

Publishing in Academic Journals

Some Helpful Tips from an Experienced Editor



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Overview of Presentation

1. Manuscript Review Process
2. Editors Perspective
3. Editors Desk
4. General Tips
5. To Do -- Before submit
6. To Do – R&R
7. Keys to Success
8. Discoverability
9. Assessment Matrix



Double Blind Peer Review



Promotes Fairness in Process

Stage 1

- Manuscript arrives
- 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 100)



- Reject (1 in 2)
- Revise and Resubmit (most common)



Persistence



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
- If Accept publisher takes over





Editors Perspective



Scholars perspective

Steward or Caretaker Role





Impact Factor

measures the average
number of citations
to recent published articles



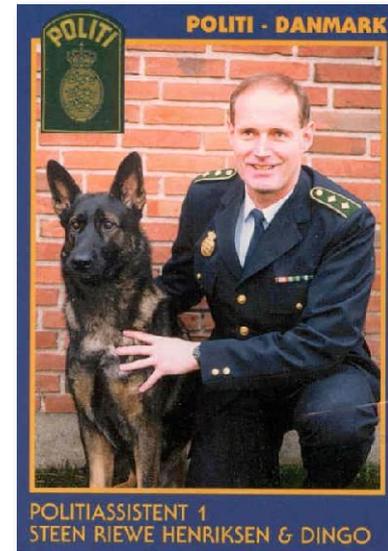
Most Precious Asset



Reviewer time

Editor as Coach and Cop

Improve the manuscript



Make sure poor material gets caught



Tips Article Acceptance

Getting past the
Editors Desk





POOR FIT

Outside scope or mission of the journal



Audience --
Scholars/Policy Makers
International & Interdisciplinary

AVOID

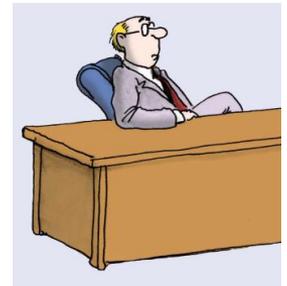
- Purely Military topics (strategy, tactics)
- Purely International Relations Topics
- If audience is military leadership of a particular country
 - Lots of country specific acronyms

Strong Abstract

Reviewer comment



Poor abstract
Poor paper



ABSTRACT

Read side to the right of up
This journal article is the
most relevant and reliable
of all that we have found. It
is the first to describe of the
details this is that appears to
be related to the issue. Based
on closer examination we found that
this treatment works.

Doctors and nurses used the
best of their skills to ensure
to be in the best possible

