IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND RELEVANCE OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS THROUGHOUT PUBLISHING IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

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Abstract:

This article is intended to stimulate the culture of accomplishing top researches and publish their results in good repute journals. Scholarly publication needs scholarly research and scholarly research needs scholarly researchers. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the non-scholarly (peripheral) and scholarly journals. The main difference is the depth of research and the intrinsic value of results. Bibliometricians introduced indicators, depending mainly on citations, to evaluate and rank the journals. Scholarly writing depends on the publication format, which in turn relies on the research discipline of humanities, social sciences, basic and applied sciences, engineering, technology, computing sciences, and information technology. Although lots of publications are faced with lots of rejections, there is still a chance that manuscript rejected by one journal may be accepted by another journal, in addition, a journal may not accept a manuscript as it has huge backlog while another scholarly journal may be hungry to receive a manuscript. However, for scholarly writing the authors must follow the journal guidelines to prepare the manuscript and they should not send the manuscript to the editor until having it reviewed with a fresh eye. The publication speed usually takes from weeks to months. However, one can predict the turnaround speed of publication from the colleagues or look at sample of articles published where written on the first page the date of receipt and publication. This article is also intended to build up a researching character able to react with the criticism imposed by the editor or reviewers.

Key Words: Academic publishing, scholarly journals, quality research

Introduction

If one keeps his research results, which might have benefits for the creatures, in his disk no one will ever know the existence of his work. The wisdom "says": Publish or perish. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the non-scholarly (peripheral) and scholarly journals. The main difference is the depth of research and the intrinsic value of results (Engle, 2008). The is written and published by scholars.

History of journals and evaluation

The seventeenth century (1665) witnessed the foundation of the first two scientific journals in France and Britain. They were Journaldes Scavanas and Philosophical Transactions. Nowadays, majority of journals have print subscription, as well as, electronic version. Nicholas Negroponte (2010) proposed that the future is for the electronic journals, while the print subscription journal will vanish in the coming few years.

Bibliometricians introduced indicators, depending mainly on citations, to evaluate and rank the journals. Gross & Gross (1927) made manual detection of citations, while Brodman (1944) evaluated physiology journals by citations. Eugene Garfield introduced the impact factor for evaluation of journals in 1960; He created the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). Then the huge agency; Thomson Scientific & Healthcare bought the institute in 1992 to be Thompson ISI, then only named Thompson Reuters. The agency introduced the computer in calculating the impact factor.

Databases and search engines were designed to search for information on the World Wide Web servers for research purposes. ISI Thompson Reuters was the first database used for decades. The improvements of Thompson Reuters database makes it the best database. Despite, new databases engines makes the ISI no longer sufficient. It is claimed by Google that Google remains the most popular search engine, the favorite among both users and professional reviewers for its speed and ease of use. Research experts call it the best search engine for most purposes. On the other hand, Scopus is claimed to list more journal titles and wider variety of countries and languages than Web of Knowledge (Bollen, et al., 2009, Falagas, et al., 2008).

The type of discipline can determine which search engine to be used. Humanities and social sciences researches tend to focus on books or monographs, science, engineering and technology researches focus on publishing in journals , while computing sciences and information technology focus on electronic publication or conferences presentations.

Writing with which language

Are you writing in your native language or English? Majority of journals indexed in international search engines are written in English. English is easy at one level, very difficult at another level and it can be bad at several levels. There must be consistency in English version Language whether it is UK English or USA English and consistency in tense usage; past or present tense with ensuring grammatically correct writing, punctuation and word choice. Re-check grammar, punctuation and style of the journal for which the manuscript is being written.

Writing a scholarly paper

Taking into consideration the various aspects of ethical conduct (Ruters, et al., 1996), publication in prestigious journals is tough, but meaningful (Hewlett , 2002; Klingner and Pressley, 2005). Scholarly writing depends on the publication format, which in turn relies on the research discipline of humanities, social sciences, basic and applied sciences, engineering, technology, computing sciences, and information technology. The scholarly papers must have considerations for the followings:

1. Clarify the paper vision
   Reasons for writing (Tenure, promotion, harvesting awards,
   raising the university rank).
2. Illuminate the scope of the manuscript (v) the scope of the journal
   Most of rejections come from manuscript-journal mismatch.
3. Scrutinize your manuscript before it is scrutinized
   Get use of the fresh eye.
4. Peer your article before it is peered
   Get use of the Reviewing Committee in the institute or research centre.
5. Choose the scholarly journal
   With international diversity.
6. Take care of the cover letter when submitting the scholarly manuscript to the journal editor
7. You can suggest certain reviewers and deny certain reviewers.

Hearing from the editor

The first response hearing from the editor (A letter of receipt) usually takes a short time (days or weeks). The editor usually sends you one of the following decisions:

❖ Accepted manuscript: Very rare
❖ Accepted manuscript with revision: means minor alterations
❖ Revise and resubmit: still there is a big chance for publication
❖ Rejection and resubmit: still there is a hope for publication
❖ Rejection: Irreversible.

Read the editor and reviewers comments carefully when corrections are needed and be diplomatic upon reply. Do not put off the revisions.

Publication speed usually takes from weeks to months. However, one can predict the turnaround speed of publication from the colleagues or look at sample of articles published where

written on the 1st page the date of receipt and publication. The final proof follows the letter of acceptance.

Do not panic for rejection, since a manuscript rejected by one journal may be accepted by another journal. A journal may not accept a manuscript as it has huge backlog, another journal may be hungry to receive a manuscript.

Conclusion

Scholarly publication needs scholarly research. However, creating publication in scholarly journals is not an easy job. This type of publication is beneficial for:
- ✓ Future grant
- ✓ Tenure or Promotion
- ✓ Job opportunity
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ The promotion of the institute rank.

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