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Scholarly Publishing in Military Sciences: Insights from an Experienced Editor

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Editor-in-Chief
Armed Forces & Society



Editorial Board Outreach



Overview of Presentation

1. Manuscript Review Process
2. Editors Perspective
3. Editors Desk
4. General Tips (content quality)
5. To Do -- Before submit
6. To Do – R&R
7. Keys to Success (personal)
8. Discoverability



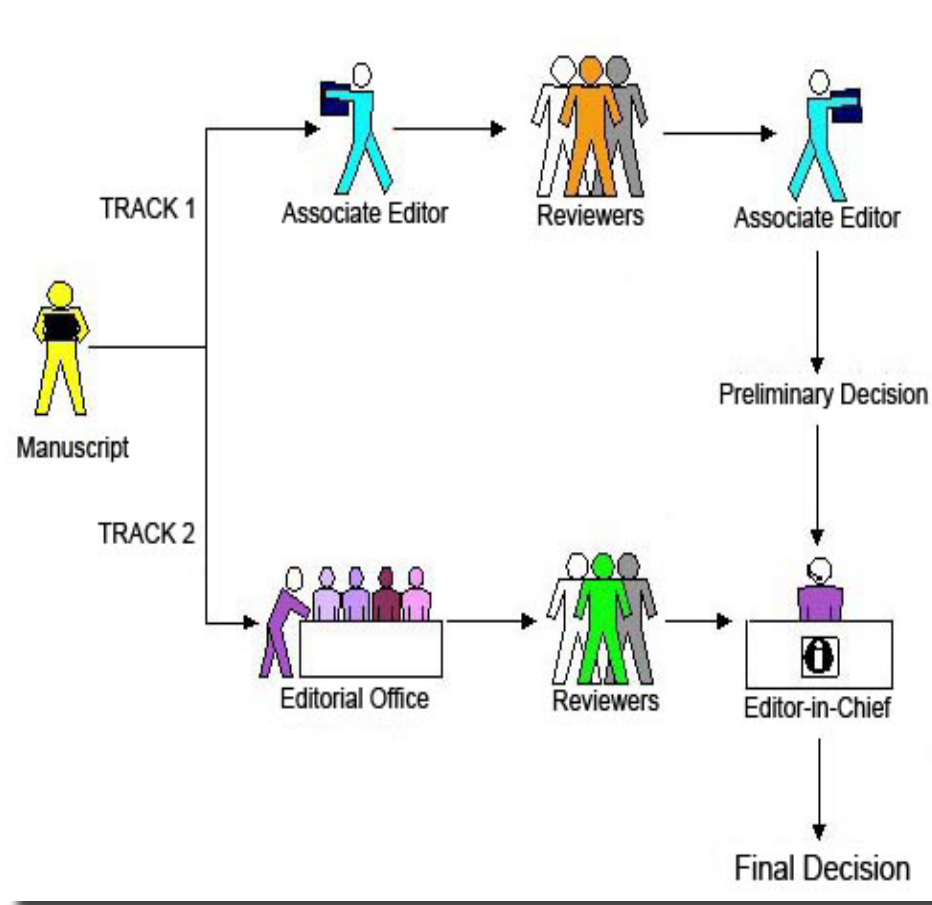


Double Blind Peer Review



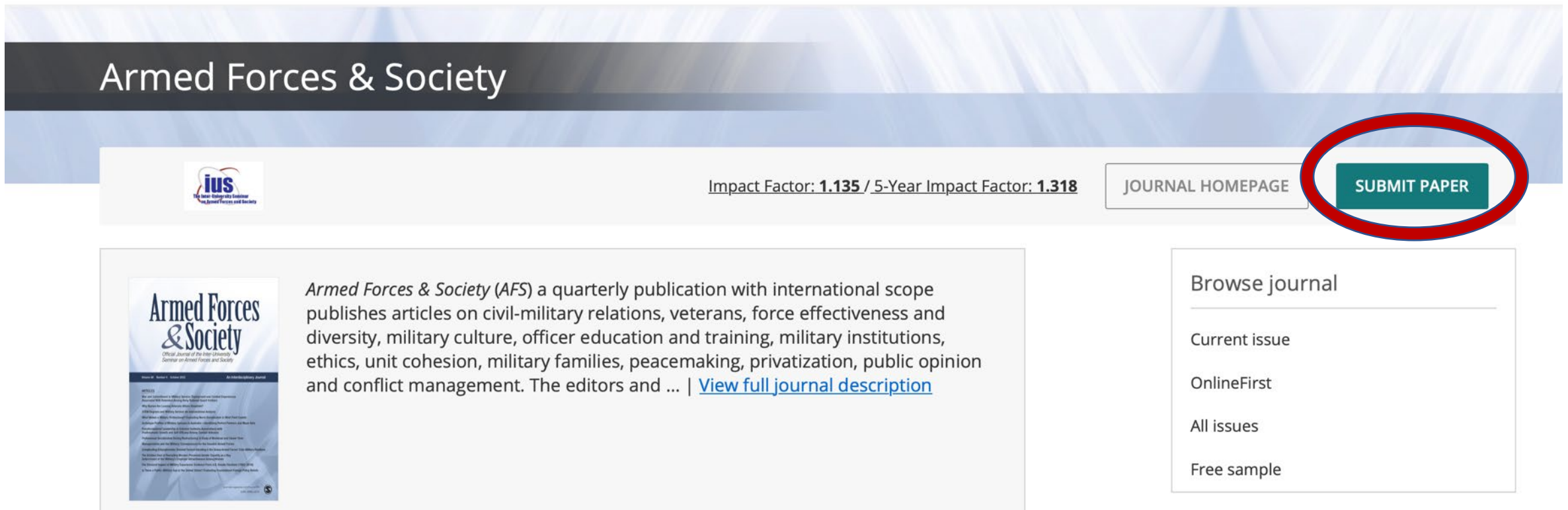
Promotes Fairness in Process

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

Armed Forces & Society



Im

Submission guidelines



Submit paper

Please read the guidelines below before visiting the submission site!

