



19-21 October, 2018

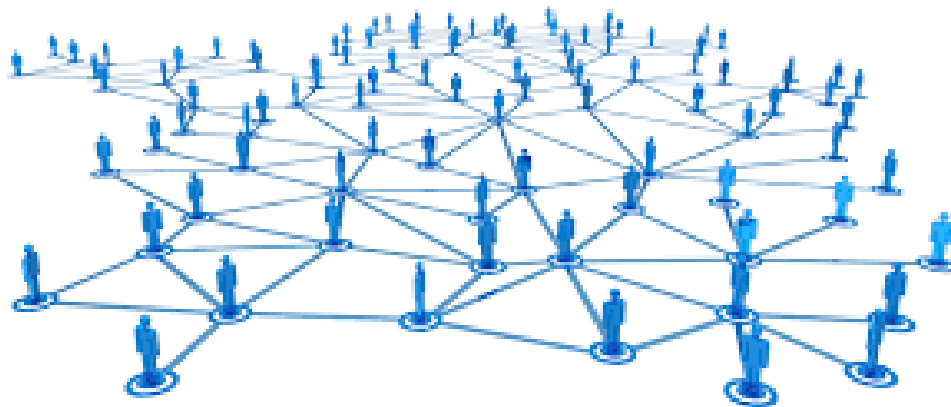
Academic Publishing in Military Studies: Insights from an Experienced Editor

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Editor-in-Chief
Armed Forces & Society



Editorial Board Outreach



Overview of Presentation

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





Where do Military Studies Journals Fit in Academic Rankings?

Journal Citation Report

Google Scholar





Web of Science

Trust the difference



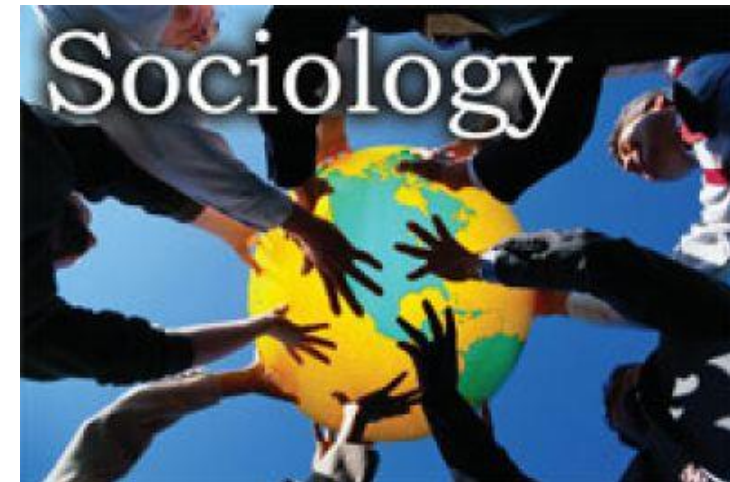
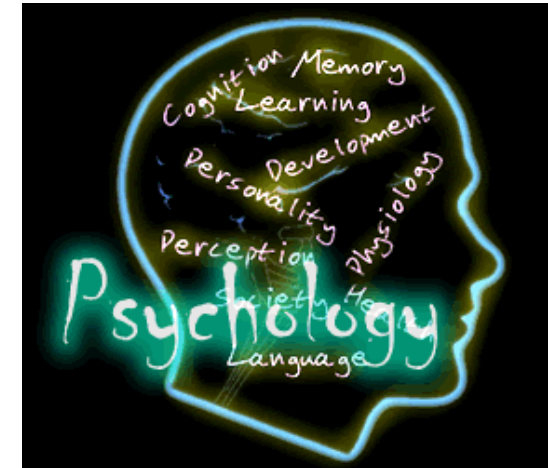
Previously Thompson Reuters

2018 Journal Citation Reports

Journals in the 2018 release of JCR

35% of all journals are part of
The JCR

Where are Military Journals Ranked



Impact Factor

measures the average
number of citations
to recent published articles



2 year (2017)
Impact Factor

=

Number of times AF&S articles in 2016 & 2015 were
cited in **JCR Journals**

Total number of articles in AF&S for 2016 & 2015

Problems with indicator



Military Studies Rankings 2018

h5-index

is the largest
number h such that
h articles published
in 2013-2017 have
at least h citations



