

Publishing Your Work in Academic Journals

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Loyola Columbia Graduate Center, Columbia, MD
8:45-9:40 am, Room 210
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Goals

1. Participants leave session better able to prepare a paper for successful submission to an academic journal.
2. Participants leave session better able to revise and resubmit their work to an academic journal.
3. Participants leave with a better idea of what to expect during the process and a renewed desire to publish.

Gain Publishing Experience

Are you a
Peer Reviewer?

What does a peer reviewer do?

He/She provides an impartial evaluation of a manuscript that is being considered for publication in his/her area of expertise in a thoughtful and timely manner.

Peer Reviewers

Reviewers are also obligated to:

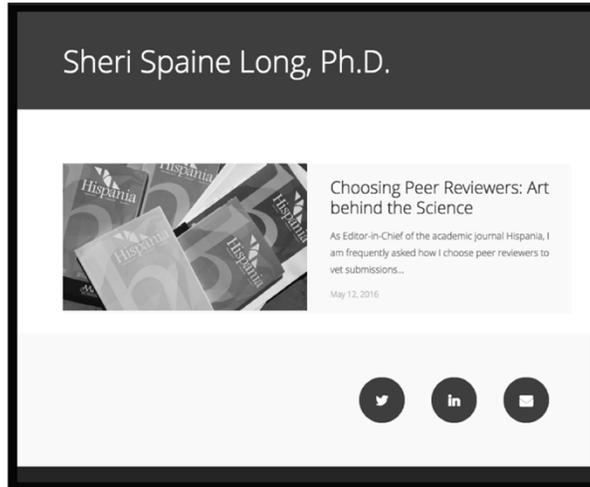
- Maintain confidentiality
- Avoid conflict of interest

How do you become a reviewer?

- Check journal guidelines (eligibility)
- Common scenarios
 - Submit a CV for vetting
 - Editorial Board only
 - Unsolicited sign up
- Ex: *Hispania* and *FLA*
 - Read guidelines and create a profile (ScholarOne)

Who are the peer reviewers? How are they selected?

Sheri Spaine Long, Ph.D.



Blog post at sherispainelong.com

So you want to publish...

Start with why

Why Publish?

PUBLICATION OPENS DOORS.

**PUBLICATION IS THE CURRENCY
OF ACADEMICS.**

PUBLICATION VALIDATES YOUR WORK.

Why Publish?

- **No publication, no project**

Your results/projects must be available for others,
or it is as if they don't exist

- **No publication, no promotion**

Yardstick of productivity

The Benefits of Writing to Publish

- To think more clearly about your work
- To establish yourself as an expert
(personal gain)
- To create a product from a successful project

More Benefits of Writing to Publish

- To publish you have to read
- To stay current in your field
- To fulfill your responsibility to report and share with a community

Getting a Paper Published

- Competition for space in journals is intense
- Cost of publication is high
- Rejection/Acceptance rates vary among journals

Your Obligations

1. To carry out technically competent, ethical, thorough research.
2. To employ objective academic judgment.
3. To publish honest reports of the work.
4. To publish results in a timely fashion.

Types of Journals

- Flagship (*FLA, Hispania*)
- International (*Electronic Journal of Foreign Language Teaching, MLJ*)
- Discipline-Specific (AATJ's *Japanese Language and Literature*)
- Regional/State (*Rocky Mountain Review, Dimension*)
- Graduate Student Journal (*SPR*)
- Niche/Interdisciplinary (*Revista latina de comunicación social* or *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*)
- Proceedings (International Symposium on LSP)
- Institutional (DLIFLC's *Applied Language Learning*)

Target a Journal & Write up Your Research

- Before you write, decide where to submit your work. It saves time and helps you focus!
- Stick with reputable journals. Avoid PREDATORY journals (formerly Beall's list).
- Your proposed article must be a logical match for the journal.
- After targeting a venue, then you must conform to their
 - Length limits
 - Style requirements
 - Content restrictions
 - Topic scope
 - Prior publication policies

9 differences between a thesis and a journal article

	Thesis	Journal Article
Purpose	1. Education - To demonstrate how much you know	Advancement - To establish credibility in and contribute to your field
Potential Audience	2. Educational committee or professors - Individuals who evaluate whether you are worthy of a degree	Busy scientists or researchers - Individuals looking for practical ideas backed with evidence
Length	3. Longer - Can run up to around 50 pages and contain around 20,000 words	Shorter - Can range between 3 to 6,000 words depending on the field & journal Tip: Avoid copying, retype or paraphrase
Abstract	4. Relatively longer - Around 300 words	Relatively shorter - Around 150 to 250 words
Introduction	5. More detailed - Should demonstrate familiarity with existing literature and develop background more extensively	More concise - Should only include information that is absolutely required to understand the gap in research that led to the study
Materials & Methods	6. Extensive presentation - Thoroughly describes and present each research approach and methodology	Controlled presentation - Describes details only of specific methodology used and experiments conducted
Discussion	7. Detailed interpretation of results - Demonstrate complete understanding of the obtained data, and indicate interest in future directions for research	Clear and concise interpretation of results - Discuss only the main findings and directly address research objectives
References	8. Exhaustive list - Some include a bibliography, and some might even include a 'definitions' section	Selective list - Includes only works that have been cited within the article (some journals specify maximum limit)
Appendices	9. Inclusion mandatory - Due to the need for complete documentation	Inclusion optional - Space & content requirements may limit the use of these

