

Writing and Publishing in high Impact Journals

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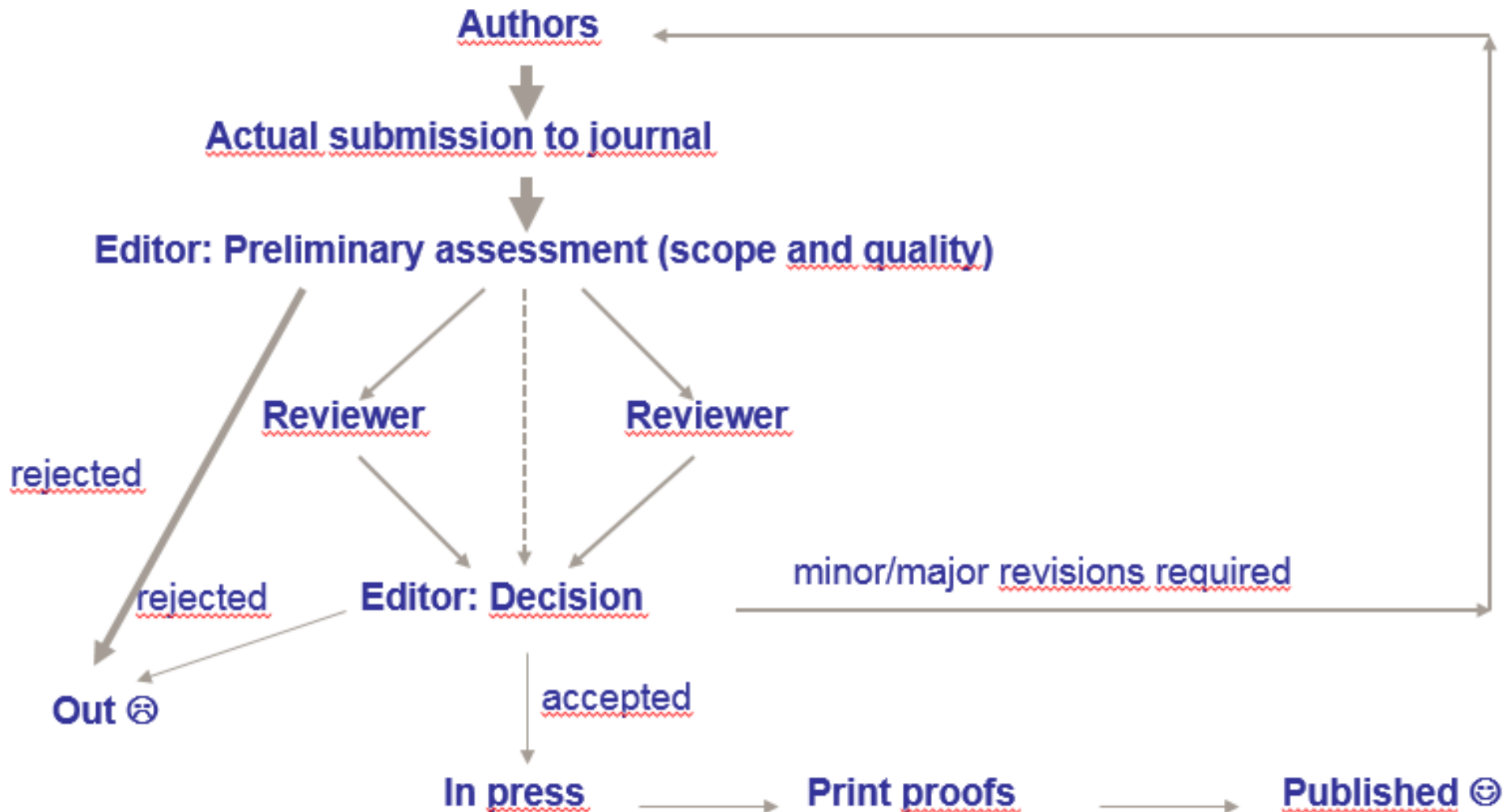


100years
1918 — 2018

Aim of this presentation

- Discuss the challenges for publishing in high ranking journals:
 - Preparing papers
 - Submitting papers
 - Review process
 - Acceptance and publication
- Please present your main challenges

The process of publication



Writing a good scientific paper

- ingredients:
 - excellent and innovative research
 - dealing with important and interesting questions
 - the thinking behind the paper is clear, so the writing is clear
 - clear and logical presentation (not a chronological)
 - relevant and innovative conclusions

How is the value of a paper measured?

