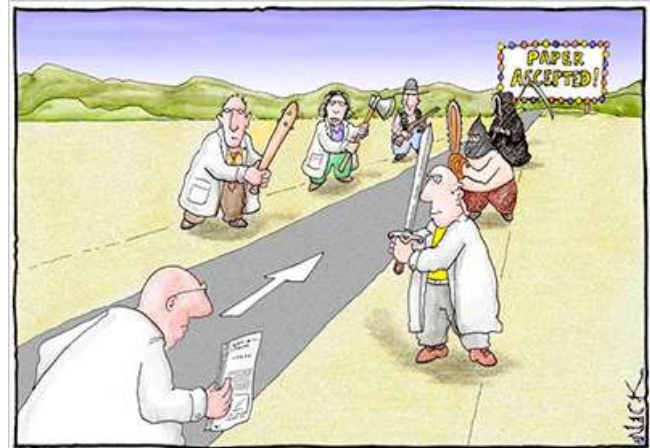


How to Get Published in a Scholarly Journal: Tips from an Elsevier Editor

Presented by Prof. **Yves Gagnon**
Series Editor, Wind Energy Engineering Series, Elsevier
Series Editor, Woodhead Series in Bioenergy, Elsevier
Université de Moncton, Canada

In collaboration with **Pete Lewis**
Associate Publisher, Elsevier, Oxford, UK

Research Institute for Applied Mechanics (RIAM)
Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan
December 6, 2023



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."

<https://theconversation.com/predicting-who-will-publish-or-perish-as-career-academics-18473>

1

1

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, participants will

- Have had a look behind the scenes of scientific publishing
- Know how to choose the right journal for your paper
- Understand how to structure a research paper
- Understand how peer review works and how to respond to feedback
- Know where to find out more Information

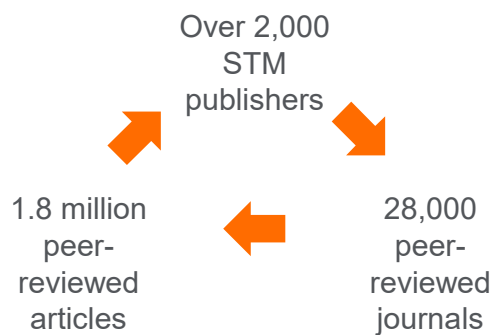


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Scholarly Publishing Today

Scientific, Technical and Medical (STM) publishing



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Why Publish?

| 4

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Role of Scholarly Publications

1. Registration

The timestamp to officially note who submitted scientific results first

2. Certification

Perform peer-review to ensure the validity and integrity of submissions

3. Dissemination

Provide a medium for discoveries and findings to be shared

4. Preservation

Preserving the minutes and record of science for posterity

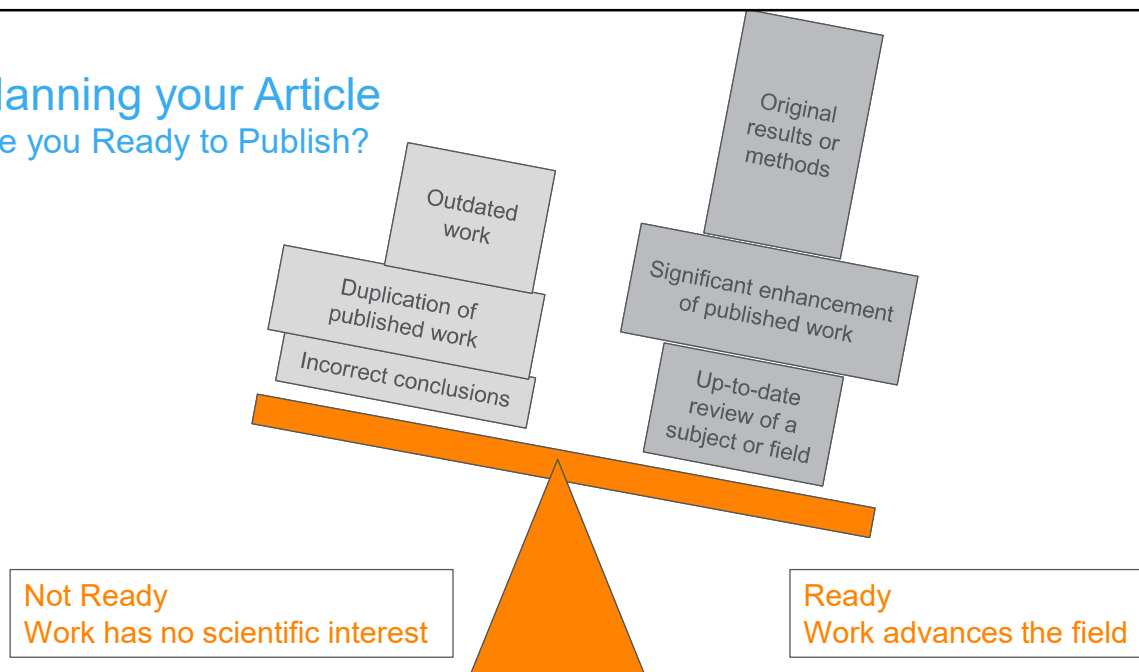


Henry Oldenberg

5

Planning your Article

Are you Ready to Publish?



