



Academic Publishing in Military Studies: Insight and Tips from an Experienced Editor

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Presentation Overview

1. Manuscript Review Process
2. Editors Perspective
3. Tips for article acceptance in AF&S
4. Book Reviews (Don Travis)
5. General Tips (content quality)
6. To Do -- Before submit
7. To Do – R&R
8. Keys to Success (personal)



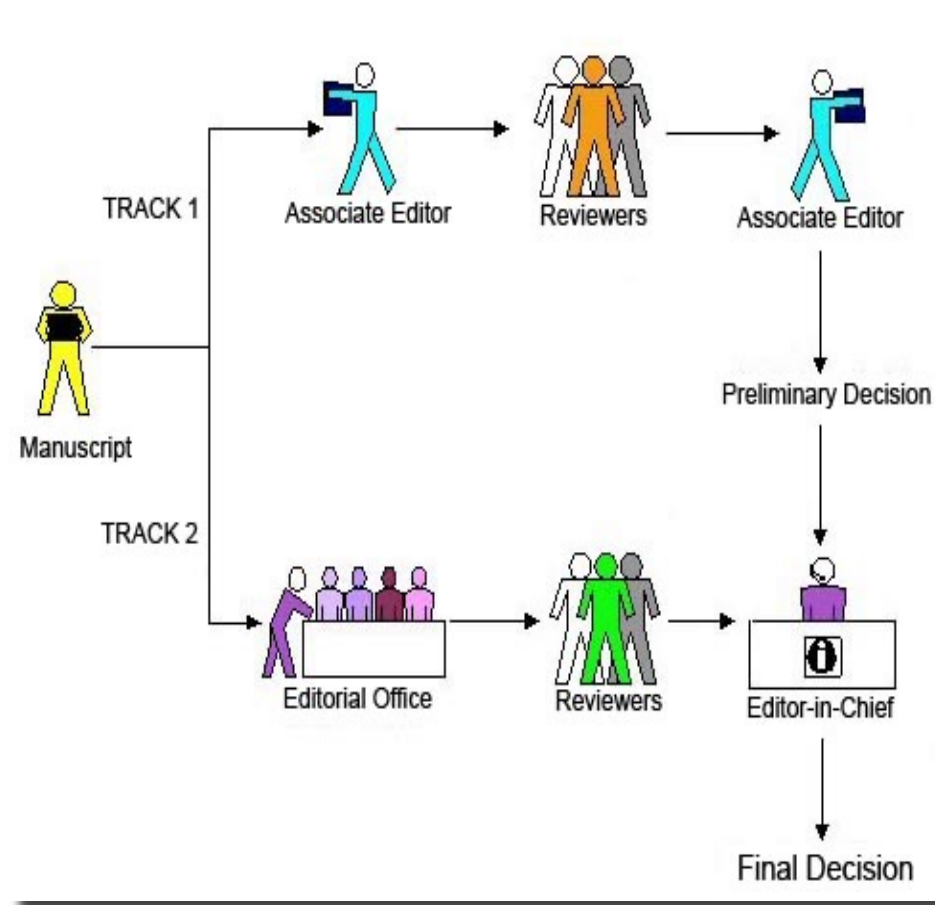


Double Blind Peer Review



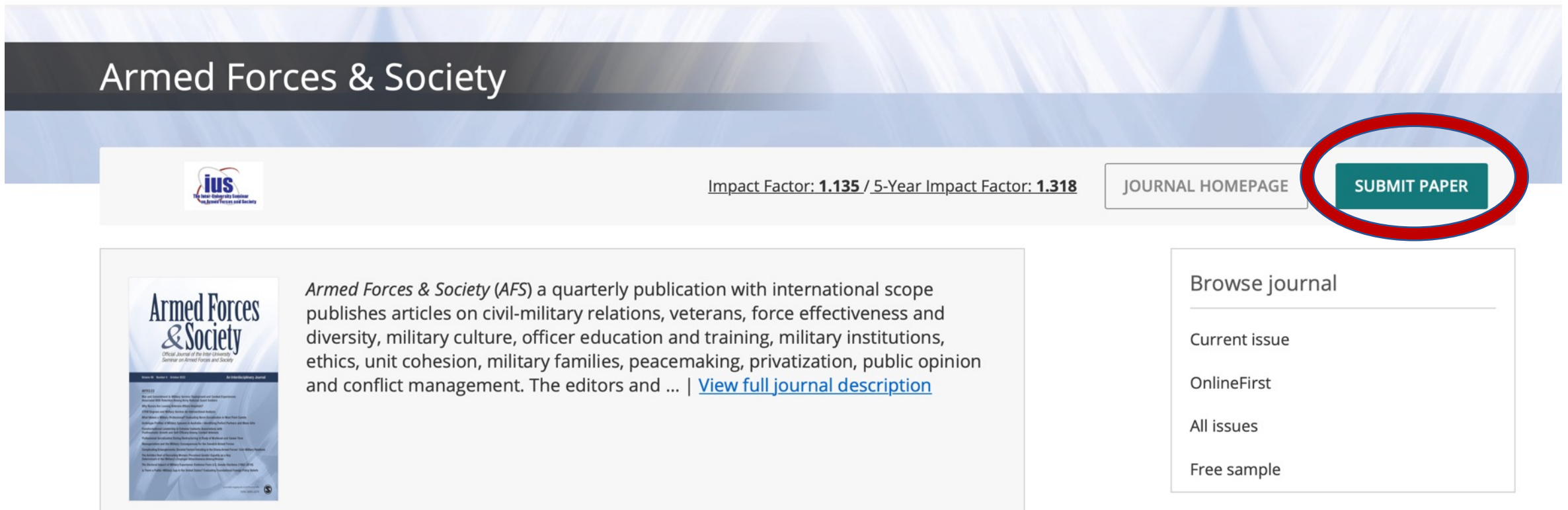
Promotes Fairness in Process

Editorial Process (submission - publication)




Stage 0 (Before submission)


- Getting the Manuscript Ready for Review
- Follow manuscript guidelines



The screenshot shows the homepage of the journal 'Armed Forces & Society'. The header features the journal title in a large, white serif font on a dark blue background. Below the title, the IUS logo is on the left, and the impact factor 'Impact Factor: 1.135 / 5-Year Impact Factor: 1.318' is in the center. On the right, there are two buttons: 'JOURNAL HOMEPAGE' and 'SUBMIT PAPER', with the latter being highlighted by a red circle. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a thumbnail of the journal cover and a brief description of the journal's scope. The right column has a 'Browse journal' section with links to 'Current issue', 'OnlineFirst', 'All issues', and 'Free sample'.

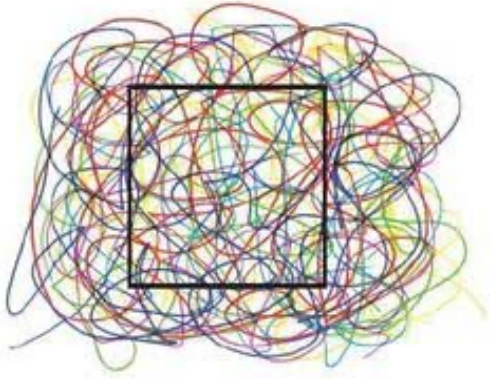
Armed Forces & Society

 Impact Factor: **1.135** / 5-Year Impact Factor: **1.318** [JOURNAL HOMEPAGE](#) [SUBMIT PAPER](#)

 *Armed Forces & Society (AFS)* a quarterly publication with international scope publishes articles on civil-military relations, veterans, force effectiveness and diversity, military culture, officer education and training, military institutions, ethics, unit cohesion, military families, peacemaking, privatization, public opinion and conflict management. The editors and ... | [View full journal description](#)

