



Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

How to write a scientific manuscript and get it published Lucie Boudová, PhD.

Warsaw University of Technology, April 27th 2016







Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

Outline



What will we cover?

Setting the scene

Before writing your paper

Structuring and writing your article

English language

Submitting your paper

The review process

Ethics

Dissemination

Elsevier Publishing Campus

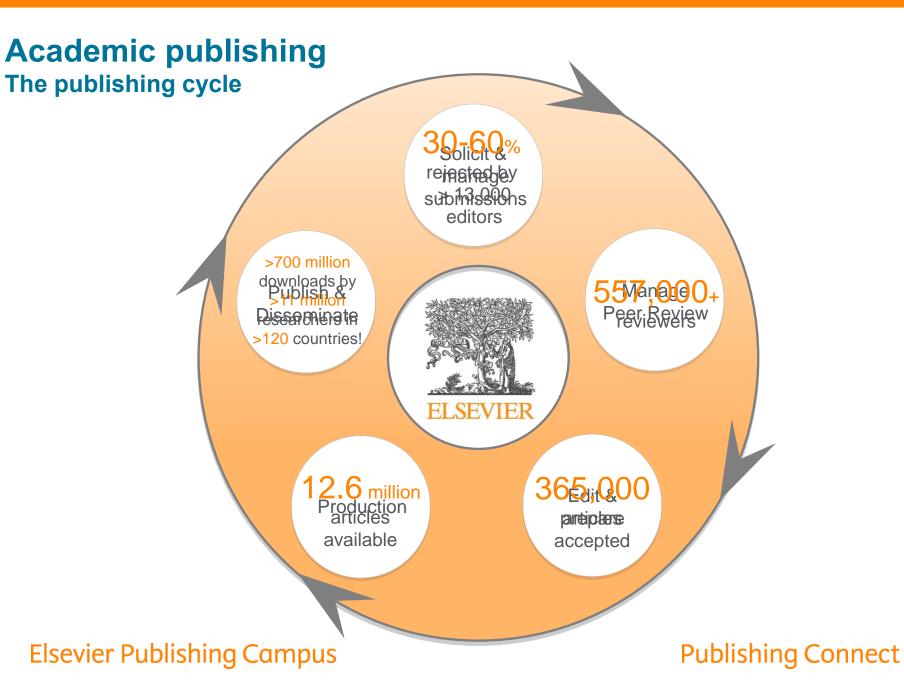




Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

Setting the scene







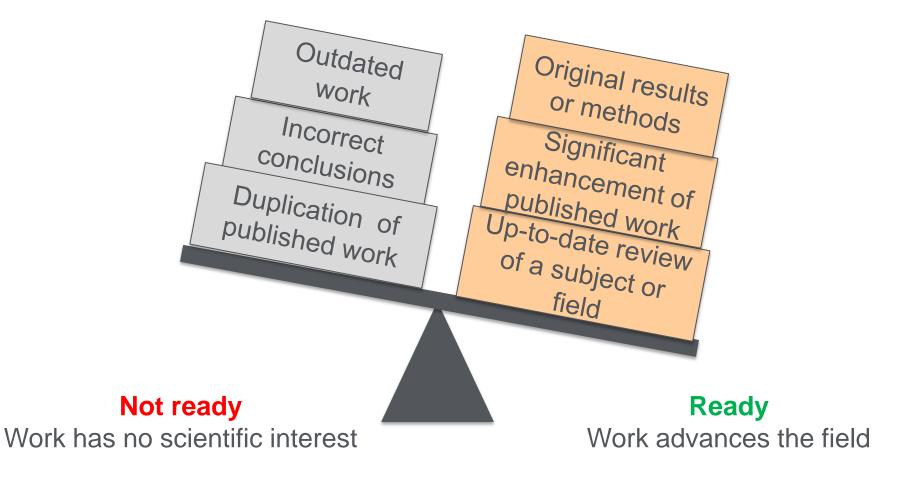


Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

Before writing your paper



Planning your article – Are you ready to publish?



Elsevier Publishing Campus

What makes a strong manuscript?



- Clear and useful message
- A logical manner
- Readers grasp the research

Editors, reviewers and readers all want to receive well presented manuscripts that fit within the aims and scope of their journal.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What article type should I choose?



Full articles

Substantial, complete and comprehensive pieces of research Is my message sufficient for a full article?



