



Open Universiteit

Workshop

Successfully Managing the Publishing Process

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TOPICS

1. **Why publish?**
2. **Which journal to choose**
3. **Crafting a publishable research paper**
4. **Journal submission & author sequence**
5. **The peer review process**
6. **How to handle resubmissions and rejections**
7. **Publishing in conference proceedings vs journal**
8. **Preregistration/open access/predatory journals**

WHY PUBLISH PHD RESEARCH?

PUBLISH OR PERISH

- career advancement
- contribute to the field
- builds academic reputation

Common Challenges

- rigorous peer reviews
- high standards of journals

WHO HAS AT LEAST ONE PAPER UNDER REVIEW AT THIS MOMENT?

WHO HAS PUBLISHED AT LEAST ONE PAPER?

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPERIENCES/CHALLENGES IN THE PROCESS?

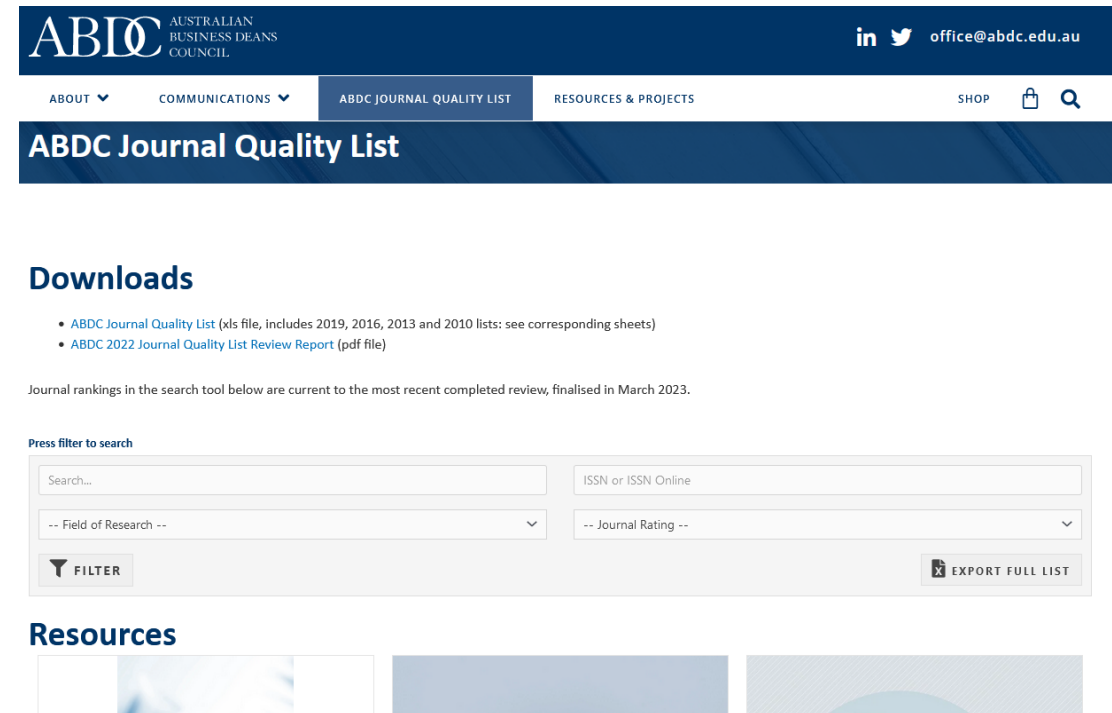
CAN A PHD STUDENT AIM FOR A HIGH IMPACT JOURNAL?

YES! (but ask your supervisors for advice on whether it is realistic to do so with your particular data/design/theoretical framework)

Typically, a PhD student could combine studies into one high impact publications towards the end of the PhD trajectory

WHICH JOURNAL TO CHOOSE?

- **Which journals do you reference? -> indicates suitability of your topic** (Identify journals that align with your research focus and audience)
- **Aim high, but not too high -> look at IF and ABDC to determine level of the journal** (high-impact journals, open-access vs. subscription-based, and niche vs. multidisciplinary journals)
- **ABDC list: <https://abdc.edu.au/abdc-journal-quality-list/>** (to find high-quality journals relevant to your research)



The screenshot shows the ABDC (Australian Business Deans Council) Journal Quality List website. The header is dark blue with the ABDC logo and navigation links: ABOUT, COMMUNICATIONS, ABDC JOURNAL QUALITY LIST (selected), and RESOURCES & PROJECTS. Social media icons for LinkedIn and Twitter, and the email address office@abdc.edu.au are also present. Below the header, the page title "ABDC Journal Quality List" is displayed. The "Downloads" section lists two items: "ABDC Journal Quality List (xls file, includes 2019, 2016, 2013 and 2010 lists: see corresponding sheets)" and "ABDC 2022 Journal Quality List Review Report (pdf file)". A note states: "Journal rankings in the search tool below are current to the most recent completed review, finalised in March 2023." The search tool section, titled "Press filter to search", contains a search bar, a dropdown for "Field of Research", a dropdown for "Journal Rating", a "FILTER" button, and an "EXPORT FULL LIST" button. The "Resources" section is partially visible at the bottom.