Browse journal

- Current issue
- OnlineFirst
- All issues
- Free sample



If far outside guidelines

Return to Author to Fix

A few basics

- APA 7.0 Style. (examples)
- Endnotes
- **Anonymize**
- Figures/tables at end of paper

Stage 1

- Manuscript arrives
- Managing Editor Review
- Editor's Review
Reject 40- 60%
- Find Reviewers



Stage 2



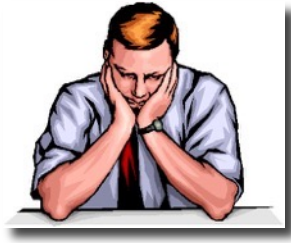
- Send out for review
2-4 reviewers
- Reviews in
- Reviewers' assessment

Stage 3

First Round Decision



- Accept Very rare (1 in 500)



- Reject
- Revise and Resubmit



Stage 4 +++

- R&R decision, comments sent to author
- Revised Manuscript and letter with explanation arrives
- Re-review Re-review (could be 2 - 4 rounds)
- Decision - Accept/Reject
- Sent to publisher for processing

Stage 5

- Copyediting by SAGE
- Author queries – Clarification/approval
- [Onlinefirst](#). (5-7 weeks)
- Assigned to an Issue (12 – 18 months)





Editors
Perspective



Scholar's perspective

Steward or Caretaker Role



Editor as Coach and Cop

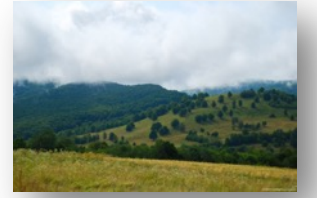


Improve the manuscript



Make sure poor
material gets
caught

Most Precious Asset



Reviewer time

More challenging to find reviewers

What is the citation potential?

Impact Factor

Index used to rank and rate journals

1.4. 2-year

1.6 5-year





Tips Article Acceptance

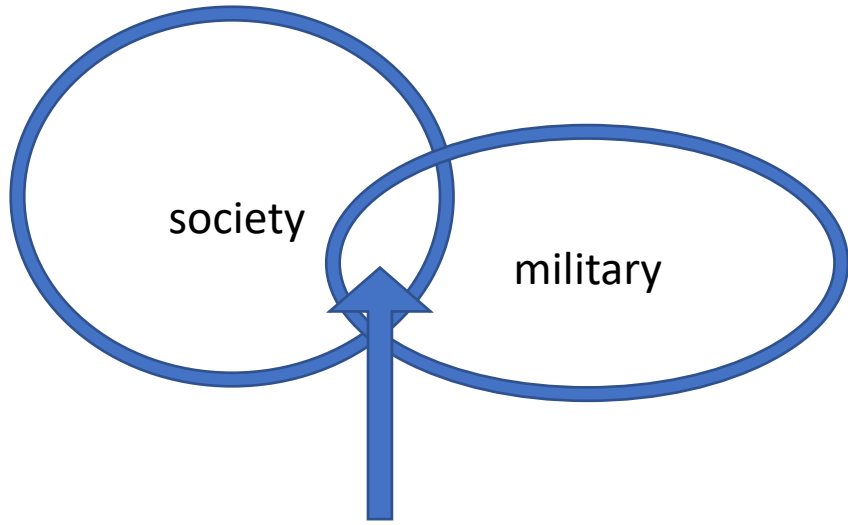
Getting past the
Editors Desk





POOR FIT

Outside scope or mission of the journal



Bulls eye topics

- civil-military relations
- professionalism/leadership
- veterans & reserves
- military families
- recruitment/retention
- public opinion/popular culture
- gender/race issues
- peacekeeping
- domestic use of military
- civil/military cooperation
- health/mental health
- contracting
- police/military interface
- cohesion/readiness

Not Bullseye topic (far end of dartboard)

- Need to make the case – fits the mission (implicit or explicit)
- Look for new topics. Forest changes