- Letters or short communications
- Quick and early communications Are my results so thrilling that they should be shown as soon as possible?



Review papers

- Summaries of recent developments on a specific topic
- Often submitted by invitation

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What about if I have a methods, data or software paper?

- Adaptations and customizations to methods (Example journal: MethodsX)
- Published datasets: available for sharing and reuse (Example journal: Data in Brief)
- Articles that acknowledge the impact of software on research (Example journal: SoftwareX)









How do I choose the right journal?

- Aim to reach the intended audience for your work
- 1. Shortlist a handful of candidate journals
 - Check your reference list
 - Supervisor and colleagues can provide good suggestions
 - Search in databases, check quality indicators
- 2. And investigate them:
 - ? Aims & Scope
 - ? Accepted types of articles
 - ? Readership
 - ? Peer review process (single blind, double blind, open)
 - ? Speed of publication
 - ? Subscription versus Open Access
- Choose only one journal, as simultaneous submissions are prohibited
 Elsevier Publishing Campus
 Publishing Connect

Are there any tools available to help me find the right journal?



Journals & books	Solutions	Authors, editors & reviewers	About Elsevier	Community	Store
For Authors	Elsevier for aut	hors			
Journal authors' home	How to publish in	an Elsevier journal			
Author Rights	Every year, we accept	t and publish more than 250,000 jou	nal articles. Publishing in an I	Elsevier journal starts with fi	nding the right journal for yo
		know which journal, you can enter th			
Ethics				in below. Alternatively, click	on the Start matching butto
Ethics Agreements		based on the abstract of your article		A below. Alternatively, click	on the Start matching butto
	find a suitable journal			Alternatively, citch	
Agreements	find a suitable journal Publishing		Prepare your	Submit paper	Check status
Agreements Open access	find a suitable journal	based on the abstract of your article			
Agreements Open access Author services	find a suitable journal Publishing process	based on the abstract of your article	Prepare your paper	Submit paper	
Agreements Open access Author services Authors' Update	find a suitable journal Publishing process	based on the abstract of your article	Prepare your paper		
Agreements Open access Author services Authors' Update Early career researchers	find a suitable journal Publishing process Match your abst	based on the abstract of your article	Prepare your paper	Submit paper	

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Choosing the right journal The Impact Factor

- It indicates how many times the more recent papers in a journal are cited on average in a given year
- It is influenced by editorial policies of journals and turnover of research

The impact factor can give you a general guidance, but it should NOT be the sole reason to choose a journal.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

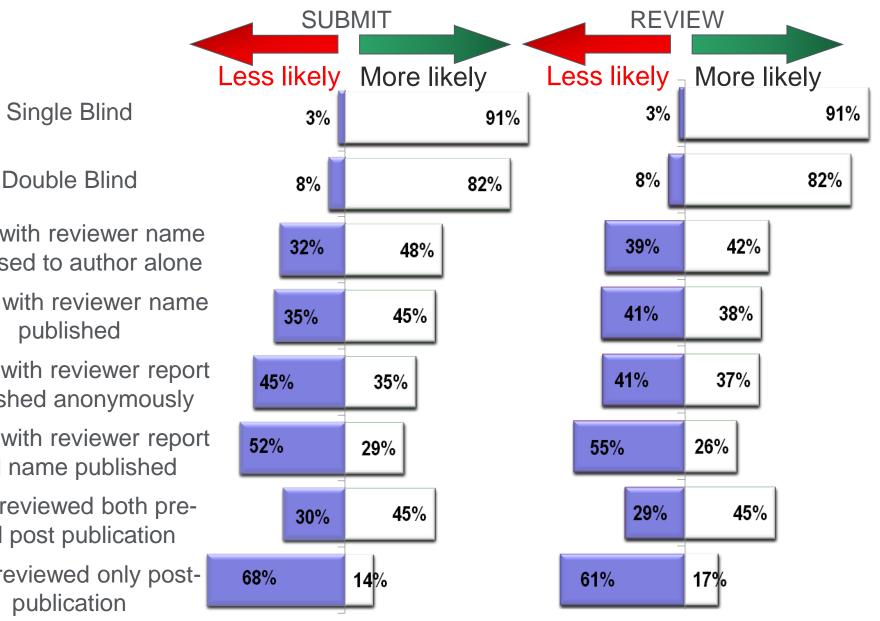
Bibliometric indicators



Elsevier Publishing Campus

ELSEVIER

What are the different kinds of review that exist?