Include

- Purpose
- Method
- Key findings
- Take-away



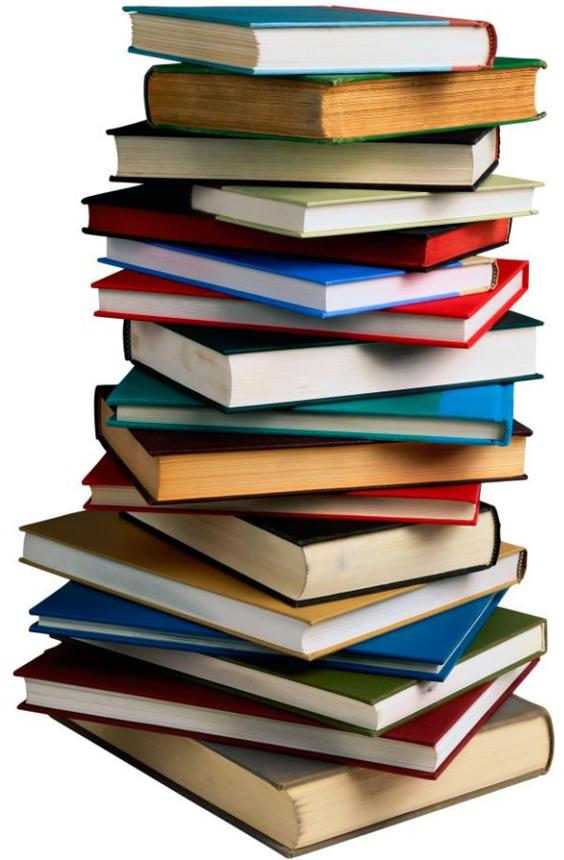


Introduction

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

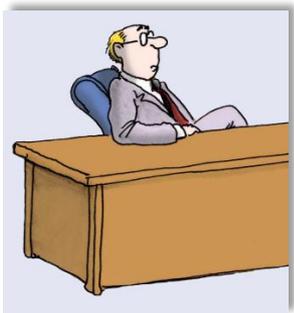
Bibliography

Overall Quality
Cites to AF&S
Find Reviewers



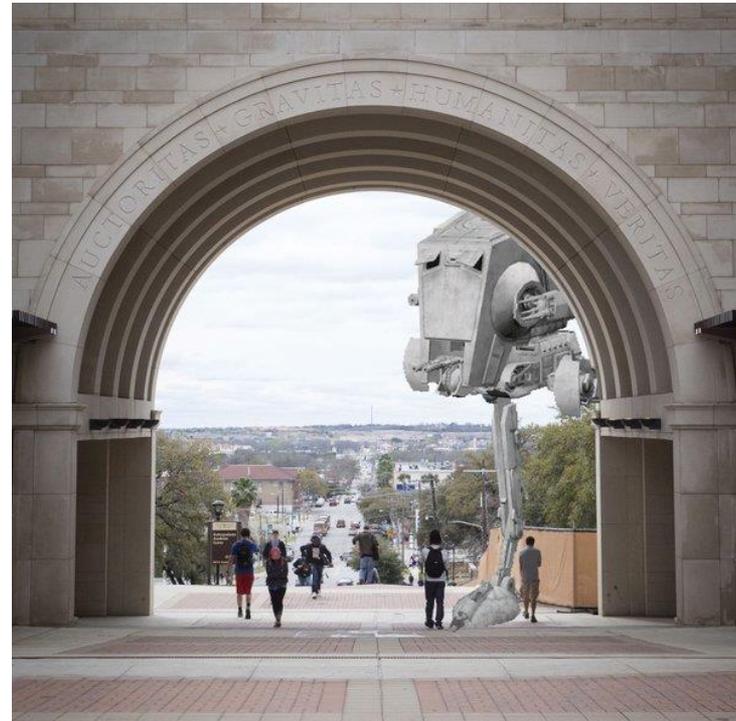
Easy to Navigate

- Clear logical subheadings
- Tables – Stand alone quality





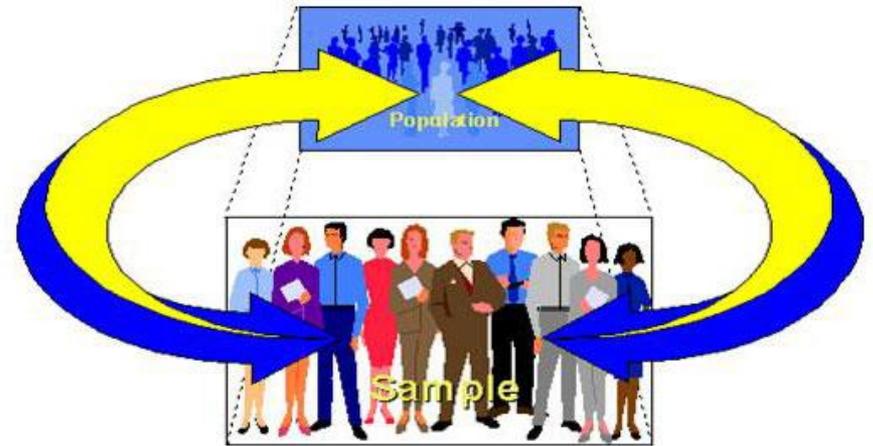
Inadequate sample size
(7 interviews, 2 focus groups @
university Y)



To ensure meets quality threshold



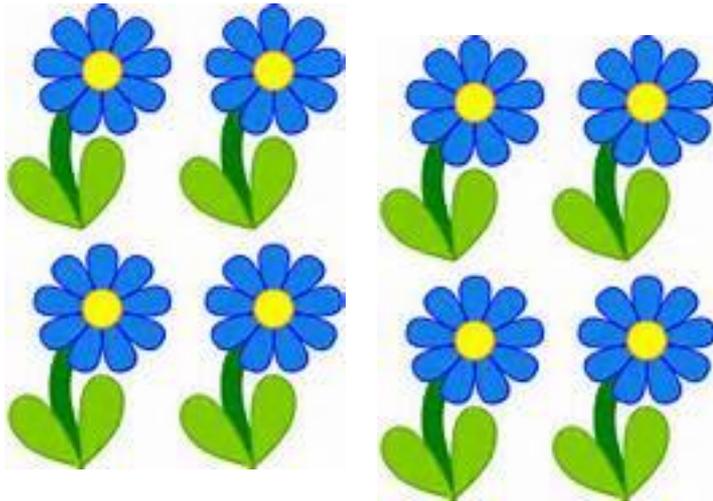
Strong
External Validity
Broadly Defined