HOW TO FIND THE IF?

- Journal home page
- Google for “Thompson Master List” -> search for one keyword from the title of a journal
- No complete list of IFs available. They (incrementally) change all the time.

HOW HIGH CAN YOU AIM?

- Your **data** determines your quality
- Your **design** determines your rigor
- Your **theoretical contribution** determines how high you can aim
- Your **style of writing** can help in important ways

DATA/DESIGN

- **Multi-source data**
 - For instance: buyers and suppliers, leaders and subordinates, employees and spouses
 - These multiple sources have to be paired. Not separate buyer and supplier database! *
- **Longitudinal data**
 - For instance: diary studies with daily entries, or a multiwave study (ideally three waves, not just two) *
- **Multi-method analysis**
 - Survey combined with interviews
 - Experiments combined with survey
 - Several studies within one paper around **one theoretical idea**

CRAFTING A PUBLISHABLE RESEARCH PAPER

Solid research design: a clear research question, robust methodology, and rigorous data analysis.

Style of writing (AMJ editorial series provide tips)- Provide clarity, be concise and be structured:

- Write clear abstracts: straightforward language, avoiding jargon where possible
- Compelling introduction: interesting, informative, and relevant
- Maintain a logical flow
- Use a consistent style
- Effective data presentation: use APA for figures and tables to communicate findings clearly

Adhering to journal guidelines: formatting, length, citation style, and section requirements

JOURNAL SUBMISSION

Upon submission of your manuscript

- **Cover letter**
- **Journals ask for acknowledgements**
 - Mention conferences where you have received feedback
 - Mention anyone who has looked at your paper or contributed in some way
- **Journals ask for ethics statement**
 - When you perform surveys use “informed consent”
 - Explain what the study is about (without giving away your hypotheses - > desirability bias)
 - Explain that there are no right or wrong answers
 - Explain that respondents may stop at any time
 - Explain confidentiality and anonymity of individual data
 - Explain who they can contact if they want to talk to someone after filling in the questionnaire
 - Ceto - <https://ceto.ou.nl/>

AUTHOR SEQUENCE

- Only contributing data does not provide a right on authorship on the paper
- Key are:
 - Who is writing?
 - Who had the initial idea?
 - Who modified the idea to what it is now?
 - Who did the (statistical) analyses? [less important]
 - Who gathered the data? [of minor importance]
- What to do with your supervisor?
 - Often the supervisor has a contribution to the writing, even if it's by correcting your text
 - Often the supervisor has a contribution to the idea, or the modification of the idea
 - -> Always put him/her somewhere in the author sequence. Put yourself first though.

JOURNAL PUBLICATION - COPY RIGHTS

Upon acceptance of your manuscript

- Journals ask you to sign away your copy rights
 - Common practice – because publishers make money by selling journal subscriptions
 - You cannot freely distribute your own article (unless you use/make a preprint version)
 - Want to use your article in your PhD thesis: request permission!

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST FEAR ABOUT PUBLISHING?"

- difficulty with peer reviews
- fear of rejection

THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

- **Types of peer review**
 - double-blind, single-blind, and open review models
- **Be prepared for rejections and resubmissions**
- **Responding to reviewers: address feedback professionally, handle constructive criticism, and resubmit**

Tips for staying motivated and improving based on feedback

1. Separate yourself from the work

- A rejection is a critique of the work, not of your value or potential; treat each submission as a learning step rather than a final statement of your abilities

THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

2. Deconstruct the feedback

- Break down the feedback into **specific suggestions**. For example, if feedback says "clarify your argument," identify where your logic might be unclear or unsupported.
- For rejections: **look for patterns**. If multiple reviewers note similar issues, these are areas to prioritize for a submission to another journal.
- Not all feedback will be actionable or relevant. Focus on the points that align with your goals.

