LAUNCHING YOUR ACADEMIC PUBLISHING CAREER

SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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SESSION OVERVIEW

- Culture of Academic Publishing
- Publishing Best Practices
- Navigating the Publishing Process
Why do you want to publish your research?
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!!

The 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?
- Is the journal open or is the content behind a paywall? Is it a predatory journal?
- 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
- Scopus (CiteScore metric)
- Literature in your field (highly cited or impactful journals)
- Your literature review
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.
Step 1: Write the article.

- Revise, revise, revise! Edit, edit, edit!
- 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.
Step 3: Wait (And wait…and 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 😞
THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROCESS

- 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.
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.
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?

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