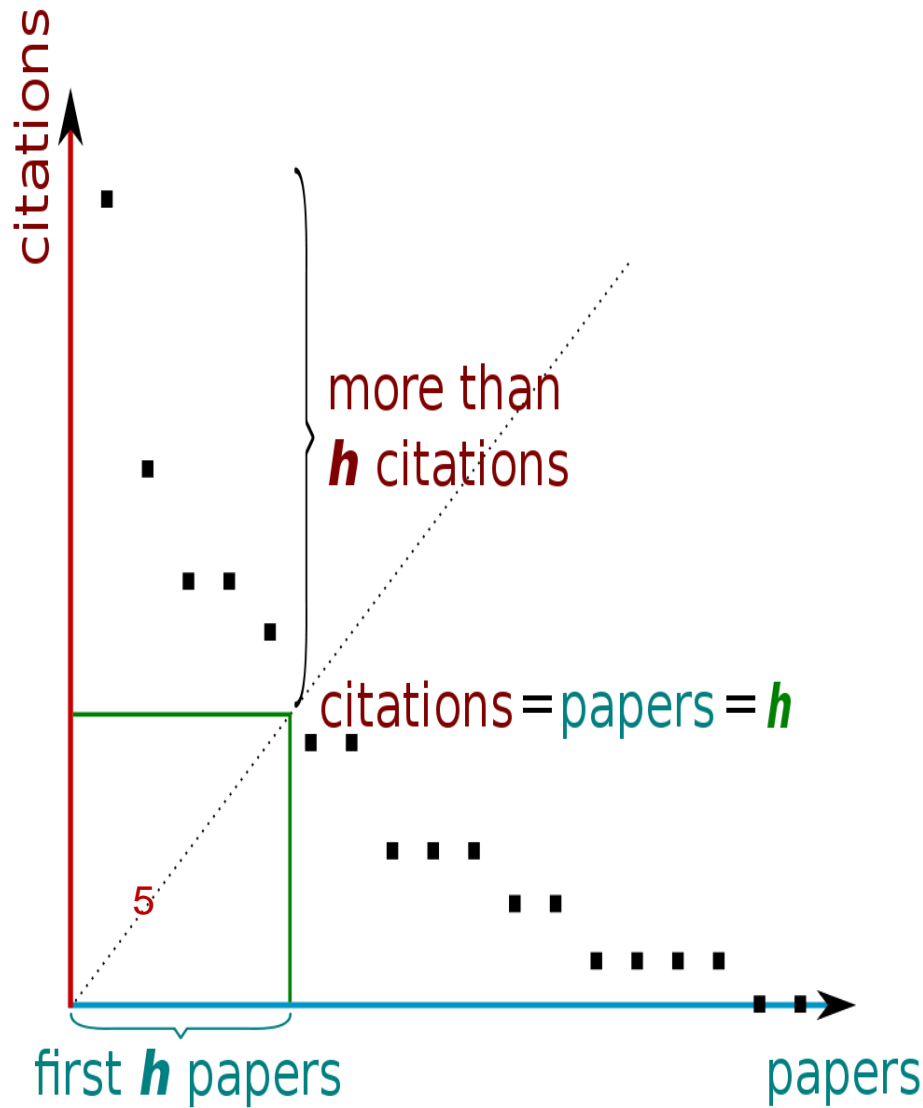
By numbers of citations, but:

- ❖ Citing takes time. First citation often not within a year.
- ❖ Benchmark numbers of citations

By reputation of the journal:

- ❖ impact factor = average citations (ISI)
- ❖ Ranking of journal within their ISI subject category according to impact factor.
- ❖ <http://apps.webofknowledge.com>





The h-index

Papers are ordered along the horizontal axis according to the number of citations each paper has (decreasing order)

In the graph the h-index = 5



Finding the right journal

- get advice from experienced colleagues
- read the aims of the journal and look through some articles
- does your paper fit the content of your journal
- does the journal has the right (international) audience
- journal characteristics:
 - Open access or not?
 - Speed in processing papers
 - Impact (ISI-journal citation reports)



Which journal to publish in?