Open with reviewer name disclosed to author alone

- Open with reviewer name published
- Open with reviewer report published anonymously
- Open with reviewer report and name published
- Peer reviewed both preand post publication
- Peer reviewed only postpublication

ELSEVIER

EI CEVIED

Do I need to bother with the Guide for Authors?

O Advanced search

Find it on the journal homepage of the publisher, *e.g.* **Elsevier.com**

Followus: 🖪 🖪 💌

- Keep to the Guide for Authors in your manuscript
- It will save your time

LLOLVILIN			
Journals & books	Solutions Authors, editors & review	vers About Elsevier Community	Guide for Authors
	Combustion and Flame The official journal of the Combustion Institute The mission of the journal is to publish high quality wexperimental, theoretical, and computational investig fundamentals of combustion phenomena and close While View full aims and scope Editors: P. Dagaut, F. N. Egolfopoulos View full editorial board	vork from ations on the Track Your Paper V	Submit Your Paper Track Your Paper Order Journal Access Full Text
Journal Metrics Source Normalized Impact per Paper	This journal supports the following content in AudioSlides	novations	
(SNIP): 2.674 SCImago Journal Rank (SJR): 3.193	Journal Insights Discover this journal's metrics	Recent Open Access ScienceDirect <i>i</i> Articles	
		Rate-Controlled Constrained Equilibrium	

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Recap – before writing your paper:

Determine if you are ready to publish your work

Decide on the best type of manuscript

Choose the target journal

Check the Guide for Authors

Elsevier Publishing Campus



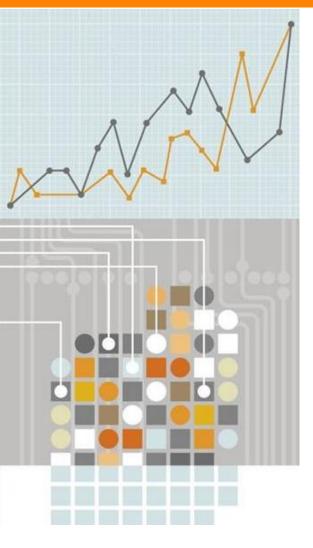


Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

Structuring and writing your paper



ELSEVIER



General structure of a research article

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Supporting materials

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What tips do you have for: the title?

- Should attract reader's attention
- Should be concise
- Should be specific and informative
- Should identify the main issue
- Should use formal language
- Should NOT use technical jargon or rarely-used abbreviations

Editors and reviewers do not like titles that make no sense or fail to represent the subject matter adequately. Additionally, if the title is not accurate, the appropriate audience may not read your paper.



Com	bustion	and	Flame
-----	---------	-----	-------

Available online 9 March 2015

In Press, Corrected Proof - Note to users



The effect of oxidation pressure on the equilibrium nanostructure of soot particles

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What tips do you have for: the keywords?

- Are the labels of the manuscript
- Are used by indexing and abstracting services

Article title	Keywords
"An experimental study on	Solar collector; supercritical
evacuated tube solar collector	CO2; solar energy; solar
using supercritical CO2"	thermal utilization

- Should be specific
- Should use only established abbreviations (e.g. DNA)

Check the Guide for Authors for specifics on which keywords should be used.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What tips do you have for: the abstract?

- Keep it as brief as possible
- Summarize the problem, methods, results, and conclusions
- Make sure it is clearly written and easy to understand
- Make sure it is accurate and specific while also being catchy

Take the time to write the abstract very carefully. Many authors write the abstract last so that it accurately reflects the content of the paper.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What tips do you have for: the introduction?

- Provide a brief and concise context
- Explain the problem
- Mention existing solutions and limitations
- Identify what the work is trying to achieve
- Provide a perspective consistent with the nature of the journal

Write a unique introduction for every article. DO NOT reuse introductions.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

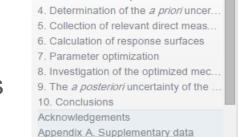
What tips do you have for: the methods?

- Describe how the problem was studied
- Include detailed information
- Do not describe previously published procedures
- Identify the equipment and materials used

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What tips do you have for: the results?