[Submission site](#) 

Manuscript Submission Guidelines:

A few basics

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

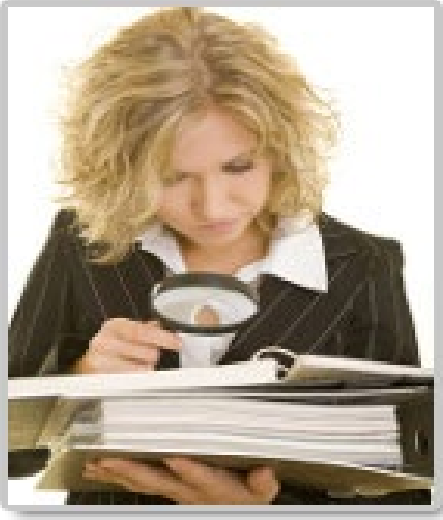
Return to Author to Fix

Stage 1

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



Stage 2



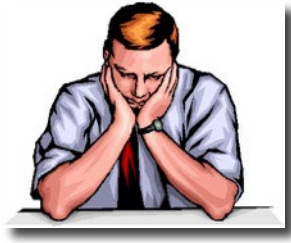
- Send out for review
2-4 reviewers
- Reviews in
- Reviewers' assessment

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)



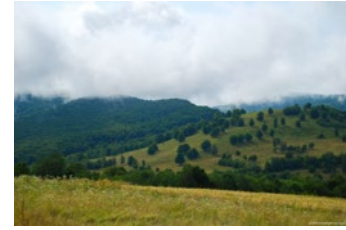


Editors Perspective



Scholars perspective

Steward or Caretaker Role



Editor as Coach and Cop

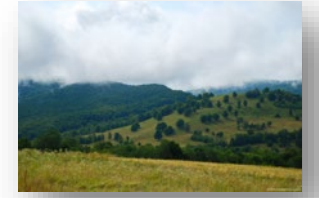


Improve the manuscript



Make sure poor
material gets
caught

Most Precious Asset



Reviewer time

More challenging to find reviewers

What is the citation potential?