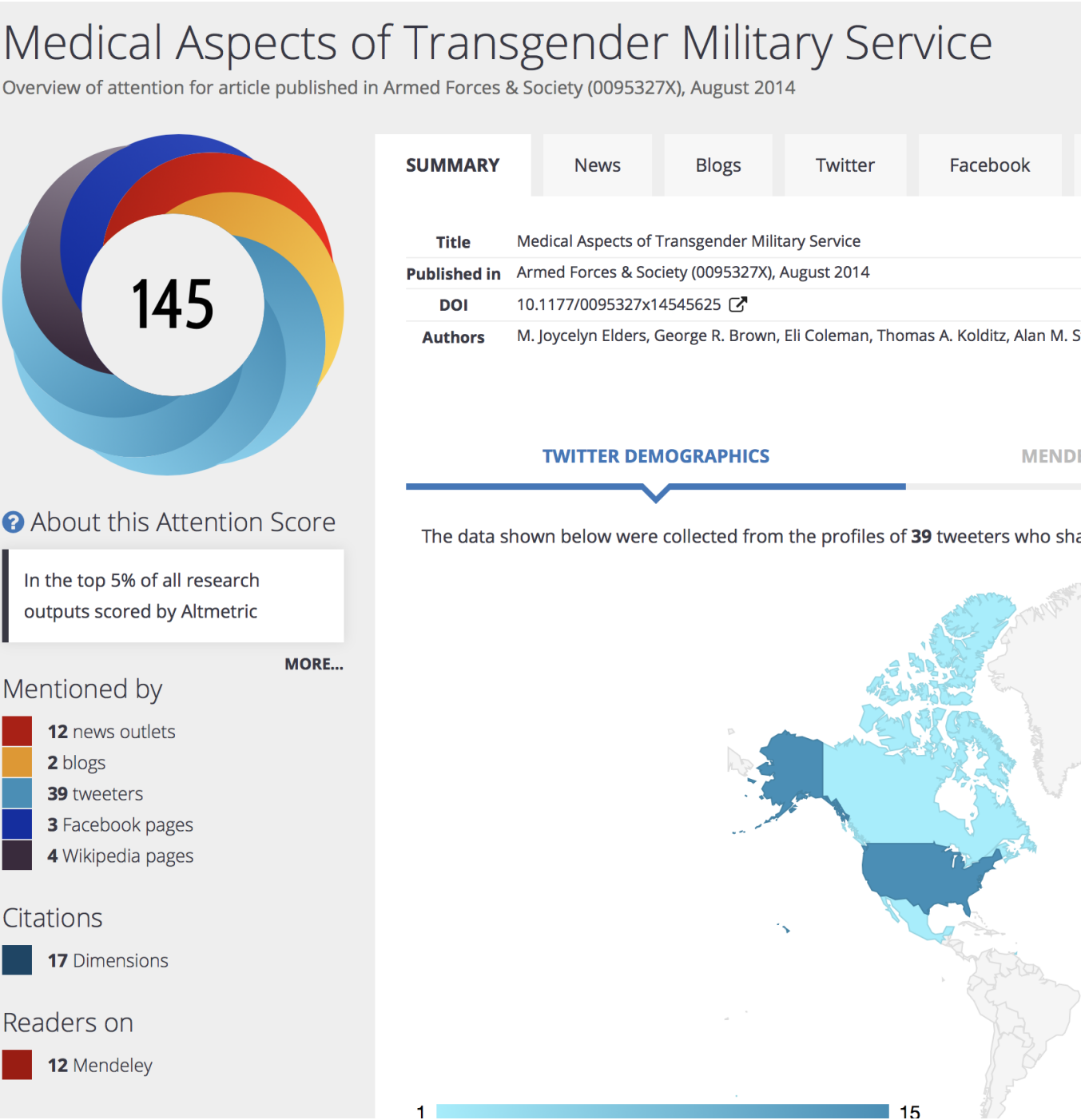
As score of 10 would mean
10 articles published 2013-
17 with 10 citations +