Survey Research

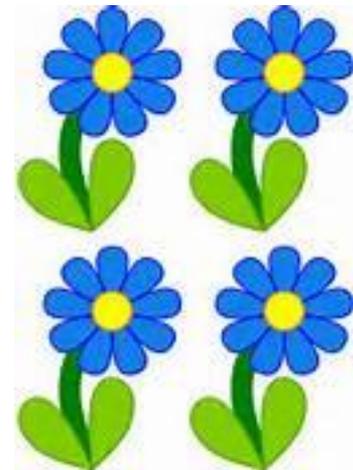
Case Studies multiple countries

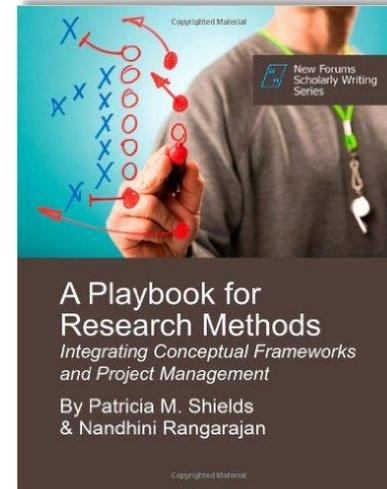
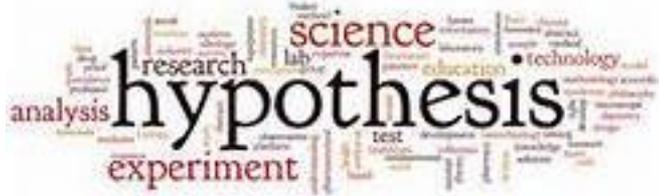
Theoretical analytical generalizability



Enough Information

Imagine **how to Replicate**





State Hypotheses in testable form

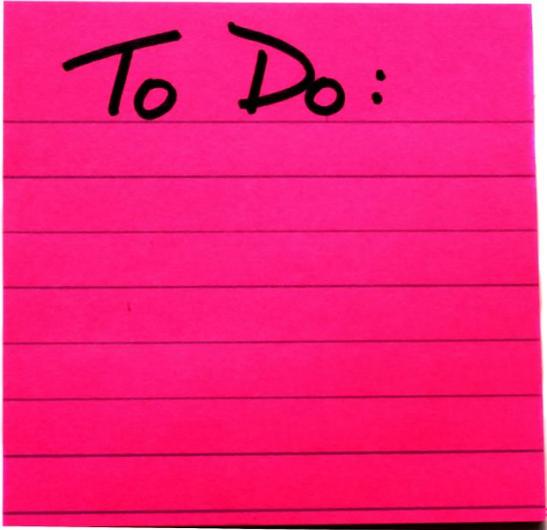
Does Hypothesis connect to research purpose/question?
Does the evidence collected test the hypothesis?

e.g., A is **necessary** for mission effectiveness



Do Data and Claims match?

- Inappropriate generalization
- Recognize Alternative Hypotheses



To Do:

Before you send it out

To Do:



Cite the Journal!!!!



Strategize the best fit journals

What did you cite?

What is journal's quality threshold?

Have they published articles on similar topics?

Preferred Methodology?



End with a plan and a ranking of journals



To do list

Revise & Resubmit Decision

To do list



Get control of emotions



Open minded Creative Thinking

Revise & Resubmit Explanation Letter

- Organized
- Thoughtful
- 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 down side to “Good” co-author(s)

Two Personal Rules for Successful Scholarship



1. The only good dissertation is a completed dissertation.

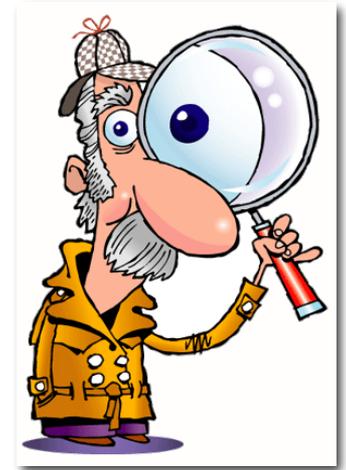
2. Better in a library than a file cabinet.