6

Planning your Article

Types of Manuscripts



- **Full length 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

Your supervisor, collaborators and colleagues are also good sources for advice on manuscript types.

7

Identifying the Right Journal

8

Select the Best Journal for Submission

Look at your references – these should help you narrow your choices.

Review recent publications in each “candidate journal”.

Things to Consider:

- ✓ Readership (Aims & Scope)
- ✓ Speed
- ✓ Impact Metrics
- ✓ Open Access?
- ✓ Does it really exist or is dubious? (check archived version of Beall’s List of Predatory Open Access Publishers)

BEALL'S LIST
OF POTENTIAL PREDATORY JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS

PUBLISHERS | STANDALONE JOURNALS | VANITY PRESS | CONTACT | OTHER

Search for publishers (name or URL):

Potential predatory scholarly open-access publishers

Instructions: First, find the journal's publisher – it is usually written at the bottom of the journal's webpage or in the "About" section. Then simply enter the publisher's name or its URL in the search box above. If the journal does not have a publisher use the Standalone Journals List. All journals published by a predatory publisher are potentially predatory unless stated otherwise.

Original list [GO TO UPDATE](#)

This is an archived version of the Beall's list – a list of potential predatory publishers created by a librarian Jeffrey Beall. We will only update links and add notes to this list.

Useful pages

List of journals falsely claiming to be indexed by DOAJ

DOAJ: Journals added and removed

Nonrecommended medical periodicals

Retraction Watch

<https://beallist.net/>



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Elsevier Journal Matching Tool

Find journals

Enter title and abstract of your paper to easily find journals that could be best suited for publishing. JournalFinder uses smart search technology and field-of-research specific vocabularies to match your paper to scientific journals.

> Here on how it works

Paper title
Enter your paper title here

Paper abstract
Enter your paper abstract here

Keywords
Enter relevant keywords for your paper

Field of research
Select field of research

+ Refine your search

Find Journals >

<https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/>



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Don't have an abstract ready yet?

Explore how JournalFinder works using one of our samples:

Medicine
Cases of autoimmune rippling muscles with myasthenia gravis

Social sciences
The role of marketeers in cross-cultural business-to-business relationships

Environmental sciences
Planes as air pollutant contributors within an international environment

Showing 48 journals matching your paper

Sort by: Best match

Journal Title	Test match score	CiteScore	Impact Factor	Acceptance rate	Time to 1st decision	Time to publication
Developmental Review	7.8	3.727	129%	8 weeks	4 weeks	
Journal of Economic Psychology	3.4	1.718	129%	7 weeks	24 weeks	
Technology in Society	3.4	1.670	21%	14 weeks	13 weeks	

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Your Journals List for this Manuscript

You now have a list of candidate journals for your manuscript...

- ✓ All authors of the submission agree to this list of journals
- ✓ Write your draft as if you are going to submit to the first journal on your list. Use [its Guide for Authors](#) - these differ per journal
- ✗ **DO NOT gamble by submitting your manuscript to more than one journal at a time.**



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Read the “Guide for Authors”

- Find it on the journal homepage of the publisher, e.g. Elsevier.com
- Keep to the Guide for Authors in your manuscript
- Editors do not like wasting time on poorly prepared manuscripts

Types of article and manuscript requirements

Please ensure that anything you submit to *The Lancet* follows the guidelines provided for each article type. For instruction on how to format the text of your paper, including tables, figures, panels, and references, please see our [Formatting guidelines](#)

Red section (Articles and Clinical pictures)

Articles

- The *Lancet* prioritises reports of original research that are likely to change clinical practice or thinking about a disease (*Lancet* 2000; **356**: 2-4)
- We offer fast-track peer review and publication of randomised controlled trials (see [Swift+](#) and [Fast-track publication](#))

388: e19-23)

- To find reporting guidelines see: <http://www.equator-network.org>

All Articles should, as relevant:

- Be up to 3500 words (4500 for randomised controlled trials) with 30 references (the word count is for the manuscript text only)
- Include an abstract (semistructured summary), with five paragraphs (Background, Methods, Findings, Interpretation, and Funding), not exceeding 300 words. The electronic submission system will ask you to copy and paste this section at the “Submit Abstract” stage
- For randomised trials, the abstract should adhere to CONSORT extensions: abstracts (see *Lancet* 2008; **371**: 281-83)

<http://www.prisma-statement.org/>

<https://www.thelancet.com/for-authors/forms/section-meta-analysis>

[http://www.thelancet.com/journal/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)30388-9/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journal/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)30388-9/fulltext)

To find reporting guidelines, see <http://www.equator-network.org> Human Gene Organisation <http://www.genenames.org/>



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All Articles should, as relevant be:

- Up to 3500 words with 30 references (the word count is for the manuscript text only)

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Writing Your Article

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Why is Language Important?

Save your editor and reviewers the trouble of guessing what you mean.....

Complaint from an editor:

“[This] paper fell well below my threshold. I refuse to spend time trying to understand what the author is trying to say. Besides, I really want to send a message that they can't submit garbage to us and expect us to fix it.

My rule of thumb is that if there are *more than 6 grammatical errors* in the abstract, then I don't waste my time carefully reading the rest.”



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Manuscript Language

- Write **direct and short** sentences
- **One idea** or piece of information **per sentence** is sufficient
- Avoid multiple statements in one sentence
- Remember that you are writing for a specialized audience who already know the subject area of your research
- Remain focused on your research work, and avoid extensive high-level discourse
- Avoid affirmations by referencing all statements that are based on other research work



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Manuscript Language - Tenses

- **Present** tense for known facts and hypotheses
- “The gas is highly flammable”
- **Past** tense for experiments you have conducted
- “An experiment was conducted to find out if the gas is flammable.”
- **Past** tense when you **describe the results** of an experiment
- “The gas was shown to be flammable because it burned down our lab.”



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Manuscript Language- Grammar

- Use **active voice** to shorten sentences:
- ✗ It has been found that there have been...
- ✓ We found that...
- **Avoid abbreviations:** “it’s”, “weren’t”, “hasn’t”
- Eliminate **redundant phrases**



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General Structure of a Research Article



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

Make them easy for indexing and searching. Informative, attractive, effective!

Journal space is limited. Reader’s time is also scarce. Make your article as concise as possible.

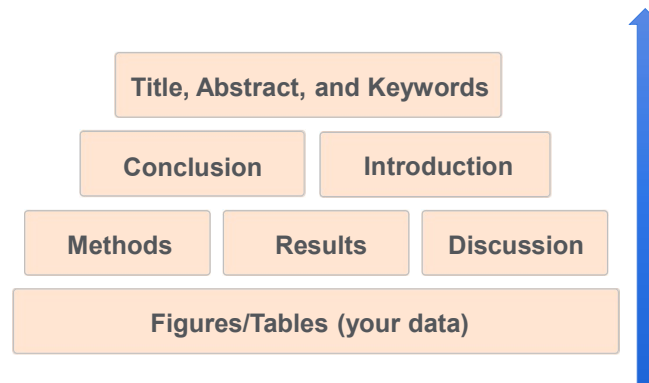
Read the Guide for Authors for the specific criteria of your target journal.



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The Process of Writing – Building the Article



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Effective Titles

- Are Declarative:
 - ✗ 'The role of Gene X in Exhausted T Cells'
 - ✓ 'Gene X promotes T Cell Exhaustion during chronic infection by inhibiting Gene Y.'
- Are informative but concise
- Avoid jargon and rarely-used abbreviations
- Are agreed upon by all co-authors



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Keywords

- Are the labels of the manuscript
- Are used by indexing and abstracting services
- Should be specific
- Should use only established abbreviations (e.g. DNA)

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

Ammonia tolerance and microbial community in thermophilic co-digestion of sewage sludge initiated with lignocellulosic biomass

Keywords

Thermophilic digestion; Ammonia inhibition; *Clostridia*; *Methanosarcina*; Rice straw; Sludge



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Abstract

- Summarize the problem, methods, results, and conclusions in a single paragraph
- Make it interesting and understandable
- Make it accurate and specific
- Keep it as brief as possible

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.

Remember: Some researchers will only read the Abstract of your article.