- Include only data of primary importance (use supplementary data for the rest)
- Use sub-headings to keep results of the same type together
- Be clear and easy to understand
- Highlight the main findings
- Feature unexpected findings
- Provide statistical analyses
- Provide visualisations



2. Collection of indirect experimental..

3. Selection of rate parameters to be ...

Appendix A. Supplementary data



Supplementary data 1.

Supplementary material.

Help with PDF files

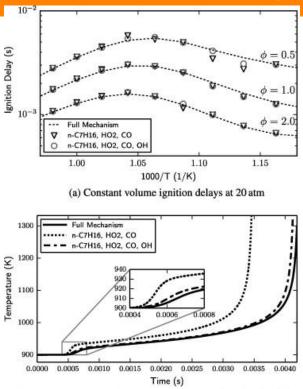
http://www.elsevier.com/connect/a-5-step-guide-to-data-visualization

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What tips do you have for: figures?

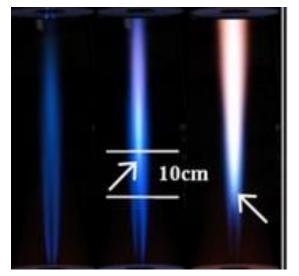
- The legend should enable the figure to stand alone.
- Use colour ONLY when necessary
- Graphs: un-crowded plots; restrict data sets (symbols to distinguish); well-selected scales; axis labels; label size.
- Photos: scale marker; do not manipulate the image to enhance the results.

Elsevier Publishing Campus



Ignition Delay (s)

(b) Temperature trace of constant-volume autoignition simulation at 900 K, 20 atm, $\phi = 0.5$



What tips do you have for: tables?

Needs a table

During the encoding task, significant activation clusters were detected in the left middle frontal gyrus (MFG) extending into the inferior frontal gyrus (IFG) (BA 9/45/ 47; Talaraich coordinates: -40, 14, 28), left MFG (BA 8; -40, 22, 50), left superior frontal gyrus (BA 6; -24, -8, 64), right IFG (BA 47; 28, 28, -2), left LTL (BA 22; -62, -22, 2, right cerebellum (30, -70, -16) together with right fusiform/lingual gyrus (BA 18; 18, -88, -14), left cerebellum/vermis (-6, -60, -16) (Fig. 1, top row) as well as the left (-30, -12, -18) and right hippocampus (34, -12, -16) (Fig. 2, left panel). During the retrieval task, when performance was not considered, significant activation clusters were detected in the left IFG (BA 47; -28, 24, -4), left MFG/IFG extending into the anterior cingulate cortex (BA 9/44/24; -36, 12, 28), right IFG (BA 44; 56, 16, 24 and BA 47; 36, 20, -10), left supramarginal gyrus (BA 40; -34, -46, 42), right putamen and caudate (16, 10, 2), right cerebellum (36, -74, -18) together with right fusiform/lingual gyrus (BA 18; 28, -90, -6) and vermis (-2, -62, -40) (Fig. 1, middle row) as well as the right hippocampus (26, -4, -4)22) (Fig. 2, right panel). During retrieval, brain activation related to accurate memory performance was observed in the left LTL (Fig. 1, bottom row), with peak activation in the middle temporal gyrus (BA 21 and 22; -50, -38, -4) extending into the superior and inferior temporal gyri. No activation clusters were detected in the prefrontal cortex, hippocampus, or other MTL structures. No brain regions showed negative correlations with behavioral performance.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Does not need a table

Temp (°C)	No. of expt	Aeration of growth medium	Growth ^a
24	5	$+^{b}$	78
24	5		0

"As determined by optical density (Klett units).

^b Symbols: +, 500-ml Erlenmeyer flasks were aerated by having a graduate student blow into the bottles for 15 min out of each hour; -, identical test conditions, except that the aeration was provided by an elderly professor.

Growth medium aeration was essential for the growth of S. coelicolor. At room temperature (24°C) in stationary cultures, bacterial growth was not measurable, whereas in aerated cultures, substantial growth was evident (78 Klett units).

What tips do you have for: the discussion?

- Interpretation of results
- Most important section
- Make the discussion correspond to the results and complement them
- Compare published results with your own

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What tips do you have for: the conclusion?

- Explain how your work advances the present state of knowledge
- Suggest future experiments
- Do not repeat results or the abstract

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Who should I acknowledge?

