articles to help you preparing a manuscript for submission:

How to write a scientific paper--a rough guide to getting published:

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1511068>

Ten Simple Rules for Getting Published:

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1274296>

Blogs:

<http://network.nature.com/blogs/user/mfenner>

Gobbledygook: This is a blog on scientific publishing in the Internet age. General issues on how to write a good scientific manuscript are discussed. Hot topics like fraud in research are also covered.

<http://network.nature.com/forums/askthenatureeditor/567>

Join the discussion with the Nature *editors*: is language a factor that determines if you get published? Is a nicely written paper more likely to be considered for publication in the peer review process? Clearly, authors for whom

English is not their first language face specific difficulties in writing a manuscript. It is a challenge to write precisely in a language that is not your first language. If you want to take part in the lively discussion on this important topic then visit the public forum "Ask the Nature Editor":

<http://www.doaj.org/>

Directory of Open Access Journals: this is a directory of free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. You can increase visibility via Open Access. The aim of Open Access Publishing is to ensure immediate online access to the full text of research articles. Readers or their institutions are not charged for access. Open Access journals perform peer review and make the approved contents available to all. Many traditional journals offer now an 'Open Access' or hybrid publishing option. In order to stay abreast with the new developments in the world of Open Access Publishing, I recommend the following blog: <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html>

Once you have submitted your manuscript to the journal, the review process varies depending on the journal (e.g., whether the submission and review process is carried out online or not). Good luck with your manuscript!

If you find a page or a blog that should be mentioned in the next issue, or if you have any other comments or suggestions, please email me at: joeyn@web.de.

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A recipe for writing 'Materials and Methods'

Failure to include enough detail in the materials and methods section of a biomedical manuscript makes this section of the manuscript the one most often responsible for a journal rejecting a manuscript. An article published earlier this year in the medical writing tips section of *Chest* provides an excellent recipe for ensuring that writing your materials and methods section is a 'piece of cake'.

See: Foote M. Materials and methods: a recipe for success. *Chest* 2008;133(1):291-3. Available at: <http://www.chestjournal.org/cgi/content/full/133/1/291>