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Introduction

- Provide a brief context to the readers
- Address the problem
- Identify what the work is trying to achieve
- Introduce the main scientific publications on which your work is based
- Avoid excessive self-citation of your previous publications

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



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Methods

- Describe how the problem was studied
- Include detailed information
- Do not describe in details previously published procedures
- Identify the equipment and materials used
- Other knowledgeable researchers should be able to reproduce your work

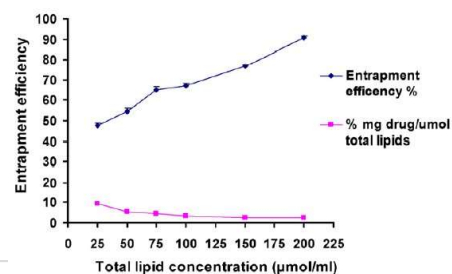
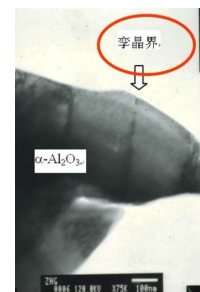


24

24

Results

- Include only data of primary importance / Do not dilute your data
- 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 analysis
- **Figures and illustrations**
Descriptive figure captions / Avoid lines with colors
- **Tables**
Do not put excessively long Tables



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Discussion

- Interpretation of results
- **Most important section**
- Make the discussion correspond to the results and complement them
- Compare published results with your own
- Do not speculate on the interpretation of the data; analysis should be rooted in facts



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Conclusion

- Be clear
- Provide justification for the work
- Explain how your work advances the present state of knowledge
- Suggest future experiments
- The Conclusion section is different than the Abstract (they serve different purposes)



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Acknowledgments

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



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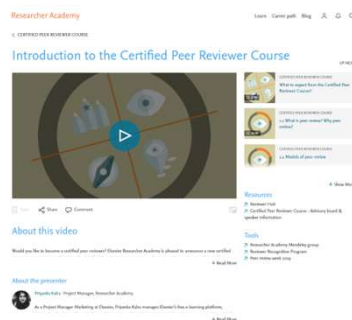
The Peer Review Process

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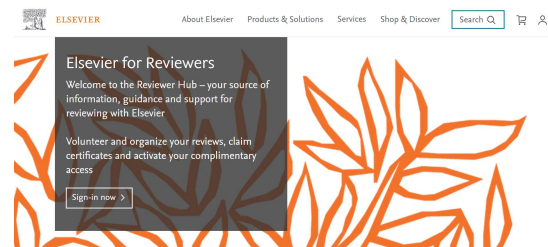
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Peer Review

- Determine quality, value, and originality
- Helps to improve the quality of papers
- Publishers facilitate the review process by investing in online review systems and providing tools to help Editors and Reviewers



<https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/navigating-peer-review/certified-peer-reviewer-course>

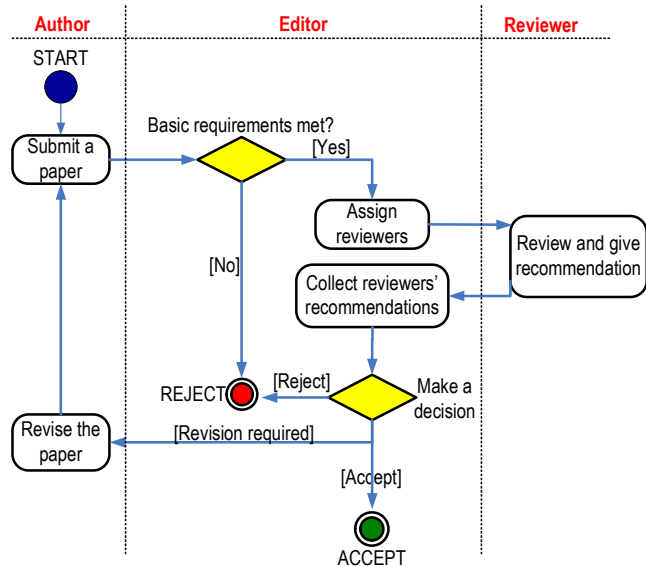


<https://www.elsevier.com/en-gb/reviewers>

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The Peer Review Process Is Not a Black Hole!



Michael Derntl. Basics of Research Paper Writing and Publishing.
<http://dbis.rwth-aachen.de/~derntl/papers/misc/paperwriting.pdf>

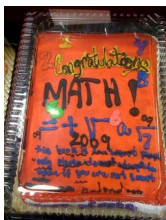
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First Decision: "Accepted" or "Rejected"

Accepted

- Very rare, but it happens



- Congratulations!