- Advisors
- Financial supporters and funders
- Proof readers and typists
- Suppliers who may have donated materials

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What tips do you have for: the references?

- Do not use too many references
- Always ensure you have fully absorbed the material you are referencing
- Avoid excessive self citations or citations to publications from the same region or institute
- Conform to any requirements outlined in the Guide for Authors
- Consider using a reference manager such as Mendeley

Elsevier Publishing Campus



Factors that influence the distribution of these malaria vectors are discussed. This study underlines th need of further investigations of biological, ecological, and behavioral traits of these species and formst better appreciate their vectorial capacities. Acquisition of entomological field data appears essential t better estimate the stratification of malaria risk and helo improve malaria vector control interventions.

Supplementary Geospatial Data

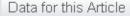


Use integrated digital content, such as interactive maps

et al., 2010). The movie collection represents the status of our current understanding in *U. maydis*, and it is important to realise that the sub-cellular organisation most likely varies between fungal species. However, most of the basic organising principles and mechanisms are expected to be conserved.

Microtubules





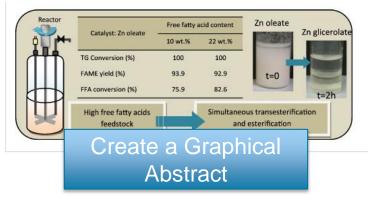
More information on this application

Data for this article is available at the following data repositories:



Link to your data at a data repository

Think about how you could enhance your article

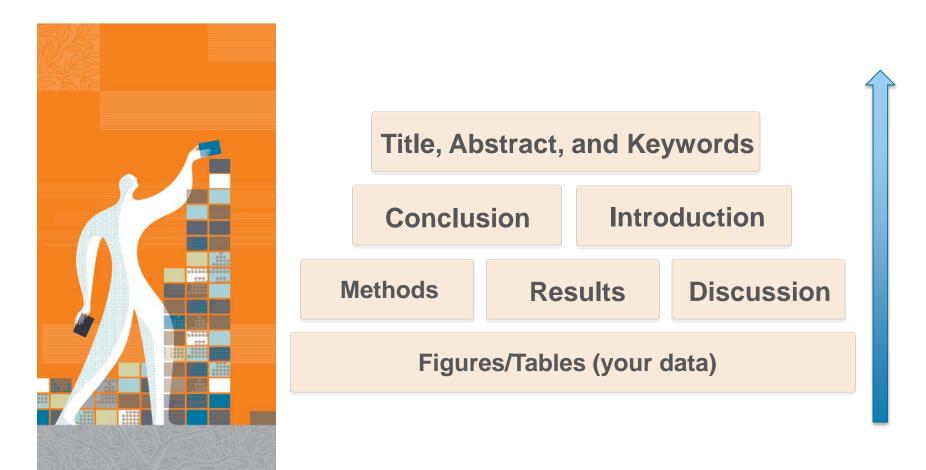


Include Highlights

Highlights

- We conducted an experiment with a typical bituminous coal sample to understand the mechanism of growth and shedding of ash deposition.
- Based on video camera observations and measurements of the tube surface temperature, a residual layer remained on the tube after shedding of the ash deposition.
- The distribution of particle packing fraction (PPF), particle size, and chemical composition of the deposit were analyzed by SEM and CCSEM to elucidate the growth mechanism
 of ash deposition.
- A low-strength powder layer with low PPF and deficiencies of iron and alkaline compositions was formed within the initial ash layer.
- Based on the SEM image of the residual layer remaining after shedding, failure of the ash deposit occurred in the low-strength powder layer.

Building your paper brick by brick



Elsevier Publishing Campus

Recap – when writing your paper:

Start with your data

Move onto the main part of your article – methods, results and discussion

Show how your work advances the field via the **conclusion** Set your work in a broader context via the **introduction**

Pay special attention to the title, abstract and keywords

Credit those who have helped you via **acknowledgements** and the resources you have consulted via **references**

Enhance your article via available content innovation features

Elsevier Publishing Campus





Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

English language



"It is quite depressive to think that we are spending millions in grants for people to perform experiments, produce new knowledge, hide this knowledge in a often badly written text and then spend some more millions trying to second guess what the authors really did and found."

> Amos Bairoch, Nature Proceedings, 2009

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Why is language important?