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For more useful advice and tips on academic writing and publishing, visit www.edtstage.com/insights

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LENGTH

- Unlike dissertations, journals have space limitations
- Economical expression prevails in journals 😊
- Consult S. Krashen's "A Short Paper Proposing That We Need to Write Shorter Papers" *Language and Language Teaching* 1-2: 38-39. 2012.

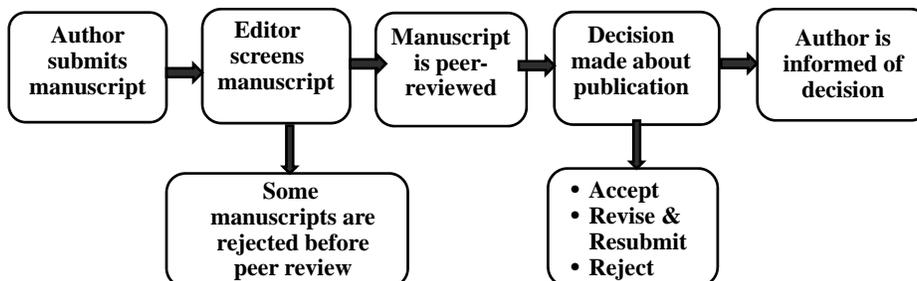
LONG PAPERS...

- drain intellectual energy from readers/writers and waste time
- are a disservice to the profession (sloppy writing)
- take up space and slow the dissemination of knowledge

Ready to submit?
Be prepared to...

- Sign contract agreement
- No simultaneous submissions
- Not published elsewhere (in any language)
- May sign away the copyright to your intellectual property

Submission & Review Process



Title & Abstract Tips

- Write a title that is unambiguous.
- Vary your lexicon in the abstract, key words, and title because linguistic diversity helps search engines disseminate your work broadly.

Abstract Tips

- Locate your study in time and space
- Identify your purpose
- Explain the problem or issue at hand
- Explain your methods/approach
- Describe your results
- Summarize your conclusion

What makes a good paper?

- Content is innovative
- Methods are validated and/or theoretical approach is described well
- Text is clear, concise and non-repetitive
- Figures that stand alone (i.e., text unnecessary)
- Findings/Results are presented correctly
- Discussion that interprets
- Limitations are considered
- Conclusion that is accurate
- Author follows style guidelines [e.g., MLA (*Hispania*)
APA (*FLA*)]

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Is the main idea clear?
- Do you make clear what is novel/original about your study?
- Is your design/approach defensible?
- Is there a story to tell?
- Did you do a literature search and summarize it?

Tips for successful submission

- Use reviewer check lists to self evaluate your paper prior to submission
- Engage in “mock peer review” with language colleagues
- Ask educated colleagues who are NOT in your field to read your paper for logic/general issues

Collaborate and be a good collaborator!

The Review/Revision Process

There is no doubt that there is a ton of *noise* in peer review. Reviewers will fairly often:

- Disagree on a given point
- Not see a concern even when evident to others
- Have their own biases
- Miss one or more key issues and critique you for its apparent omission
- Critique something you did NOT say in the paper ☹

The Review/Revision Process

When this happens:

- Do not get upset; it's par for the course
- Realize that mostly a reviewer's misinterpretation falls on your shoulders in that you probably sent in an unclear paper
- Simmer down and plan a rational response

Major Reasons for Rejection

- Inappropriate topic for journal
- Too small an advance in knowledge
- Lack of novelty: confirmatory only
- Design or execution flaws
- Poorly written
- Editor has too many papers on your topic

Revising Advice

In general...

- **Do what the reviewers say**
- Prepare to manage **conflicting advice**
- **Prepare a letter** to the Editor **with a list** of changes to accompany your revision
- **Explain why** you did not make a suggested change in your letter

Editorial → Production

Be accessible for

- Verification questions (citations)
- Paperwork (contract)
- Reading/approving copy edited & formatted manuscript
- Reading/approving proofs

Celebrate your published article!
Thank you!
Questions/Comments
Please contact me at sherispainelong.com