- What is your message?
- What is your audience?
- In what academic/professional debate you want to engage?
- Options:
 - Specialised journal on your research topic
 - Specialised journal on your region of research
 - General journal on your research topic
 - General journal on your academic field
- Use e-tools: <https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/> ;
<https://www.enago.com/academy/how-to-select-the-right-journal-for-publication/>



Open access or not?

- Advantages:
 - Promotion accessibility of scientific knowledge
 - Wider spread of your publication
 - More citations
- Disadvantages:
 - Costs involved
 - Pirate publishers

Critical issues

- title is clear and covers the content of the paper
- all authors have substantially contributed to the paper
- correct key words have been selected
- abstract clearly summarizes the main content
- structure:
 - Introduction: introducing the research topic; problem statement and background
 - Methods: explain research methods
 - Results: be very precise and consistent
 - Discussion and conclusions
 - Acknowledgements
 - References



A clear abstract informs about:

- Aim and objective of the research/argument
 - How was the research done (method)?
 - What is your theoretical perspective?
 - What are the important results?
 - What are the main conclusions?
-
- Consider maximum length

A clear introduction explains

- 'the problem': the background of the issue and its relevance (the 'why')
- what is already known and yet unknown (short literature overview)
- what your research adds:
 - theoretical viewpoint chosen (the 'how')
 - the empirical question (the 'what')
- the objectives of the research and aim of the article
- the structure of the paper



Structure of the paper

- Introduction
- Background
 - On the topic of the research
 - On the theories applied
- Methodology: clear but brief
- Findings
 - Systematic
 - Clear (don't let the reader search for your arguments)
- Discussion: put your findings in a broader framework (you're dealing with an INTERNATIONAL audience)
- Conclusion: NOT a summary but what should the reader learn from your paper



Submitting a paper

- follow the instructions for authors from the journal
 - use correct English
 - length (words)
 - illustrations (figures, graphs, etc.): formats
- references:
 - in the text: refer to publications when appropriate
 - when quoting: be exact, when literal use quotation marks and indicate page numbers
 - at the end: make a complete list of all cited publications according to the instructions of the journal
- a cover letter to the editor(s) ready telling:
 - that you want to submit this paper
 - why you think it would fit nicely in the journal
 - that the paper contains original work not submitted elsewhere



Review and feedback

- several reviewers and the editor give you feedback
 - single blind (reviewers are informed about the authors but authors not about reviewers)
 - double blind (reviewers are not informed about the authors and authors not about reviewers)
- review: determine the validity, significance and originality of the work and suggest improvements to the manuscript and the research
- reviewers advice the editor:
 - accept without (or with minor) changes
 - accept with major changes (will be reviewed again)
 - revise and re-submit
 - reject
- reviews contain arguments for the decision and suggestions for improvements



Papers are rejected when

- Out of scope => different journal
- Inadequate research
- Inadequate embedding in literature & theory
- No contribution to scientific knowledge. (What's new?)
- Overlap with articles already published elsewhere
- Poor English
- Author unwilling to revise the paper according to editor's and reviewer's suggestion



Paper needs revisions when

- Insufficient statement of problem / research goals
- Relevant, new literature missing
- Methods not clearly described
- Confusing presentation of results in text, tables and figures
- Conclusions not supported by the research
- Writing is of low quality (English and style)



Dealing with feedback

- ask the editor for clarification if anything is not clear
- discuss the comments and solutions with all authors
- revise your paper on the basis of the reviews (challenge the reviewers comment when you disagree)
- make revision notes in which you explain how you dealt with the comments:
 - Copy all comments Write an answer to each comment explaining what you changed into a separate document
 - Use the line numbers of the revised paper to explain where you made changes.
 - Be polite – reviewers make an effort reviewing your paper!
- re-submit your paper



When your paper is accepted

- proof reading: make sure all text and details are correct
- sign the publishing agreement
- when published share the links within your network through website and social media

Conclusion

- Publishing is to communicate your findings from research to the right audience
 - Select the findings relevant and interesting for a larger audience
 - Present them in a clear manner as part of an academic debate
 - Select the right journal
 - Consciously follow the instructions from the journal
-
- SUCCESS



Thank you very much for your attention

Success in writing and publishing your academic work