Discoverability

Optimizing Article For Search Engines





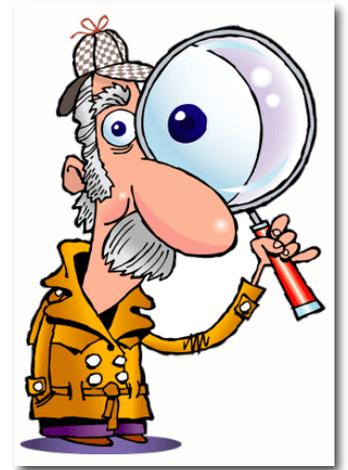
EXTRA ATTENTION

- Key Words
- Abstract
- Title

ResearchGate



academia.edu
follow research



Google
Scholar

My Citations

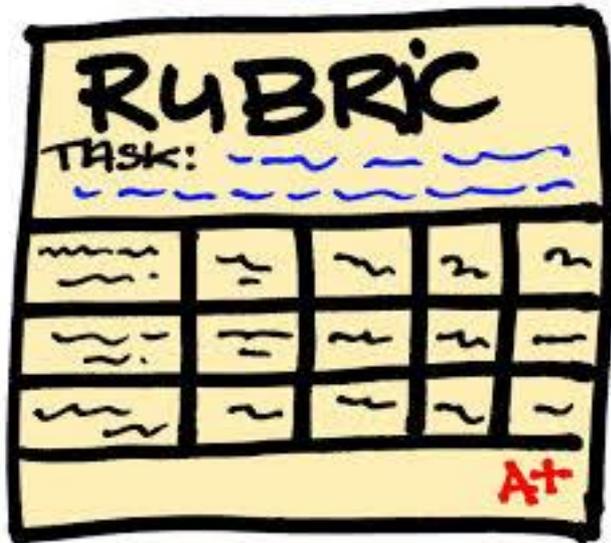


Wikipedia



Incentives

Useful Manuscript Assessment Tool



Structure

Grammar/Punctuation

Content

Paragraphs

Use of Scholarly Literature

Audience

Tools for Writing Excellent Papers

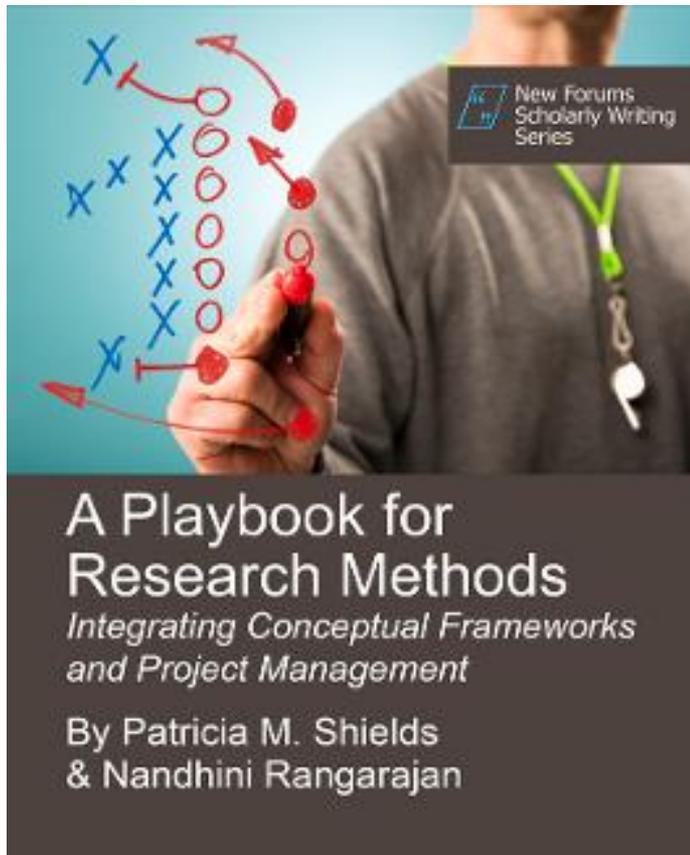
American Society for Public Administration
[Student Summit](#)

March 8, 2015
12:45 – 1:45

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Tools – cover
This workshop

1. Conceptual Frameworks
2. Project Management