3. Create an action plan for revisions

- **List improvements**: make a list of each specific suggestion and create actionable tasks. For instance, if feedback mentions "vague language," your task might be to replace general terms with precise ones.
- **Set incremental goals**: break revisions into manageable pieces, like focusing on one major change per day. This prevents overwhelm and gives a sense of progress with each improvement.
- **Prioritize high-impact changes**: address the biggest issues first. Improvements in structure, clarity, and key arguments will often have a bigger impact than smaller, aesthetic adjustments.

REJECTIONS ARE NORMAL

Track your submissions

- Log each submission and its outcome -> see rejection as a part of the journey, track patterns in feedback.

Set aside time for skill-building

- Work on improving writing and methodological skills, to make resubmissions smoother -> analyse published papers in their way of writing & methodology

Seek additional feedback

- Show your work to others before resubmission -> not only supervisors.

Reflect on your growth

- Look back and count your blessings -> After each rejection and resubmission, take a moment to recognize how far you've come. This will help you see each step as progress, regardless of the immediate outcome.

Prepare for a long-term game

- **Expect multiple iterations:** Prepare mentally for a process involving several drafts can prevent discouragement with each revision.
- **Embrace the journey:** If possible, enjoy the process itself—each rewrite, research session, and feedback integration as a chance to grow your skills and understanding.

**WHAT'S THE FUNNIEST REJECTION OR
FEEDBACK YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?"**

QUESTIONS SO FAR?

PUBLISHING IN CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS VS JOURNAL

My advise to PhD students:

1. **Aim for a presentation at a conference** (thank your discussants and people asking questions after doing your talk. Get to know them. Interact!)
2. **Gather comments and revise your work** (this is extremely important! Let people see your work and comment on it. Your supervisors don't know everything, you need other people)
3. **Aim for a journal article** (rework the conference paper to a full journal article and incorporate comments)

Don't: Publish your complete article in conference proceedings. You don't want to give away your idea.

Do: Provide a summary/abstract, provide contact details

PREREGISTRATION

-> publicly declare research plan, hypotheses, research design, methods, and data analysis, before collecting or analyzing any data.

-> through a publicly accessible online platform (Open Science Framework); obtain a unique digital object identifier (DOI).

Purpose: increase the transparency and credibility of scientific research.

- avoid the temptation of adjusting their hypotheses, methods, or statistical analyses based on results
- reduce the risk of data-driven, post-hoc analyses that can produce false positive results or inflate effect sizes.

Beneficial:

- enhances the credibility of research
- increases the chances of getting published in high-quality journals
- improves the transparency and reproducibility of their findings

Many scientific journals now encourage preregistration

OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

Open Access explained: <http://phdcomics.com/tv/?v=L5rVH1KGBCY>

PROs:

- Your work is available for the public / not behind a paywall for the reader

CONs:

- Somebody has to pay: you or your institute
- It can be pricy (between 800 and 2000 euros)
- You have to provide the publisher with your intention to pay, already when submitting the article (so your institute has to go along with that)
- VSNU-deal with publishers (vouchers)

PREDATORY JOURNALS

According to *Nature*, "Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of science, and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviations from best editorial and publishing practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate advertising practices" (https://lnkd.in/gS6M_yuy).

Exercise caution when selecting outlets for publishing!

Criteria that researchers can use to identify predatory publishers:

(<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/library/research/publishing/open-access/predatory-publishers/>)

- They charge for publication without having the necessary quality assurance in place;
- These 'predatory' publishers and journals do not organize or carry out peer review;
- Suddenly ask for higher fees than what was originally agreed upon, or do not publish some articles at all despite payment;
- Researchers are spammed daily with mails from predatory publishers that are using subtle misleading techniques. For example, journal titles are mentioned that are, except from a few words, exactly the same as those from well-known and high-profile journals.

OPEN ACCESS

Useful informative sources are presented at:

- <https://www.openaccess.nl/en/what-is-open-access/quality>
- <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>
- <https://doaj.org/>

If you want to know more about predatory publishing, you can consult some of the following websites:

- Beall's List of Potential Predatory Journals and Publishers: <https://beallslist.net/>
- List of scholarly publishing stings: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_scholarly_publishing_stings
- Flaky Academic Journals: <https://flakyj.blogspot.com/>
- Some journals say they are indexed in DOAJ but they are not: <https://blog.doaj.org/2014/08/28/some-journals-say-they-are-in-doaj-when-they-are-not/>
- <https://www.openaccess.nl/en/what-is-open-access/quality>
- <https://mijn.ou.nl/group/mdw/-/open-access-stimuleringsfonds>

QUESTIONS?



BEDANKT