Rejected

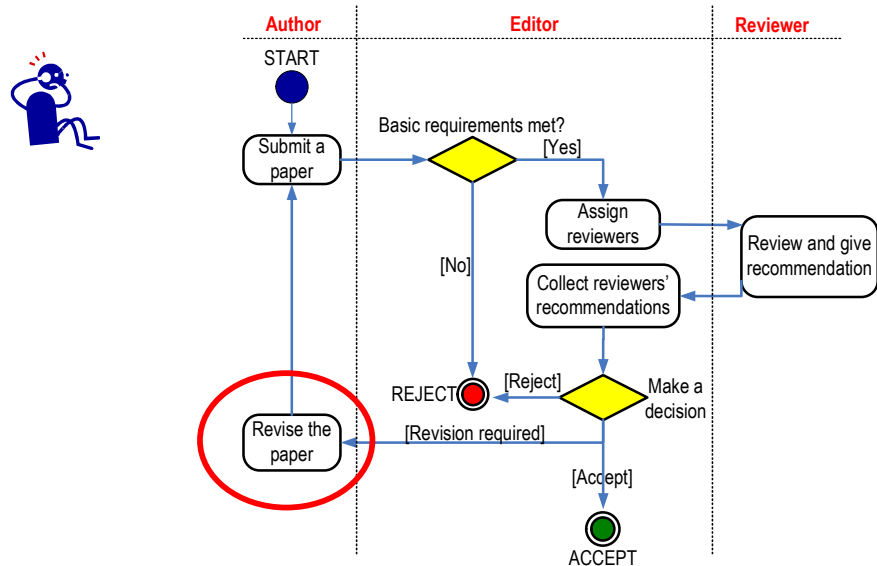
- Probability 40-90% ...
- Do not despair
 - It happens to everybody
- Try to understand WHY
 - Consider reviewers' advice
 - Be self-critical
- If you submit to another journal, begin as if it were a new manuscript



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The Peer Review Process – Revisions



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First Decision: “Major” or “Minor” Revision

Major revision

- Significant deficiencies must be corrected before acceptance
- Usually involves (significant) textual modifications and/or additional experiments

Minor revision

- Basically, worthy of publication
- Some elements require clarification, restructuring, shortening (often) or expanding (rarely)
- Textual adaptations
- “Minor revision” does NOT guarantee acceptance after revision, but often it is accepted if all points are addressed!

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Manuscript Revision

Prepare a detailed Response Letter

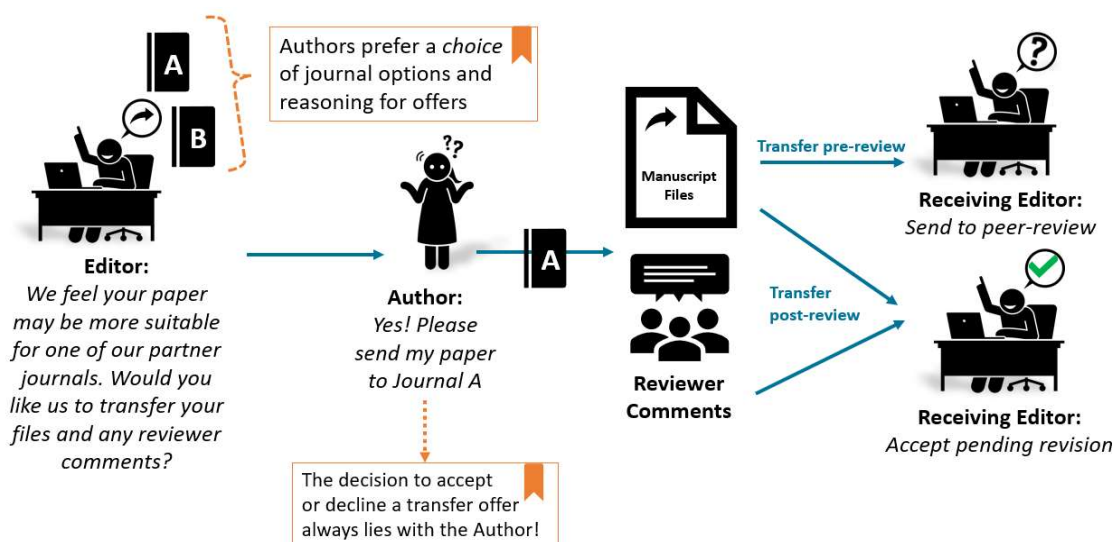
- ✓ **Copy-paste each reviewer comment**, and type your response below it
- ✓ **State specifically** which changes you have made to the manuscript
 - ✓ Include page/line numbers
- ✓ Provide a **scientific response** to comments to accept,
- ✓ or a **convincing, solid and polite** rebuttal when you feel the reviewer was wrong
- ✓ Write in such a manner, that your response can be forwarded to the reviewer without prior editing