“Dynamic intersection of Military & Society”

https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-030-02866-4_31-1



Audience --
Scholars/Policy Makers
International & Interdisciplinary
Military scholars

AVOID

- Purely Military topics (strategy, tactics)
 - Purely International Relations Topics
- If audience is military leadership of a particular country
 - Narrowly tailored for a specific discipline
 - Lots of country or discipline specific acronyms

Strong Abstract



Gateway to reviewers



Gateway to readers and citations

[illegible]

Include (empirical)

- Purpose
- Method
- Key findings
- Take-away

Avoid

- Acronyms
- Convoluted sentences
- Obvious conclusion

(more research needed)



Strong/Interesting Title

- Not too long
- Not too short
- keywords
- Limit acronyms

Title



Abstract





Introduction

- Big Picture
- State purpose or aim early
- Compelling Case for research question
- Strongest Writing

Bibliography

- Overall Quality of references
- Cites to journal submitting to
- Find Reviewers



Easy to Navigate

- Clear logical subheadings
- Tables – Stand alone quality
- Easy productive skim



Discipline Specific Orientation

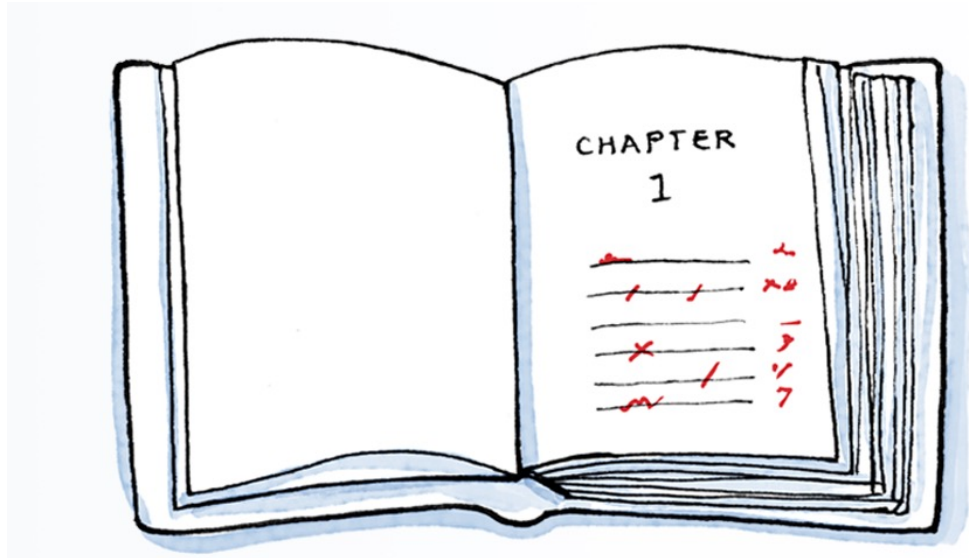
- Do not Consider AF&S Audience (Interdisciplinary, international military scholars)
- Use of jargon and write for discipline specific audience (Psychology & Medicine)
- Lots of discipline specific acronyms
- Lots of general workforce references (literature review)
The military is not just another job.





Inadequate sample size
(7 interviews, 2 focus groups @
university Y, systematic review 5
articles)

More like a book chapter than an article.



- analyzes existing knowledge
- synthesizes knowledge
- descriptive
- Bib filled with books



- adds to knowledge
- argues a position using reasons/evidence
- analytical or explanatory
- methodology section

Quality Threshold



- Poor Writing
- Tired ideas
- Lacks Coherence
- Limited generalizability
- Will it give a reviewer a headache?