Impact Factor



Impact Factor

measures the average
number of citations
to recent published articles



2 year (2021)
Impact Factor

=

Number of times AF&S articles in 2020 & 2019 were
cited in **JCR Journals**

Total number of articles in AF&S for 2020 & 2019

1.135

Problems with indicator



Tips Article Acceptance

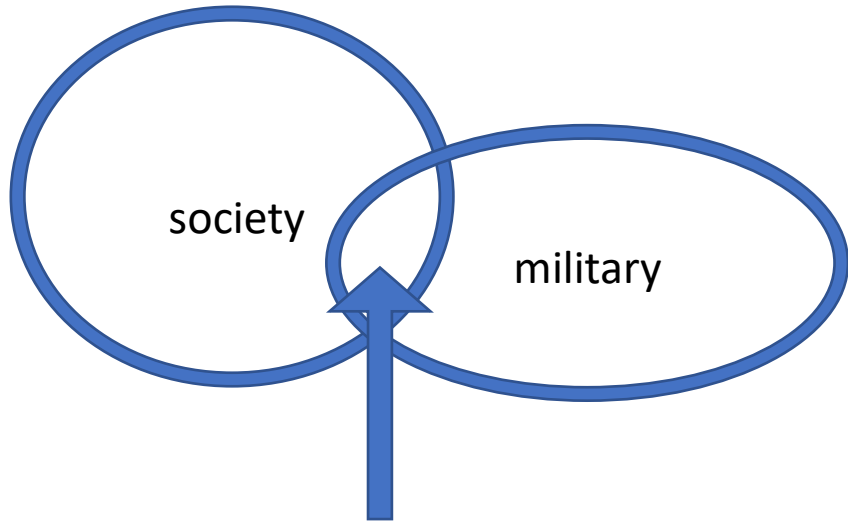
Getting past the
Editors Desk





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

ABSTRACT

Read size 12 text for up
This journal article is the
most relevant publication
related to the study
design is the descriptive of the
designs that appear to be
going related to the study based
on closer examination you found that
this text is garbage.

Don't use
study the
to be read



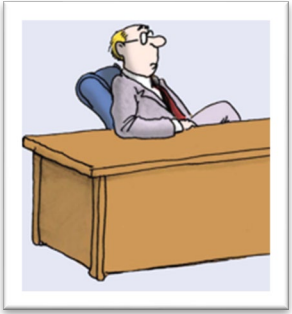
Include (empirical)

- 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
- No acronyms

Title



Abstract



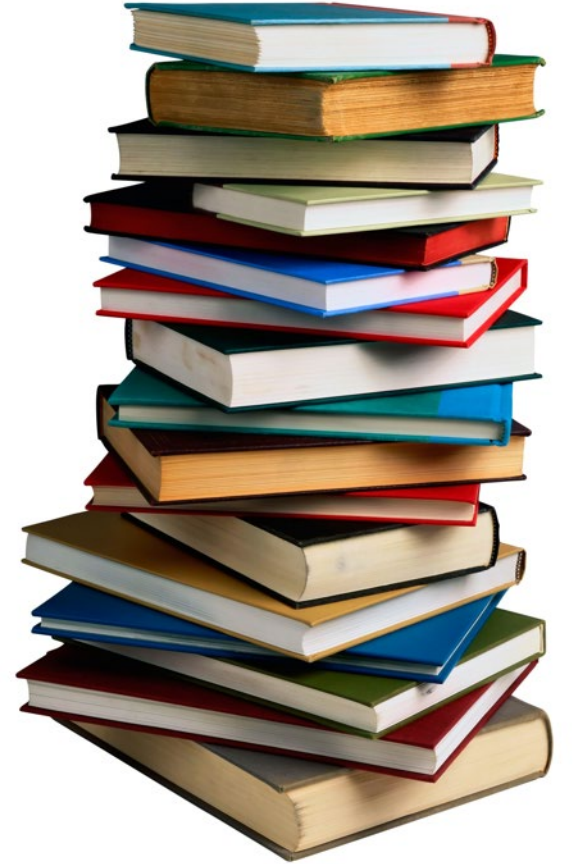


Introduction

- 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 focus)
- 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

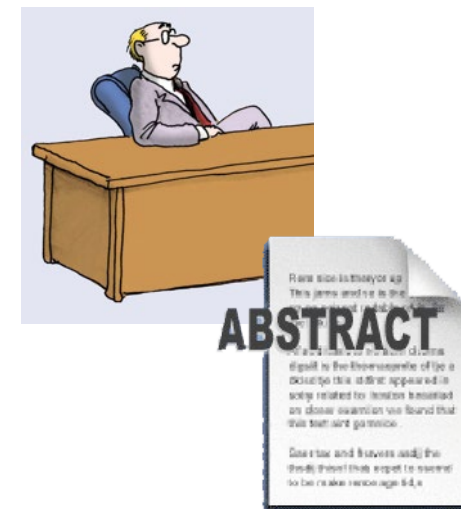


- adds to knowledge
- argues a position using reasons/evidence
- analytical or explanatory
- methodology section