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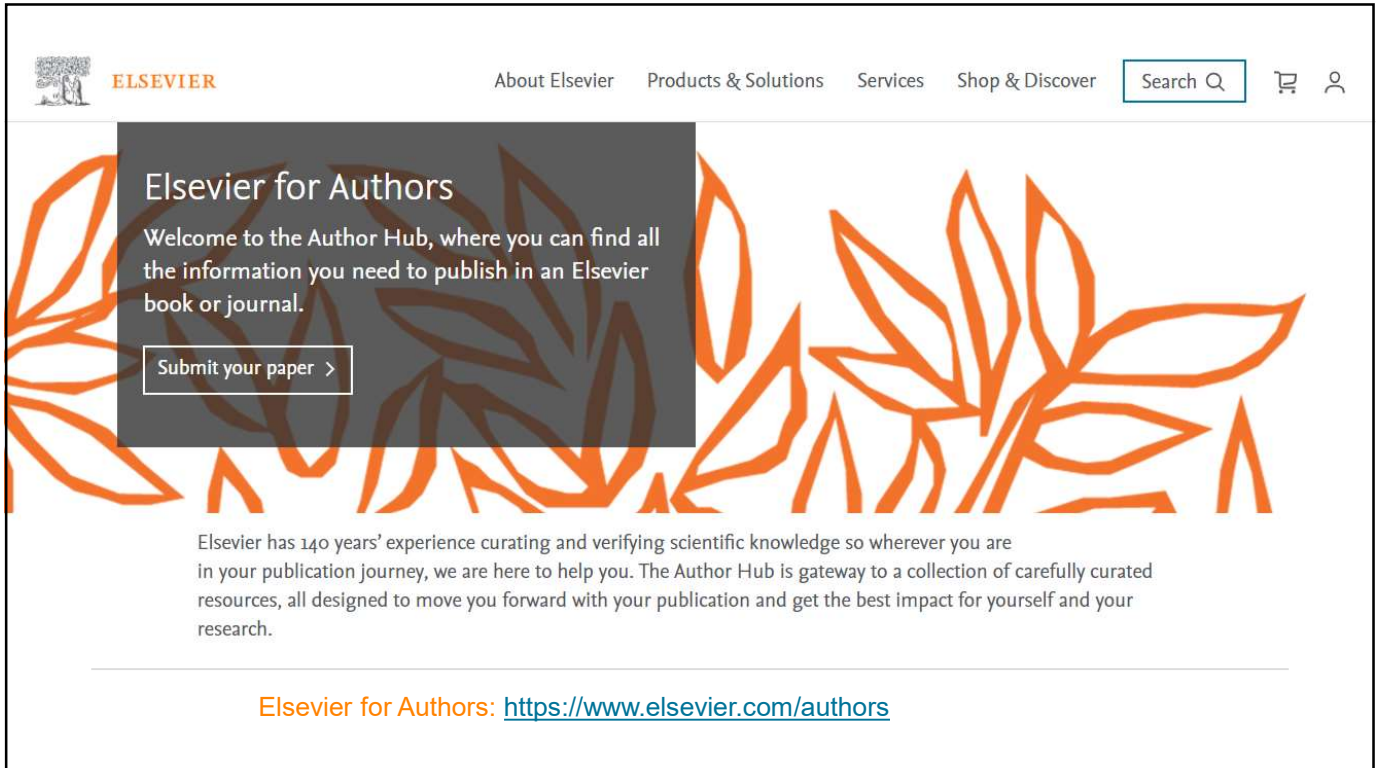
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Article Transfer Connection

Not all rejections are unpublishable. If content is good quality, scientifically and ethically sound, and fits with the scope of an Elsevier journal, we want to **support authors** in finding an appropriate home for their work.