Rank	Journal	5h-Index
1	International Security	33
2	Security Dialogue	30
3	Studies in Conflict and Terrorism	28
4	Survival	28
5	Security Studies	21
6	Journal of Strategic Studies	20
7	Military Psychology	20
8	Armed Forces & Society	20
9	European Security	19
10	Defense and Peace Economics	18
11	International Peacekeeping	17
12	The RUSI Journal	15
13	Contemporary Security Policy	15
14	Parameters	15
15	Intelligence and National Security	14
15	Civil Wars	13
17	Small Wars and Insurgencies	13



Rate wider exposure
of articles

Authors’ can take actions
to influence



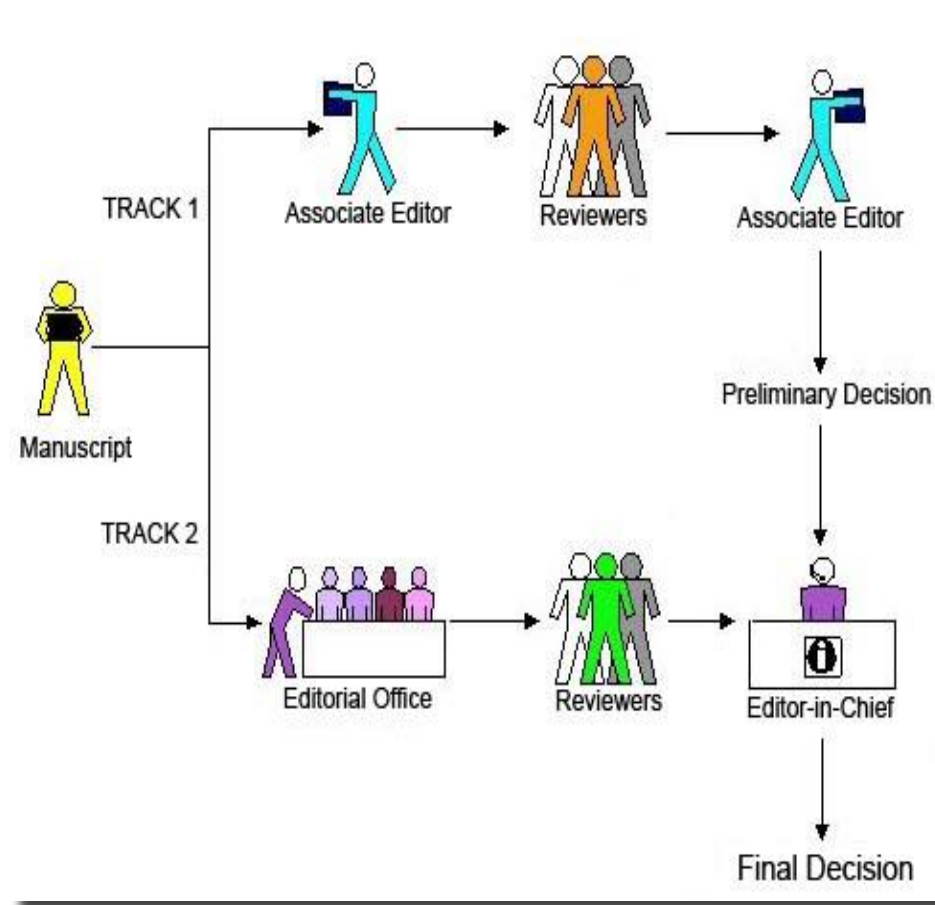


Double Blind Peer Review



Promotes Fairness in Process

Editorial Process (submission - publication)



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 500)



