PUBLISHING 101: NAVIGATING THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Dr. Deborah Lee
Mississippi State University Libraries
dlee@library.msstate.edu
SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
WORKSHOPS
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
HTTP://GUIDES.LIBRARY.MSSTATE.EDU/SSFGS

DR. DEBORAH LEE
PROFESSOR AND COORDINATOR, GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES
SESSION OVERVIEW

- Culture of Academic Publishing
- Publishing Best Practices
- Navigating the Publishing Process

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Why do you want to publish your research?
UNDERSTANDING THE CULTURE OF ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

- It is a VERY different process from other areas of publishing.
- There is no direct payment; the focus is on the prestige of the journal.
- No multiple submissions!!
- Process is different for scholarly monographs (books); this presentation will focus on journal articles.
SELECTING A JOURNAL

- Understand the journal’s audience: is this a good fit for your article?
- READ the journal!!
- Always read the instructions to the author:
  - Formatting requirements and length
  - Content expectations (editorial scope)
  - Submission instructions
SELECTING A JOURNAL: RESOURCES

- Professors/Advisors
- Journal Citation Reports (JCR)
- Scopus (CiteScore metric)
- Literature in your field (highly cited or impactful journals)
- Your literature review
Characteristics of a Predatory Publisher:

- The primary goal is to make money.
- The focus is on the fee collected; little review of the work is provided.
- Often make false or misleading claims about access, indexing, and their reputation.
- Often fail to follow accepted best practices in academic publishing.

Publishing in a predatory journal will NOT enhance your research reputation!
COMMON COMPLAINTS FROM EDITORS

- Didn’t read the journal before submitting an article.
- Failed to follow submission requirements.
- Didn’t proofread material prior to submission.
- Failed to conduct a thorough literature review.
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- Step 1: Write the article.
  - Revise, revise, revise!
  - Articles written for a class MUST be revised before sending them to a journal.
- Step 2: Submit the article according to the journal’s instructions.
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- Step 3: Wait
  - While you’re waiting:
    - Editor (or Associate Editor) assigns your article to (1-3) reviewers
    - Reviewers evaluate the article and provide feedback to the editor
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- Step 4: Response from the journal:
  - Acceptance (yeah!!)
  - Acceptance pending revisions (yeah!)
  - Revise and resubmit (ok....)
  - Rejection 😞
Step 5a: Revise and Resubmit

- Address ALL comments by reviewers
- Respond as quickly as possible
- Produce a “clean” copy with revisions
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- **Step 5b: Rejection**
  - ALL scholars/writers are rejected at some point in their career
  - Never try to argue with an editor
  - Revise the article and send it to another journal
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- Step 6: Acceptance
  - If revisions are needed, do them quickly
  - Process page proofs, if appropriate
  - Sign author’s permission form
Step 6: Acceptance – copyright

- You own the copyright to your work UNTIL you transfer that right
- Common contract terms and conditions
  - Preprints, post-prints, published works
- For more information, attend the “Before You Sign” workshop!
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- Step 7: Update your CV and celebrate!
  - Always keep a copy of the published article for your records.
USEFUL RESOURCES

QUESTIONS?

Dr. Deborah Lee
dlee@library.msstate.edu

Your feedback on this session is greatly appreciated!