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Elsevier for Authors

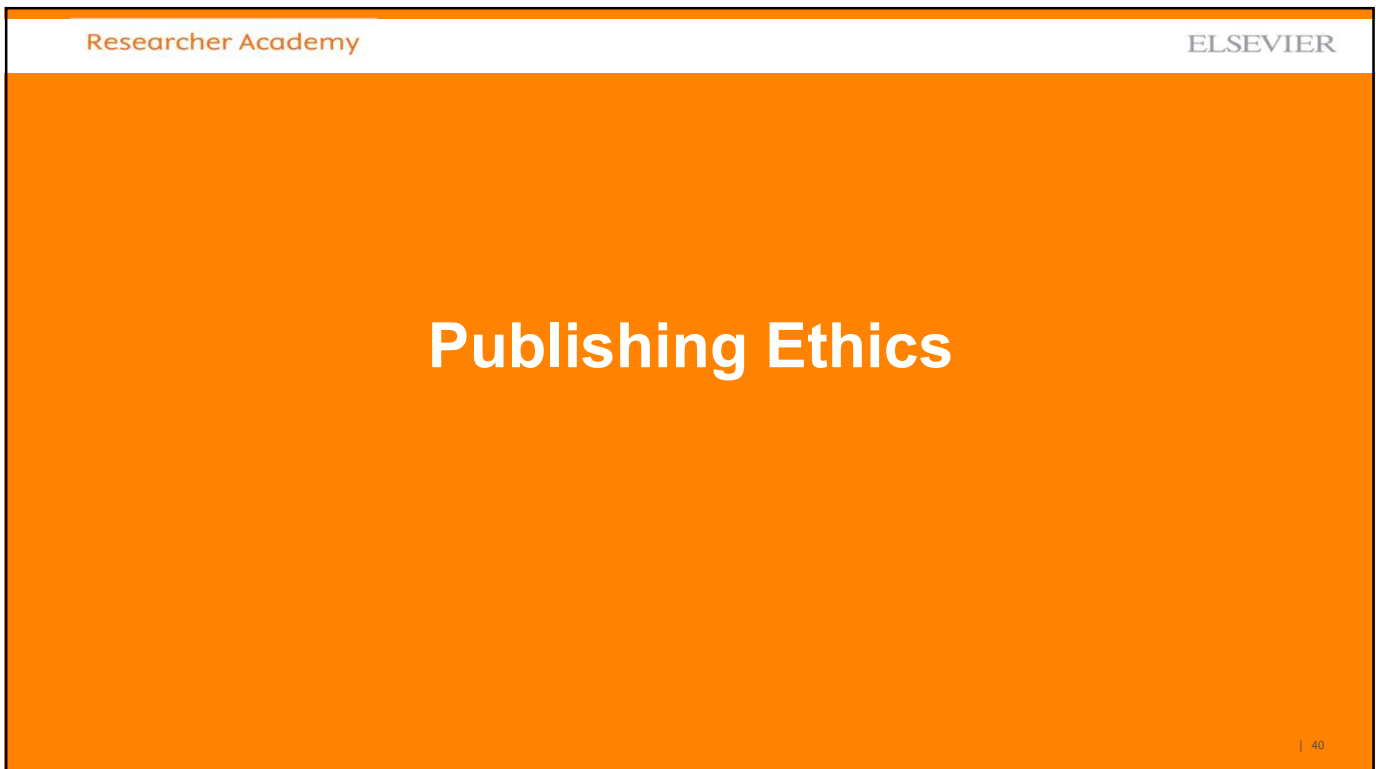
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Publishing Ethics

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The Most Serious Issues to Avoid



3 most common forms of ethical misconduct that the research community is challenged with:

- **Fabrication**
Making up research data
 - **Falsification**
Manipulation of existing research data
 - **Plagiarism**
Previous work taken and passed off as one's own (the most common offence!)
-

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What may be plagiarized?

- Words (language)
- Ideas
- Findings
- Writings
- Graphic representations
- Computer programs
- Diagrams
- Graphs
- Illustrations
- Information
- Lectures
- Printed material
- Electronic material
- Any other original work **INCLUDING YOUR OWN PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED WORK**



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Computer Law & Security Review
Volume 23, Issue 5, 2007, Pages 436–448


Trade names and virtual property
RETRACTED: ITM: Avatars as trade marks

Angela Adrian
Show more
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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clsr.2007.07.002>

Referred to by
Angela Adrian
Retraction notice to "ITM: Avatars as trade marks" [2007] 23 CLSR 436–448
Computer Law & Security Review, Volume 30, Issue 4, August 2014, Pages 347
Download PDF

Abstract
This article has been retracted: please see Elsevier Policy on Article Withdrawal (<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/withdrawalpolicy>).
This article has been retracted at the request of the Editor-in-Chief.
The author has been found to have plagiarized parts of a paper by Steven Wilf



Correlation analysis of biochemical indicators in common bile duct stone patients with negative magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography

^aDepartment of General Surgery, Capital Medical University Affiliated Beijing Friendship Hospital, Beijing 100050, China
^bDepartment of Vascular Surgery, Capital Medical University Affiliated Beijing Friendship Hospital, Beijing 100050, China

HIGHLIGHTS

- Correlation analysis between biochemical indicators is proposed.
- This was done for common bile duct stones.
- Results shows that alpha glutamyltransferase is a good biomarker.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 26 October 2018
Received in revised form 18 November 2018
Accepted 28 November 2018
Available online 29 March 2019

Keywords:
Common bile duct stones
Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography
Receiver operating characteristic

ABSTRACT

Purpose: To reduce the misdiagnosis under the negative result of magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP), a correlation analysis between biochemical indicators and the common bile duct (CBD) stones was performed in this study.

