



Scientific writing

or

How to publish an article in an international journal ?

Article Types

- Original article (research article)
- Case report
- Technical note
- Pictorial essay
- Review, Mini-review
- Commentary
- Editorial
- Letter to the editor or Correspondence
- Others (e.g., short communications, notes)

General structure

1. Abstract
2. Introduction
3. Material and Methods
4. Results
5. Discussion
6. Summary and Conclusions
7. Acknowledgments
8. References

Title

- Has to be specific enough to describe the content of the paper
- **NOT** technical that only specialists will understand
- **Usually describes the subject matter of the article**
- Sometimes, a title that summarizes the results is more effective

Authors

- The person who did most of the work and wrote the paper is generally listed as the **first author** of a research paper.
- Co-authors: people who made substantial contributions to the work
- **Ask your mentor's and co-authors permission before including his / her name as co-author.**

Keyword list

- Provides the opportunity to add keywords, used by the indexing and abstracting services, in addition to those already present in the title.
- Usually **5 - 7 keywords**

Abstract

- Little less technical than the article itself
- Should be one paragraph, of **100-250 words**, which summarizes the purpose, methods, results and conclusions of the paper
- **Don't use abbreviations or citations in the abstract.**

Introduction

- **What** question did you ask in your experiment?
- **Why** is it interesting? Why was there a need to conduct the study?
- **Defend the model** - why did you use this particular organism or system? What are its advantages?
- The introduction summarizes the relevant literature so that the reader will understand why you were interested in the question you asked.
- End with a sentence explaining the specific question you asked in this experiment.

Material & methods

- **How did you answer this question?** (enough information to repeat your experiment)
- Complicated protocols? Include a diagram, table or flowchart.
- Usual order of presentation of methods: **chronological**.
- Do not put results in this section. May include preliminary results that were used to design the main experiment.
- Including ordinary **statistical methods** and advanced or unusual methods (literature citation)

Results

- **Present the results you have gotten.**
- Use **figures and tables**, but also summarize your main findings in the text.
- Do NOT discuss the results or speculate.
- Do NOT necessarily include all the data you've gotten during the experiment.
- Do NOT try to manipulate the data to make it look like you did more than you actually did.

Tables & Figures

- **Tables:** include a title describing what's in and column headings; do NOT use vertical lines to separate columns
- Caption should be at the head of the table
- **Figures:** label the x and y axes – do not forget the units; include a legend describing the figure
- Legend should be below the figure

Discussion

- **Highlight the most significant results**, do not repeat what you've written in the Results section.
- **How do these results relate to the original question?**
- **Do the data support your hypothesis?**
- Are your results consistent with what other investigators have reported?

Summary and Conclusion

- Tell the reader what has already been read and draw the important conclusions - keep it short and make it as specific as possible.
- Citations are not necessary
- **Summarize various sections of the article**, the important conclusions
- **Identify the significant conclusions**
- Never present new information

Acknowledgements

- This section is optional.
- You can thank: who helped with the experiments made other important contributions, (discussions, commenting on the manuscript, material or chemicals), funding of the project
- also acknowledge the contributions of the reviewers, if necessary

References

- There are several possible ways to organize this section.
- If two authors are involved, include both surnames.
- More than two authors: *et al.*
- If two articles written by the same author in the same year are cited: add suffixes 'a', 'b'
- Order of references section: **alphabetical or numbering**

How do I submit a paper to a scientific journal ?



Before you start

Before submitting a paper to a scientific journal:

- **ensure that you have a clear, logical message** (You have something important and publishable to say?)
- To know this, discuss your results with others working in the field.
- **Present your paper in the correct format for the journal to which you intend to submit the paper !**

Writing a Draft

- Prepare a first draft, including the figures, and repeat the consultation process.
- You or your co-authors should critically evaluate the article before sending it to a journal for external reviews.
- Once you feel you have a solid conclusion to present, prepare a final draft of your paper in the format of the journal.

Follow the Guidelines

- Make sure **you read thoroughly**:
 - journal's editorial policy
 - guidelines to authors
 - any other relevant information
- Check the latest available online or print version of the journal.