- Without clear and accurate language the meaning of the paper may be misunderstood
- Poor language quality can delay publication or lead to rejection

Do publishers correct language?

No! It is the author's responsibility...

...but **resources** are available

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Manuscript language

- Clear
- Objective
- Accurate
- Concise

Common errors

- Incorrect sentence construction
- Incorrect tenses
- Incorrect grammar
- Inconsistent use of English throughout the paper
- Sentences too long

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Recap – manuscript language:

Good language is vital to ensure readers **understand** your message

Good language is key to getting your paper **accepted** for publication by busy editors and reviewers

Publishers do not edit your language for you but they do provide resources and services to help

The author is responsible for how their research is conveyed

Write clearly and concisely



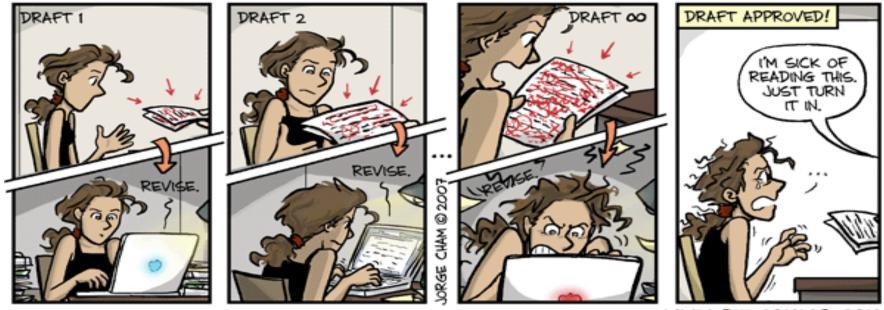


Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

Submitting your paper



Revise before submission



WWW. PHDCOMICS. COM

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Covering Letter



A. Professor

Recap – submitting your paper:

Check

Check

Check (again)

