How To Get Your Article Published

Before you start
Refine your search strategies

Too many researchers have abandoned all the value of libraries when they stopped going there physically!

There is more than

Learn what online resources are available at your institute, and learn to search in a clever way.

Haglund & Olson, 2008:
“...researchers have difficulties in identifying correct search terms. Searches are often unsuccessful.”
Use the advanced search options

- Within Google and Google Scholar use the advanced searches and check out the Search Tips.

- In ScienceDirect, Scopus, WoS/WoK and other databases use proximity operators:
  - w/n  →  Within - (non order specific)
  - pre/n →  Precedes - (order specific)

E.g. wind w/3 energy
Practical advice

- **Find out what’s Hot**
  - [http://info.scopus.com/topcited/](http://info.scopus.com/topcited/)

- **Find the trends of the subject area**
  - Search tips (including alerts)
  - Journals, authors, publications per year (Scopus)

- **Evaluate which journal is right for your article**
  - Impact Factor
  - Subject Specific Impact Factor ([http://tinyurl.com/scopusimpact](http://tinyurl.com/scopusimpact))
  - Journal Analyzer
  - SNIP (using Scopus)
  - h-Index

- **Find out more about the journals**
  - Who are the editors?
  - Guide for authors
Find out what’s hot (downloads)

Top 25 Hottest Articles
Agricultural and Biological Sciences
April to June 2010

1. Biological effects of essential oils - A review • Review article
   Food and Chemical Toxicology, Volume 46, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 446-475
   Bakkal, F.; Averbeck, S.; Averbeck, D.; Idomar, M.
   [Cited by SciVerse Scopus (153)]

2. Hemicelluloses for fuel ethanol: A review • Review article
   Bioresource Technology, Volume 101, Issue 13, July 2010, Pages 4775-4800
   Giro, F.M.; Fonseca, C.; Carvalheiro, F.; Duarte, L.C.; Narques, S.; Bogel-Lukasik, R.
   [Cited by SciVerse Scopus (2)]

3. Antimicrobial herb and spice compounds in food • Review article
   Food Control, Volume 21, Issue 9, September 2010, Pages 1199-1213
   Taqarini, M.M.; Ibrahim, S.A.; Olver, D.O.

4. Hydrolysis of lignocellulosic materials for ethanol production: a review • Article
   Bioresource Technology, Volume 93, Issue 1, May 2002, Pages 1-15
   Sun, Y.; Cheng, J.
   [Cited by SciVerse Scopus (590)]

5. WRKY transcription factors • Review article
   Rushton, P.J.; Somssich, I.E.; Ringler, P.; Shen, Q.J.

6. Essential oils: their antibacterial properties and potential applications in foods-a review • Review article
   Burt, S.
   [Cited by SciVerse Scopus (547)]

7. A framework for community interactions under climate change • Article
   Trends in Ecology & Evolution, Volume 25, Issue 6, June 2010, Pages 325-331
   Gilman, S.E.; Urban, M.C.; Tewksbury, J.; Gilchrist, G.W.; Holt, R.D.
   [Cited by SciVerse Scopus (2)]

8. Proteolysis: technologies for efficient biopharmaceutical production process-based on...
Find out what is being cited
Find out who is being cited – in more depth
Think about why you want to publish your work.

- Is it new and interesting?
- Is it a current hot topic?
- Have you provided solutions to some difficult problems?
- Are you ready to publish at this point?

If all answers are yes, then start preparations for your manuscript.
Decide the most appropriate type of manuscript

- Conference Papers
- Full articles/Original articles
- Short communications/letters
- Review papers/perspectives

- Self-evaluate your work: Is it sufficient for a full article? Or are your results so thrilling that they need to be shown as soon as possible?

