

Literature Evaluation: Part IV

Writing Scientific Paper

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Publication

- Method of communication
- Sign of professionalism
- International recognition

The work of writing

- Writing does not come naturally or easily.
- Many good research does not reach to publication simply because authors get frustrated from the difficulty of writing scientific paper.

Publication types

- Abstracts
- Clinical trial

Publication types, continue

- Comment
- Consensus development conference

Publication types, continue

- Editorial
- Guidelines

Publication types, continue

- Interview
- Letter

Publication types, continue

- Meta-analysis
- Multi-centre study

Publication types, continue

- Practice guidelines
- Randomized controlled trial

Publication types, continue

- Retraction of publication
- Publication erratum

Publication types, continue

- Literature review
- Review of reported cases

Publication types, continue

- All are with pros and cons

Journal

- Selection of suitable journal
 - Specialty
 - Reputation
 - Quality of publication required
 - Speed of publication
 - Circulation
- Select the journal before writing the paper due to different requirements.

Topic or research

- Clear objective
 - In research, define the gap in data available.
 - In review, describe the objective(s) and tailor it to hit specific work environment.

Title

- Scientific
- Short
- Describe the content
- Attractable
- Be willing for change

Abstract

- About 100 words
- Suitable for inclusion in abstracting journal
- Should be typed in separate sheet

Keywords

- Usually 10 or less
- Appear after the abstract directly
- Used for search purposes

Introduction

- Clear background about the issue or problem.
- Significance of the issue.
- Define the objective
- Cite the most relevant previous studies, but don't overload.

Methodology

- Section which is read less frequently.
- It's the most important part.
- Write details of methodology used.
- Write the procedures in order.
- In reviews, write the system of literature collected.

Results

- Description of the results without interpretation.
- Statistics should be used where applicable.
- Tables and graphs should be clear without reading the text.

Discussion

- Must contain logical argument.
- Interpretation of the results.
- Significance of findings.
- How they add to existing knowledge.
- Contain recommendation either for practical implications or for future studies.
- In reviews, shall contain the gap of data available in Saudi Arabia and differences might exist between international recommendations and local community.

References

- Number of references is related to the type of topic selected as some topics might contain references more than others.
- Also affected by significant of the issue.
- Must be relevant.
- Quoted accurately using style of the journal.

Writing references

- Harvard system
 - Alphabetized by author surname.
 - Reference appear in the text
 - Contain only author name and year of publication.
- Vancouver system
 - Numbered as ordered in the text.
 - Superscript
 - Software

Content of references in articles

1. Authors
2. Article title
3. Journal title
4. The year and volume number
5. The issue or month if the journal begins each volume with page 1.
6. Inclusive page numbers

Content of references in Books

1. Authors
2. Auditors
3. The title
4. The publisher and place of publication
5. The year
6. Page numbers unless the whole book in being cited.

Acknowledgement

- Thank all those who deserve recognition for their contribution, but not made a significant intellectual contribution and are not, therefore, included as authors.

Appendix

- Detailed data such as tables or questionnaire.
- Might not be needed except for few readers.
- Avoid lengthy documents.

Hints for writing

- Overall length of paper.
- Sequence of paragraphs.
- Length of paragraphs.
- Headings and subheadings.
- Never put new information in different section (e.g., new bit of study methodology in discussion section).

Revising a paper

- When paper has been written, it should be left for few weeks and then re-read.
- Ask a couple of colleagues to look at the last revised version.

Coping with rejection

- No writer of any experience has every paper accepted.
- Virtually all papers are re-edited.
- Factors affecting acceptance:
 - Space of the journal.
 - Priority of the topics or research.
- If its rejected, send to other journal.
- If its also rejected, it required deep evaluation of the quality of topic or research.