Publishing in high rating scientific journals

November 23 2017 Peter Oosterveer





What is the message?

- start with a clear and innovative argument
- base your paper on sound academic work
- only submit when you are sure about the quality
- be very precise and follow the instructions when you submit a paper to a journal
- be prepared to respond to reviewers



Writing a 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



Content of the paper

- 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



Critical issues

- Title (essential to draw interest from readers)
- Abstract (attractive insight in the problem and the approach applied)
- Discussion (to embed your findings in wider literature)
- Conclusion (what is the relevance of the study for a wider audience)



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)

Open access – or not

Advantages:

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



Submitting a paper

- follow the instructions for authors from the journal
- use correct English
- Iength (words)
- illustrations (figures, graphs, etc.): formats
- references:
 - in the text: refer to publications when appropriate
 - when quoting: be exact, be 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
- submit: generally electronically

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Dealing with 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



Dealing with feedback

reviewers advice the editor:

- accept without (or 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
- ask the editor for clarification if anything is not clear
- revise your paper on the basis of the reviews (challenge the reviewers comment when you disagree)
- 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 through website and social media



Thank you very much for your attention