Method: A total of 514 patients who underwent the Laparoscopic cholecystectomy with the CBD exploration were enrolled. The biochemical indicators including γ -glutamyltransferase (GGT) and common bile duct diameter (CBD), and the radiological examination results including MRCP were evaluated to reveal the correlations with the CBD stone using receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve and logistic regression analysis.

Results: MRCP was the most outstanding index for CBD stone patients with negative MRCP, followed by direct cholangiogram (DB) and GGT. Meanwhile, ROC analysis and logistic regression analyses showed that GGT was the most outstanding index for CBD stone patients with the negative MRCP combined with normal width CBD (CBD <0.8 cm), followed by alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and DB.

Conclusion: ALP, DB and GGT might be potential predictors for CBD stone patients when MRCP is negative. If the result of MRCP was negative, especially combined with CBD <0.8 cm, a further GGT investigation was suggested to determine whether the LCBD should be performed.

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1. Introduction
Common bile duct (CBD) stones are estimated to be present in 10%–20% of individuals with symptomatic gallstones [1]. It can result in a number of health problems such as pain, jaundice, infection and acute pancreatitis [2]. A variety of imaging modalities can be employed to identify the condition, while management of confirmed cases of CBD stone may involve endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) and laparoscopic cholecystectomy (LC) [3]. There were two kinds of clinical therapy strategies for CBD stone: (1) LC combined with choledochoscopy; (2) ERCP followed by LC [4]. Although each of these strategy has its own advantages, the neglecting preoperative diagnosis of CBD stone may bring certain complications such as cholangitis, pancreatitis, biliary leakage and peritonitis to the patients [5]. The magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) is an ideal imaging modality with a high sensitivity and specificity [6]. Its accuracy is comparable to that of ERCP, and its sensitivity and specificity are shown to reach 95% and 90%, respectively [7,8]. It is more reliable than other methods like endoscopic

The article of which the authors committed plagiarism: it won't be removed from ScienceDirect. Everybody who downloads it will see the reason of retraction...

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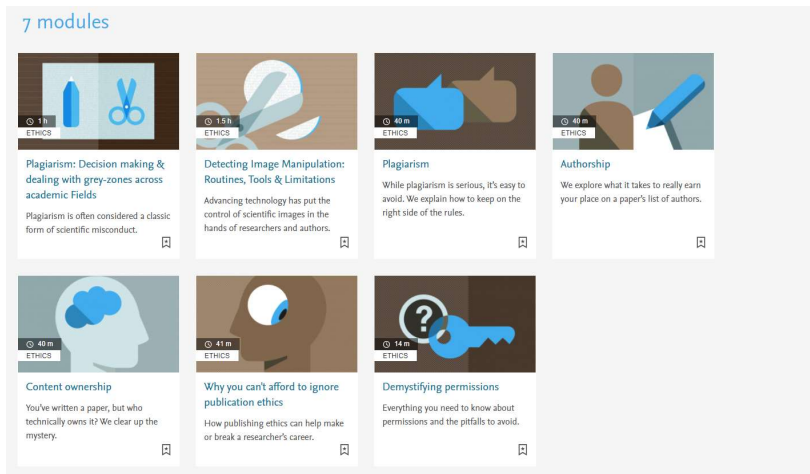
Avoiding Unethical Behaviour

- Confirm your authorship before submitting the paper
- Double check in-text citations and references
- Rule of thumb with citing text
 - Quotations for direct passages with in-text citation
 - Do not paraphrase
 - Include in References
- Send your paper to one journal at a time
- Keep self-citations to a minimum

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Ethics Learning Modules on Researcher Academy

7 modules



Module Title	Duration	Description
Plagiarism: Decision making & dealing with grey-zones across academic Fields	17 m	Plagiarism is often considered a classic form of scientific misconduct.
Detecting Image Manipulation: Routines, Tools & Limitations	15 m	Advancing technology has put the control of scientific images in the hands of researchers and authors.
Plagiarism	40 m	While plagiarism is serious, it's easy to avoid. We explain how to keep on the right side of the rules.
Authorship	40 m	We explore what it takes to really earn your place on a paper's list of authors.
Content ownership	40 m	You've written a paper, but who technically owns it? We clear up the mystery.
Why you can't afford to ignore publication ethics	41 m	How publishing ethics can help make or break a researcher's career.
Demystifying permissions	14 m	Everything you need to know about permissions and the pitfalls to avoid.

<https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/publication-process/ethics>

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Questions

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