Include a **covering letter**

Elsevier Publishing Campus



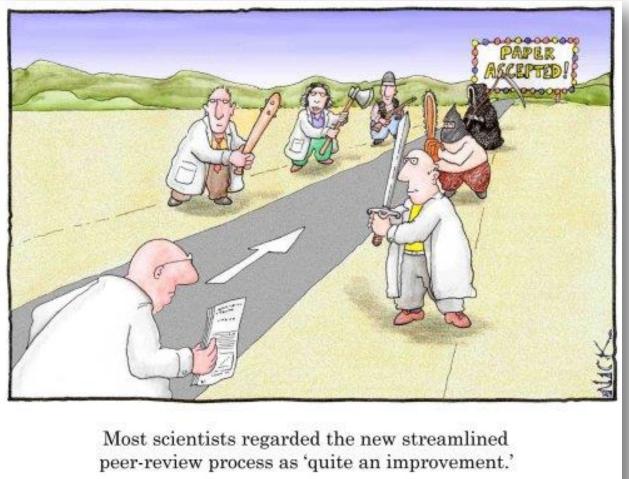


Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

Review

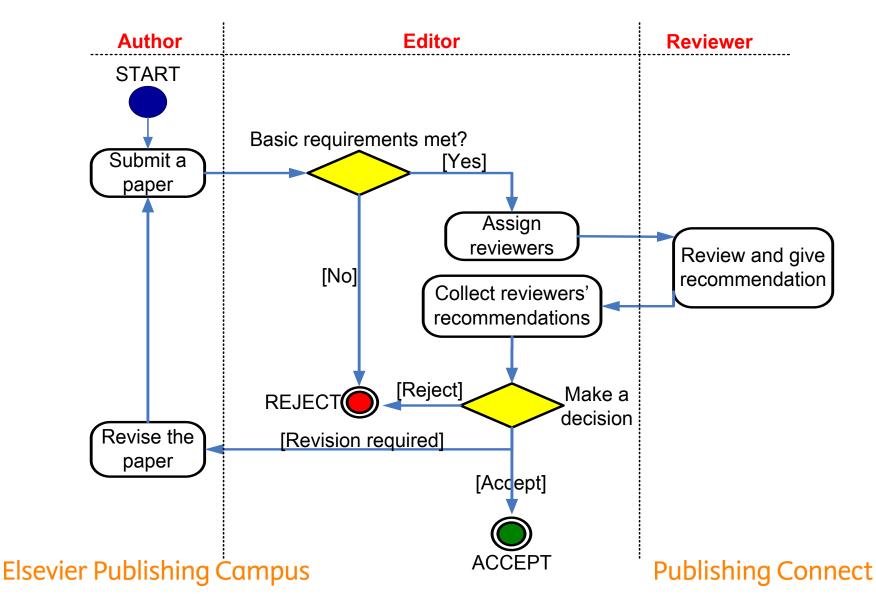


Not how it works



Elsevier Publishing Campus

What actually happens



Peer review

- Helps to determine the quality, validity, significance, and originality of research
- Helps to improve the quality of papers
- Publishers are outside the academic process and are not prone to prejudice or favour
- Publishers facilitate the review process by investing in online review systems and providing tools to help Editors and Reviewers

Publishing Connect

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What are reviewers looking for?

- Importance of the hypothesis
- Originality
- Clear progression through the paper
- Well presented



Elsevier Publishing Campus

Addressing reviewer and editor feedback

ADDRESSING REVIEWER COMMENTS BAD REVIEWS ON YOUR PAPER? FOLLOW THESE GUIDE-LINES AND YOU MAY YET GET IT PAST THE EDITOR:

Reviewer comment:

"The method/device/paradigm the authors propose is clearly wrong."

How NOT to respond:

X "Yes, we know. We thought we could still get a paper out of it. Sorry."

Correct response:

"The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, as the focus of this work is exploratory and not performance-based, validation was not found to be of critical importance to the contribution of the paper."

Reviewer comment:

"The authors fail to reference the work of Smith et al., who solved the same problem 20 years ago."

How NOT to respond:

"Huh. We didn't think anybody had read that. Actually, their solution is better than ours."

Correct response:

"The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, our work is based on completely different first principles (we use different variable names), and has a much more attractive graphical user interface.

Reviewer comment:

"This paper is poorly written and scientifically unsound. I do not recommend it for publication."

How NOT to respond:

You #&@*% reviewer! I know who you are! I'm gonna get you when it's my turn to review!"

Correct response:

- "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, we feel the reviewer did not fully comprehend the scope of the work, and misjudged the results based on incorrect assumptions.
 - www.phdcomics.com

Recap – the review process:

The review process is managed by the handling editor

Editors can and do desk reject papers

Papers that pass the basic journal requirements are sent out for review where expert peers provide assessments

Papers may be accepted, rejected or sent back to the author for revision

Reviewers and editors are looking for novel research of high technical quality

The revision process should be seen as constructive

Elsevier Publishing Campus





Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

Publishing ethics



What is unethical behaviour?

- Fabrication of data or cases
- Wilful falsification of data
- Plagiarism
- No ethics approval
- Not admitting missing data
- Ignoring outliers
- No data on side effects
- Gift authorship
- Redundant publication
- Inadequate literature search



Elsevier Publishing Campus

What is plagiarism?

"Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit, including those obtained through confidential review of others' research proposals and manuscripts."

> Federal Office of Science and Technology Policy, 1999

Copying any of these would be plagiarism:

- Words (language)
- Ideas
- Findings
- Writings
 Elsevier Publishing Campus

- Graphic representations
- Computer programs
- Diagrams Graphs
 - Illustrations

- Information
- Lectures
- Printed material
- Electronic material Publishing Connect

Did you know? Plagiarism also includes:

- Paraphrasing restating someone else's ideas while not copying their actual words verbatim.
- Copying one's own work (called "text re-cycling" or "selfplagiarism") is a grey area.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What is duplicate submission / publication?

- Submitting to / publishing one's paper in multiple journals
- Such papers are easily detected
- Don't send your paper to a second journal unless it is rejected or you withdraw it

Elsevier Publishing Campus

How do publishers detect plagiarism and duplicate publication?





Elsevier Publishing Campus

Authorship: Do's and don'ts



General principles for who is listed first:

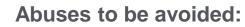
First Author:

- Conducts and/or supervises the data analysis and the proper presentation and interpretation of the results
- Puts paper together and submits the paper to journal

Co-Author(s):

- Makes intellectual contributions to the data analysis and contributes to data interpretation
- Reviews each paper draft
- Must be able to present the results, defend the implications and discuss study limitations

Elsevier Publishing Campus



Ghost Authors:

Leaving out authors who should be included

Scientific Writers and Gift Authors:

Including authors when they did not contribute significantly

What is a conflict of interest?