- Reject
- Revise and Resubmit



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



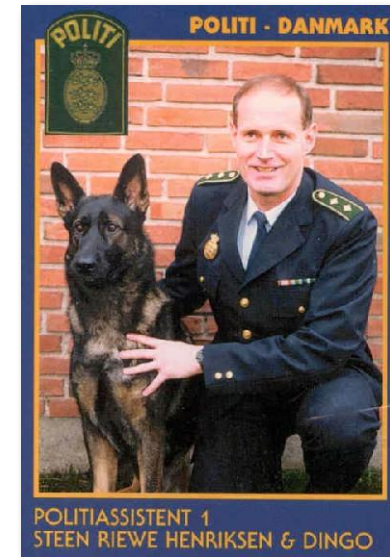
Scholars perspective

Steward or Caretaker Role



Editor as Coach and Cop

Improve the manuscript



Make sure poor
material gets
caught

Most Precious Asset



Reviewer time

What is the citation potential?

Impact Factor





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



Rare side effects up

This journal article is the

on the subject of

of the

ABSTRACT

digit is the

despite this

is also related to

on closer

this feature



Include

- Purpose
- Method
- Key findings
- Take-away

Avoid

- Acronyms
- Convoluted sentences
- Obvious conclusion

(more research needed)

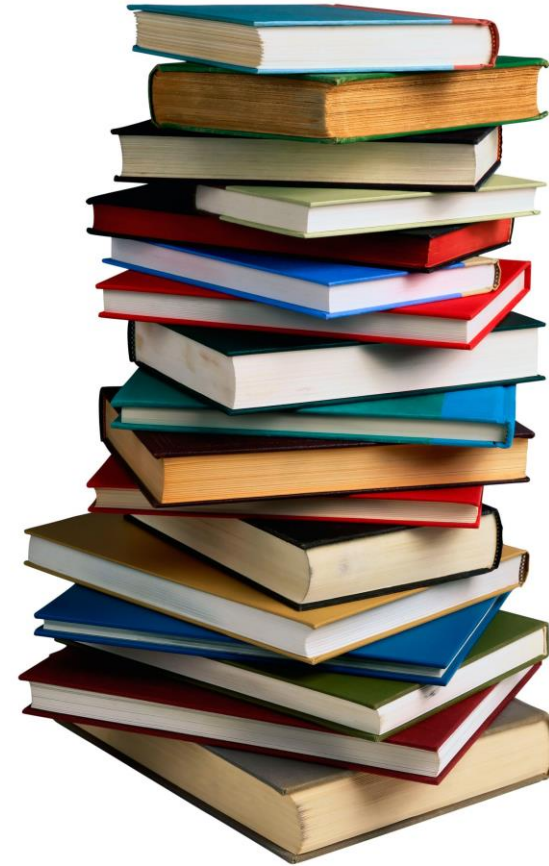


Introduction

- 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



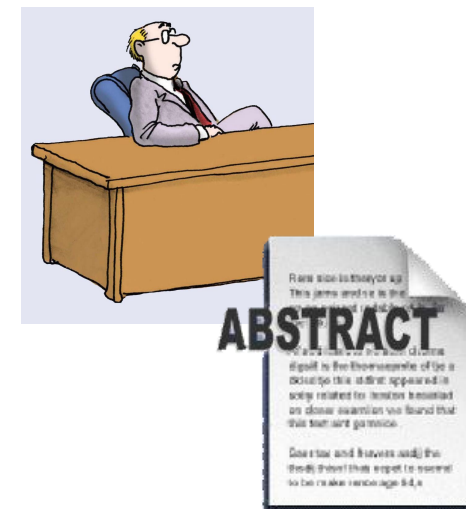


Inadequate sample size
(7 interviews, 2 focus groups @
university Y)