Quality Threshold



Poor Writing
Tired ideas
Lacks Coherence
Limited generalizability

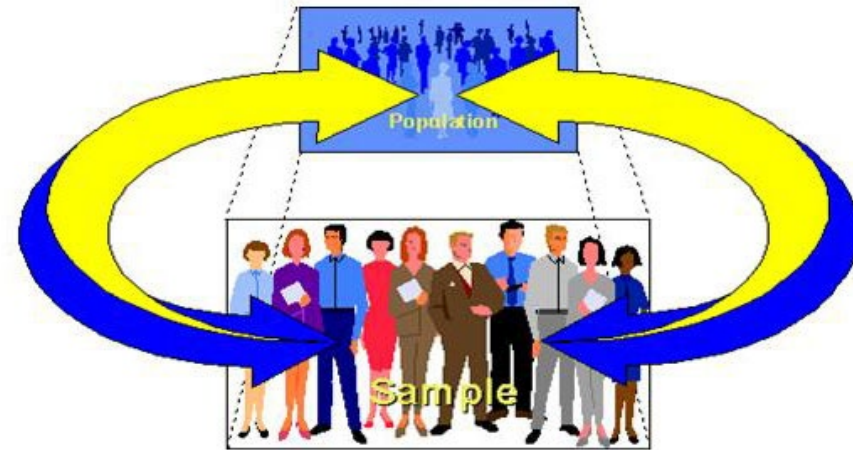




To ensure meets quality threshold



Strong
External Validity
Broadly Defined



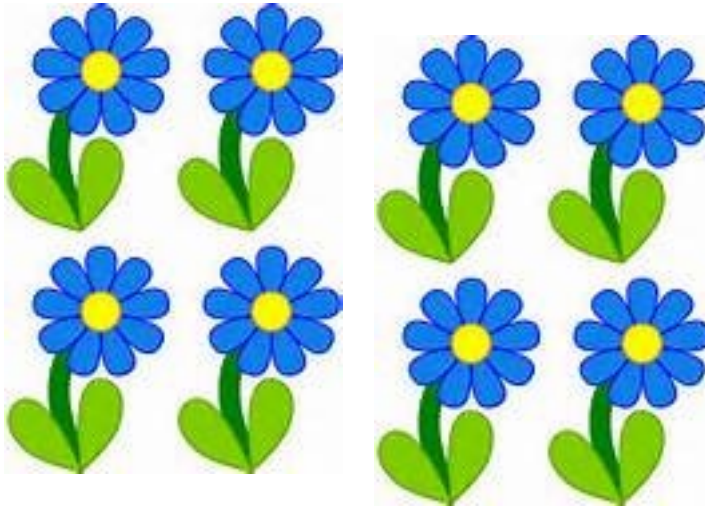
Survey Research
Case Studies multiple countries
Theoretical analytical generalizability



Missing Methodology Section

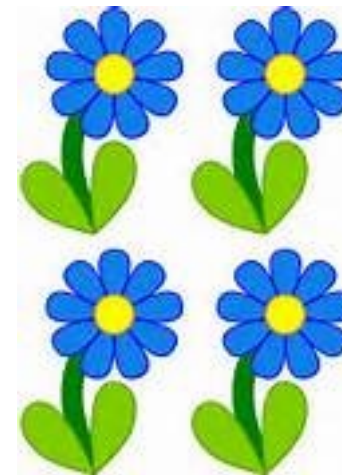
Most often with Case Study

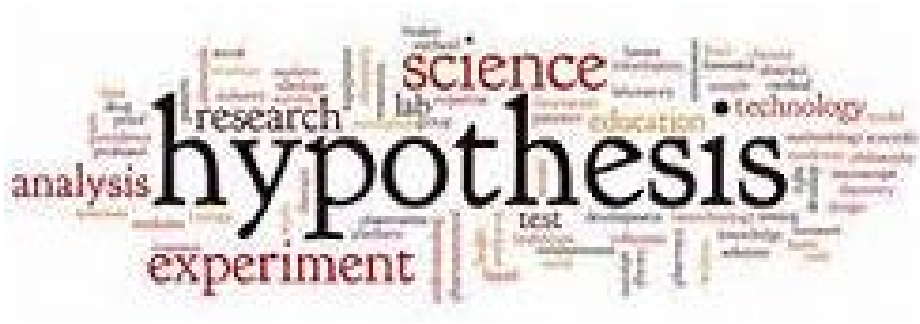




Enough Information

Imagine **how to Replicate**





- State Hypotheses in testable form
- Operationalization easy to find/judge
- Does Hypothesis connect to research purpose/question?
- Does the evidence collected test the hypothesis?



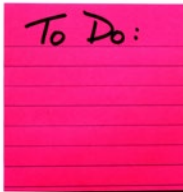
Do Data and Claims match?

- Inappropriate generalization
- 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?

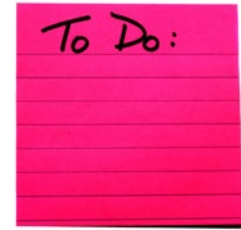
Have they published articles on similar topics?

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 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.





“Art of Peer Reviewing”
handout



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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