- Direct financial
 e.g. employment, stock ownership, grants, patents
- Indirect financial e.g. honoraria, consultancies, mutual fund ownership, expert testimony
- Career & intellectual e.g. promotion, rivalry
- Institutional
- Personal belief

Elsevier Publishing Campus



Severe consequences for publishing misconduct

Potential consequences can vary according to the severity of the misconduct and the standards set by the journal editors, institutions and funding bodies.

Possible actions include:

- Written letters of concern and reprimand
- Article retractions
- Some form of disciplinary action on the part of the researcher's institute or funding body



Publishing Connect

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Recap – publishing ethics:

Never be tempted

Only submit one article at a time

Acknowledge all authors that should be credited and none that shouldn't

Disclose any conflicts of interest

The potential consequences are severe

Elsevier Publishing Campus





Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect

Dissemination



Journal article production

Preprint Author submits manuscript

Manuscript accepted

Document proof Copy editing, Author proofing, preparation for publishing

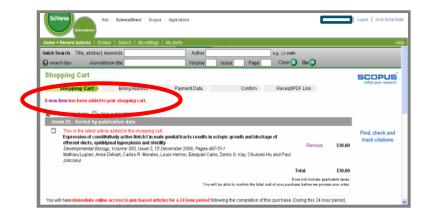
- Published journal article
 Logo, pagination, branding
- Electronic Warehouse
 Published as print, HTML or PDF copy

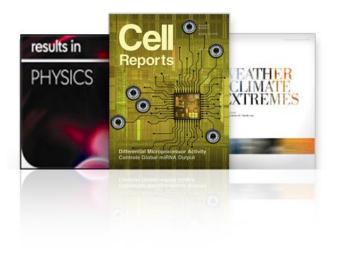
Elsevier Publishing Campus

Publishing models

Traditional publishing

- Authors publish free of charge
- Institutions or individuals subscribe to journals





Open access publishing

- Author (or institution/funding agency) pays an article publication fee
- Article is made freely available to all online
- Some journals publish exclusively open access
- Other subscription journals offer open access options

Elsevier Publishing Campus

What is open access?

Free and permanent access to scholarly research combined with clear guidelines (user licenses) for users to re-use the content.

Gold open access

- After submission and peer review, an article publishing charge (APC) is payable
- Upon publication everyone can immediately and permanently access the article online

Green open access

- After submission and peer review in a subscription journal, the article is published online
- Subscribers have immediate access and the article is made open access either through author self-archiving, publisher deposit or linking.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

How can I make sure my research gets the attention it deserves?



1. Preparing your article

Search engine optimization:

- Keywords
- Subheadings
- Picture labels

2. Promoting your published article

- Audioslides
- Conferences
- Share links
- Social media
- Social networks



3. Monitoring your article

Monitor by:

- Citations
- Views
- Downloads
- Altmetrics

Publishing Connect

Elsevier Publishing Campus



Elsevier Publishing Campus

Training. Advice. Discussion. Networking.

Packed with free online lectures and interactive courses, together with expert advice and resources to help on your way to publishing a world-class book or journal article.



publishingcampus.com

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Further reading at

publishingcampus.com elsevier.com/authors elsevier.com/reviewers elsevier.com/editors

- Understanding the Publishing Process with Elsevier complete guide
 Publishing Ethics brochure top reasons to publish ethically
 - Get Published top tips on writing, reviewing and grant writing etc.
 - Get Noticed new ways to promote your article and research
 - Open access definitions and options
 - Career Planning Guide download in 12 languages



Download your personalized Certificate of Completion for this workshop now!

Enter the unique code: **SXQHKB**

at

www.publishingcampus.com/workshops

As a new visitor, you will be prompted to register before completing a short survey about the workshop and downloading your certificate.

Need help? Send email to <u>publishingcampus@elsevier.com</u>

Elsevier Publishing Campus





Publishing Connect

Elsevier Publishing Campus

Training. Advice. Discussion. Networking.

publishingcampus.com





Thank you

Elsevier Publishing Campus www.publishingcampus.com

Information about publishing in journals www.elsevier.com/authors

Contact me: <u>I.boudova@elsevier.com</u>

> Elsevier Publishing Campus Publishing Connect