Book Reviews



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Managing Editor

Book Review Editor

Armed Forces & Society

- **So what? Why bother with a book review?**

- **What kind of books? Books related to the intersection of Armed Forces and Society, such as:**

- ☐ **Civil-Military Relations**
- ☐ **Military Organizations**
- ☐ **Conflict Resolution**
- ☐ **Logic and Consequences of War**
- ☐ **Terrorism**
- ☐ **Military Leadership & Professionalism**
- ☐ **Cohesion**
- ☐ **Peacekeeping**
- ☐ **Recruitment and Retention**
- ☐ **Reserve Forces and Veterans**
- ☐ **Representation Issues**
- ☐ **Military Family and Health Issues**
- ☐ **Military History**



Book Reviews

Three phases...

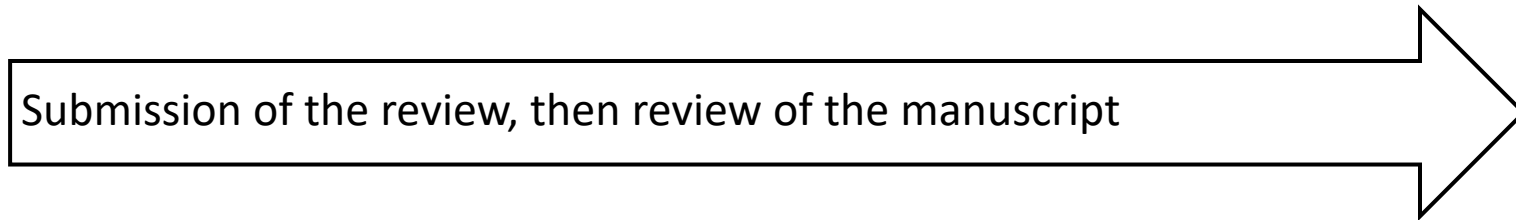
A. We identify a book:

- ✓ A book is brought to our attention by an individual
- ✓ We independently gain awareness of a book
- ✓ **An author submits a review**

B. We seek out a reviewer:

- ✓ Who is qualified to review the book?
- ✓ Solicitation or recommendations: finding the right author
- ✓ **Authors, as reviewers, submit their reviews**

C. Submission of the review, then review of the manuscript



Book Reviews

Book Review Submission Guidelines



Book reviews must be submitted electronically via <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/afs>; authors must establish an online account on the SageTrack system powered by ScholarOne. Manuscripts are not accepted by e-mail nor are they ‘pre-reviewed’ by editorial staff for suitability.

Book reviews should adhere to all submission guidelines and should be approximately 1500 words and will not exceed 2000 words.

Manuscript Quality: Rating Criteria

- Appropriateness of book
- Readability/writing style
- Relevance/ interest to readership



Book Reviews

Questions?

Contact the journal's editorial staff at afsjournal@iusafs.org if you have any questions or concerns about submitting a book review that are not addressed here.