Cover Letter

- Name, address, phone and fax numbers and email address (alternative contact details)
- A brief statement, **why you think the paper is important and why the journal should publish it** (state the main conclusion of the paper)
- Suggestions for **possible reviewers**
- Details of anyone you would not like to review your paper
- Any other details you think are relevant

Submission checklist

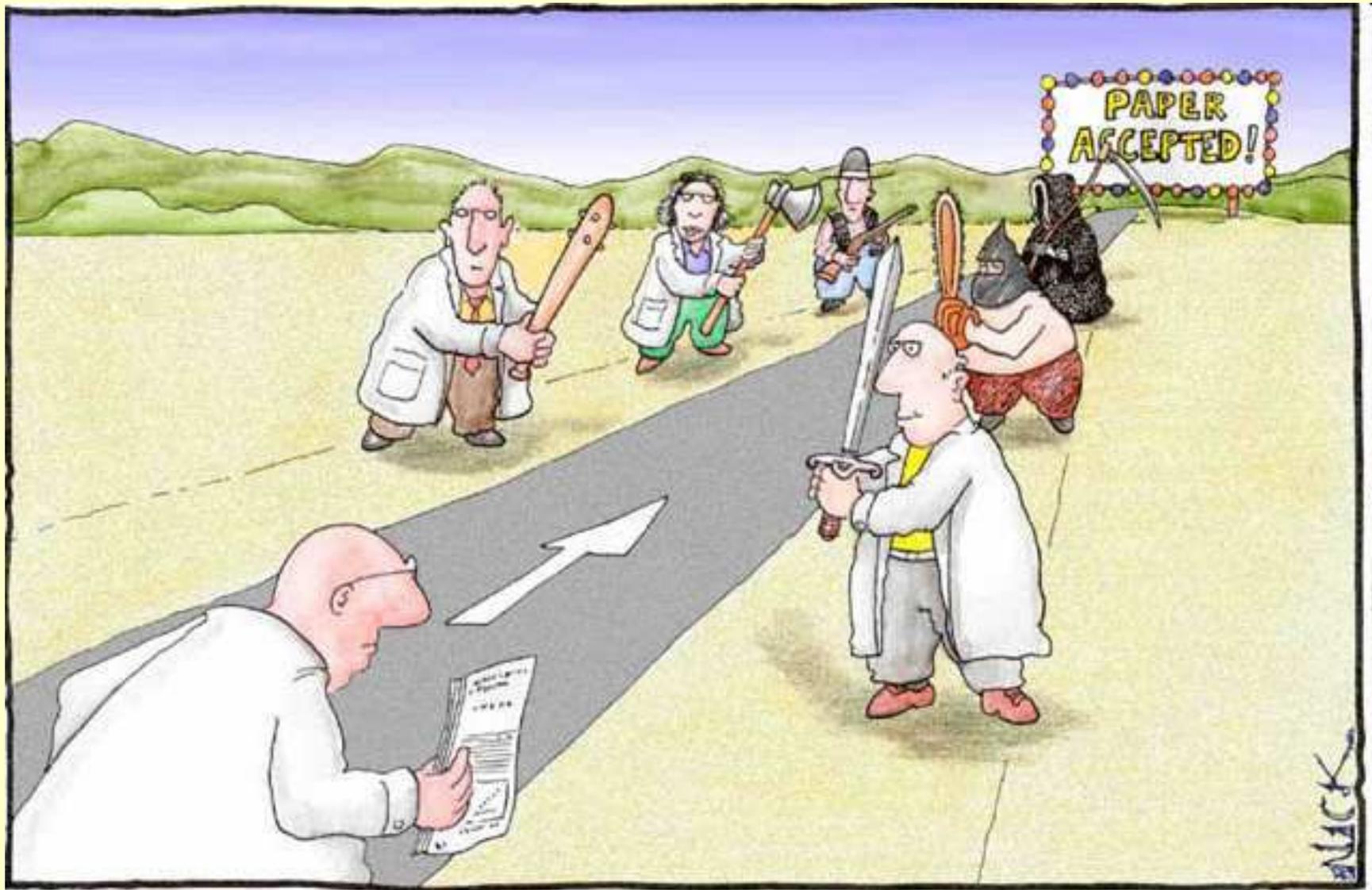
- ✓ Guidelines for Authors, figures and tables
- ✓ Cover Letter
- ✓ Article Type
- ✓ Authorship
- ✓ Title/Abstract
- ✓ Manuscript File
- ✓ Supporting Information Files – Supplementary Material
- ✓ Tables and Figures
- ✓ Suggested reviewers (3-5)

Review Process

- Internal quality control, technical check up
- Editor invited, editor assigned → maybe first decision
- Reviewer invited, reviewer assigned
- Under review (reviewed by 2-4 external reviewers)
- Reviews completed (after 4 - ??? weeks)
- Decision made by the editor or editorial board

Results of Review

- Accepted
- Minor revision
- Major revision
- Rejected, but encouraged re-submission after intensive revision
- Rejected, without re-submission
- Reject with referral to another journal



Good Luck !!!