Quality Threshold



Poor Writing
Tired ideas
Lacks Coherence
Limited generalizability

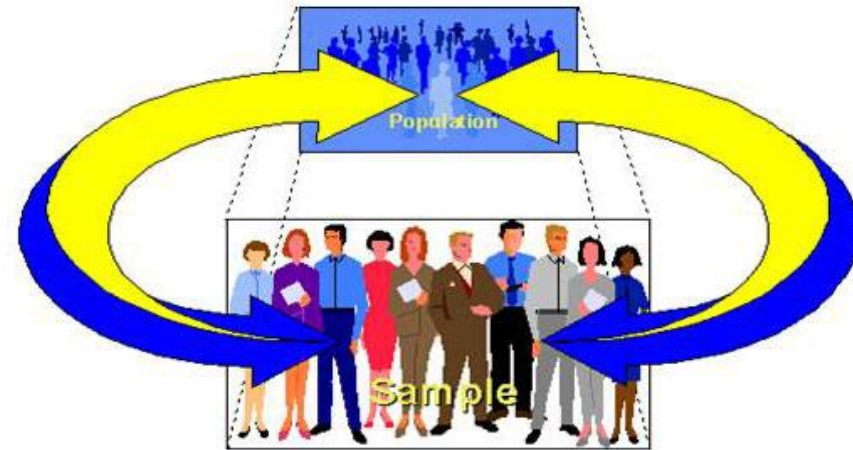




To ensure meets quality threshold



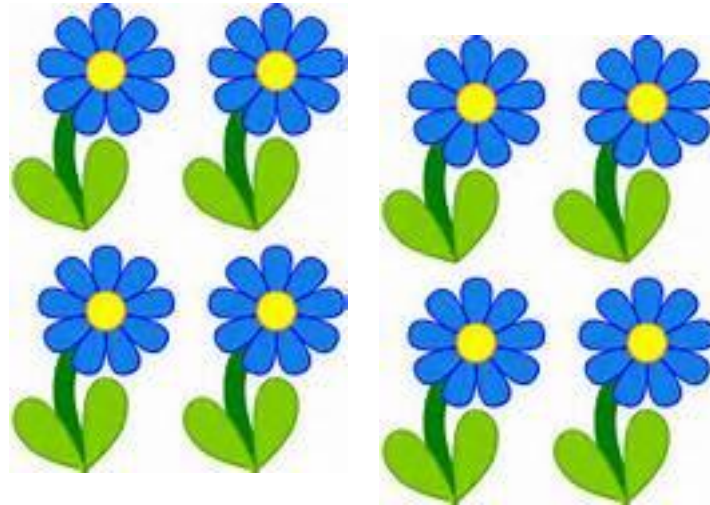
Strong
External Validity
Broadly Defined



Survey Research

Case Studies multiple countries

Theoretical analytical generalizability



Enough Information

Imagine **how to Replicate**



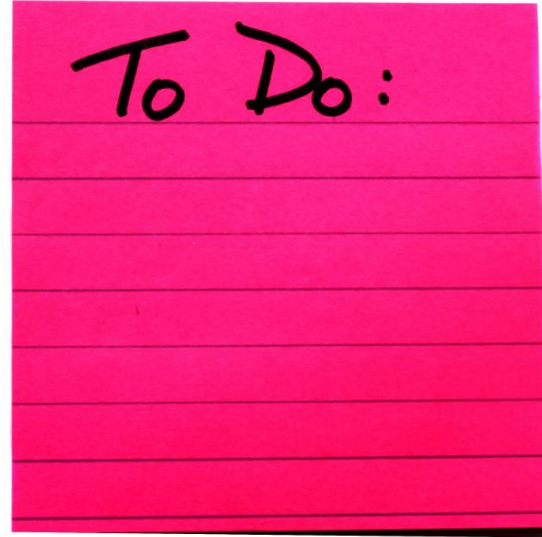


- State Hypotheses in testable form
- Operationalization easy to find/judge
- Does Hypothesis connect to research purpose/question?
- Does the evidence collected test the hypothesis?



Do Data and Claims match?

- Inappropriate generalization
- Recognize Alternative Hypotheses



Before you send it out



Strategize the best fit journals

Find journal description, does it fit?

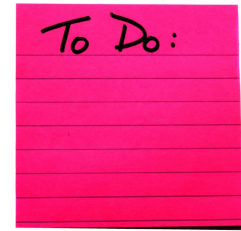
What is journal's quality threshold?

Have they published articles on similar topics?

Preferred Methodology?



End with a plan and a ranking of journals



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.





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

ResearchGate

ORCID



academia.edu
follow research

Google
Scholar



My Citations



Altmetric

Wikipedia





Incentives



Questions??