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Managing Editor

Book Review Editor

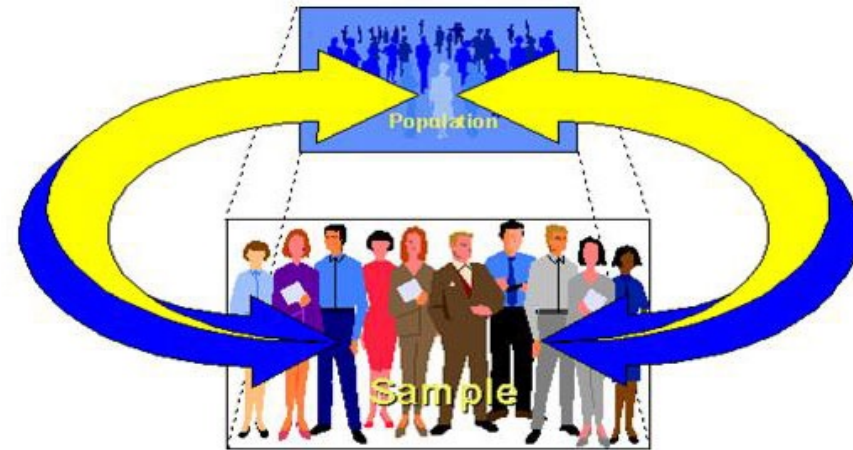
Armed Forces & Society



To ensure meets quality threshold



Strong
External Validity
Broadly Defined



Survey Research

Case Studies multiple countries

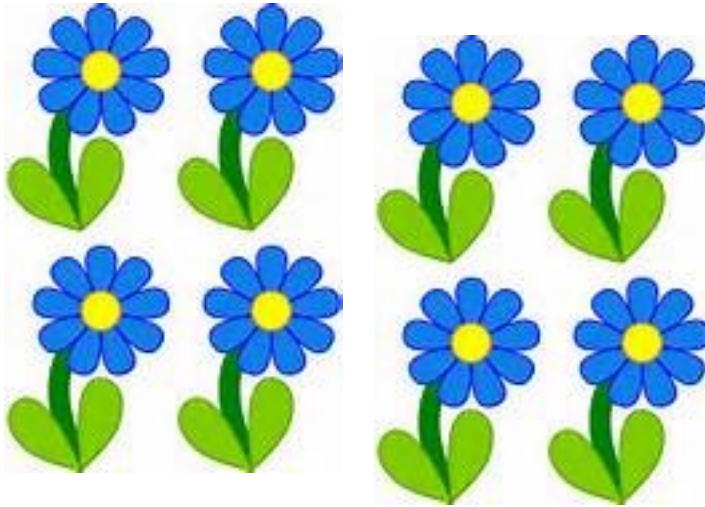
Theoretical analytical generalizability



Missing Methodology Section

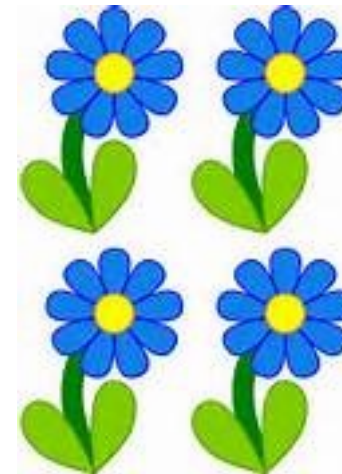
Most often with Case Study





Enough Information

Imagine **how to Replicate**





- Is Hypotheses stated in testable form?
- Is operationalization easy to find/judge?
- Does Hypothesis connect to research purpose/question?
- Does the evidence test the hypothesis?



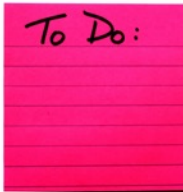
Do Data and Claims match?

- Inappropriate generalization (qualitative research)
- Recognize Alternative Hypotheses



To Do:

Before you send it out



Strategize the best fit journals

Find journal description, does it fit?

What is journal's quality threshold?

Have they published articles on similar topics?

Preferred Methodology?



End with a plan and a ranking of journals

DO YOUR HOMEWORK



Send to journals you cite!





Revise & Resubmit Decision

To do list



Get control of emotions



Open minded Creative Thinking

Revise & Resubmit Explanation Letter

- Organized
- Thoughtful (not superficial)
- Disagree OK
 - good reason





Additional





- Don't take it personally (key test how you deal with first rejection)
- Try again (use comments from reviewers)





- Share your work widely – present at conferences
- Conference Papers/Syllabi on Academia.edu, Institutional Repository, Research Gate

Cultivate Collaborators



No downside to “Good” co-author(s)

Two Personal Rules for Successful Scholarship



1. The only good dissertation is a completed dissertation.
2. Better in a library than a file cabinet.





Become an Active Reviewer

- Familiar with behind the scenes
- Hone critical review skills – apply to own work
- Respect of the editor
- Get a sense of what is a strong/weak paper
- Active member of scholarly community



Shed the insider perspective

- Consciously write for a larger audience
- Limit unnecessary acronyms
- Stand alone tables – easy skim



International & Interdisciplinary



Discoverability

Optimizing Article For Search Engines

EXTRA ATTENTION

- Key Words
- Abstract
- Title





Questions??

References and Additional Resources

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