- Ask your supervisor and colleagues for advice on manuscript type. Sometimes outsiders see things more clearly than you.
Conference Paper

- Excellent for disseminating early or in-progress research findings
- Typically 5-10 pages, 3 figures, 15 references
- Draft and submit the paper to conference organisers
- Good way to start a scientific research career

Sample Conference Paper titles:

- “Global Warming Prevention Technologies in Japan” at 6th Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies International Conference
- “Power consumption in slurry systems” at 10th European Conference on Mixing
Full article / Original article

- Standard for disseminating completed research findings
- Typically 8-10 pages, 5 figures, 25 references
- Draft and submit the paper to appropriate journal
- Good way to build a scientific research career

Sample full article titles:
- “Hydrodynamic study of a liquid/solid fluidized bed under transverse electromagnetic field”
- “Retinoic acid regulation of the Mesp–Ripply feedback loop during vertebrate segmental patterning”
- “Establishing a reference range for bone turnover markers in young, healthy women”
Short Communications Article

- Quick and early communications of significant, original advances.
- Much shorter than full articles.
Review paper / perspective

- Critical synthesis of a specific research topic
- Typically 10+ pages, 5+ figures, 80 references
- Typically solicited by journal editors
- Good way to consolidate a scientific research career

Sample full article titles:
- “Advances in the allogeneic transplantation for thalassemia”
- “Stress and how bacteria cope with death and survival”
- “Quantifying the transmission potential of pandemic influenza”
Citations impact varies by publication type

- Reviews
- Notes
- Articles
Select the best journal for submission

- Look at your references – these will help you narrow your choices.

- Review recent publications in each candidate journal. Find out the hot topics, the accepted types of articles, etc.

- Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Is the journal peer-reviewed?
  - Who is this journal’s audience?
  - What is the journal’s Impact Factor?

- Do not gamble by submitting your manuscript to more than one journal at a time!
  - International ethics standards prohibit multiple/simultaneous submissions, and editors do find out! (Trust us, they do!)
Choose the right journal

Do not just “descend the stairs”

Top journals

Field-specific top journals

Other field-specific journals

National journals
Identify the right audience for your paper

- Identify the sector of
  - readership/community
  - for which the paper is meant

- Identify the interest of your audience

- Is your paper of local or international interest?

- Ask your Professor / advisor
Choose the right journal

- Investigate all candidate journals to find out
  - Aims and scope
  - Accepted types of articles
  - Readership
  - Current hot topics
  - go through the abstracts of recent publications

SummaryPlus |
Impact Factor

The number of citations in year $x$ to articles published in years $x-1$ and $x-2$, divided by the total number of "source items" published in J in years $x-1$ and $x-2$.

- For example, the 2011 impact factor for a journal is calculated as follows:
  - $A =$ the number of times articles published in 2009 and 2010 were cited in indexed journals during 2011
  - $B =$ the number of "citable items" (usually articles, reviews, proceedings or notes; not editorials and letters-to-the-Editor) published in 2009 and 2010
  - 2011 impact factor = $A/B$
  - e.g. 600 citations = 2.000
    150 + 150 articles
Impact Factor and other bibliometric parameters
Influences on Impact Factors: Subject Area

- Fundamental Life Sciences
- Neuroscience
- Clinical Medicine
- Pharmacology & Toxicology
- Physics
- Chemistry & Chemical Engineering
- Earth Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Materials Science & Engineering
- Social Sciences
- Mathematics & Computer Sciences

Mean Impact Factor

0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5
Stick to the **Guide for Authors** in your manuscript, even in the first draft (text layout, nomenclature, figures & tables, references etc.). In the end it will save you time, and also the editor’s.

Editors (and reviewers) do not like wasting time on poorly prepared manuscripts. It is a sign of disrespect.
An international editor says...

“The following problems appear much too frequently”

- Submission of papers which are clearly out of scope
- Failure to format the paper according to the Guide for Authors
- Inappropriate (or no) suggested reviewers
- Inadequate response to reviewers
- Inadequate standard of English
- Resubmission of rejected manuscripts without revision

– Paul Haddad, Editor, Journal of Chromatography A