Getting Published

HDR Student Workshop

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HDR Student Workshop – Get Published

An editorial perspective

Nature of Quaternary Science
OSR founded in 1982
Editor-in-Chief
David Bowen, Cardiff University (1982-1994)
Colin Murray-Wallace, Wollongong (2008 -
c. 500 submissions per annum
Publishes 28 issues, 3440 pp in 2009
Impact Factor 4.245 in 2009
6th Geosciences Multidisciplinary
2nd Geography, Physical
Manuscript rejection rate: 50-60%

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Types of articles published

Reviews
Research and Review papers
Research papers
Invited Reviews
Viewpoints
Book reviews
Correspondence
Special Issues

"What is written without effort is in general read without pleasure"
Dr Samuel Johnson, 1779

What makes a paper worth reading and citing?

- Developing an argument – having something truly important to say
- Opening a new intellectual perspective on an old/classical problem
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A captivating title (avoiding “- implications for ...”)

A well-written and cogent abstract

Well-drawn/drafted figures that can be subsequently used in textbooks and research monographs

An appropriate balance for reference citation

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**Editorial points for reflection**

- Verbosity and poor grammar
- Identify and cite the original source
- Re-invention of the wheel
- Unlinked and missing references
- Poorly drawn figures and maps without key elements (i.e. north sign, scale, grid coordinates, references to water in *italics*)
- Poorly written abstract and conclusions
- Misleading title

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**Strategies in the publication process**

Reflect carefully on the most appropriate venue for publication (get it right first time)

Carefully prepare manuscript for nominated journal in the correct format

A concise and captivating covering letter to the editor outlining the significance of the manuscript

List some potential impartial reviewers (i.e. without a real or perceived conflict of interest)

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**Some further points for reflection**

Remain focused and establish a regular writing practice and schedule

Adopt a dispassionate and reflective perspective about writing (e.g. carefully consider the peer-review comments on a manuscript from a positive perspective)

Find a place where you feel particularly comfortable in writing

Feel free to discuss aspects of your writing with people whom you particularly value their comments (a mentor or muse)
“Whatever you do, or dream you can, begin it
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it
Begin it now.”

Goethe

Menard, H.W. (1971). Science: Growth & Change,
Harvard University Press.