

# **PUBLISHING IN INTERNATIONAL REFEREED JOURNALS**

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## **OBJECTIVES**

**To provide participants:**

- **an introduction to the nature and processes involved in publishing in international refereed journals**
- **guidelines and principles for preparing publications in international refereed journals in various basic and applied social science disciplines**

## A PROPOSED METAPHOR

### “Research is CONVERSATION”

- research is argumentation
- a group of people take turns in advancing ideas relating to a particular question or inquiry



## SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF CONVERSATION

- A conversation is a social activity
- There are other participants in the conversation
- Participants have a relatively common goal/purpose in conversation
- Purpose of conversation may change as the conversation progresses

## **SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF CONVERSATION**

- **Norms & standards are decided collectively**
  - **what are the boundaries/parameters of conversation**
  - **which arguments/contributions are pursued**
  - **how to assess and accept arguments and evidence**
- **Participants also decide who may participate in the conversation**

## **PUBLISHING RESEARCH**

- **Publishing in a refereed journal is similar to participating in a conversation (in written form)**
- **The refereeing process is the mechanism by which the collective assesses the value of the research contribution**

## **PUBLISHING RESEARCH**

- Publishing in international refereed journals reflect the international norms for conversations in the different disciplines
- NOTE: Even Philippine-published journals can be “international” if they reflect and practice these international norms
- NOTE: Some “international” journals may not reflect or practice these international norms

## **TYPES OF “INTERNATIONAL” JOURNALS**

- **PRINT JOURNALS** – traditional model, with subscriptions
- **OPEN-ACCESS JOURNALS** – no subscriptions all articles are free online; but authors pay article processing charges (APC)
  - Note: Some print journals have open-access option
- **PREDATORY OPEN-ACCESS JOURNALS** – **AVOID THESE JOURNALS!!!**

## **PREDATORY OPEN-ACCESS JOURNALS**

- Accepting articles quickly with little or no peer review or quality control, including hoax and nonsense papers.
- Notifying authors of APC only AFTER papers are accepted.
- Aggressively campaigning for academics to submit articles or serve on editorial boards.
- Listing academics as members of editorial boards without their permission; not allowing academics to resign from editorial boards.

## **PREDATORY OPEN-ACCESS JOURNALS**

- Appointing fake academics to editorial boards.
  - Mimicking the name or web site style of more established journals.
  - Misleading claims about the publishing operation, such as a false location.
  - Fake or non-existent impact factors.
- List: <https://predatoryjournals.com>

**LEGITIMATE  
INTERNATIONAL  
REFEREED JOURNALS**

**WHAT MAKES A JOURNAL REFEREED OR  
PEER-REVIEWED?**

**“a refereed journal has a *structured reviewing system* in which...reviewers, excluding in-house editors, evaluate each *unsolicited* manuscript and *advise the editor* as to acceptance or rejection.”**

***(from Cantor)***

## **WHAT MAKES A JOURNAL REFEREED OR PEER-REVIEWED?**

### **Scholarly peer review (Wikipedia)**

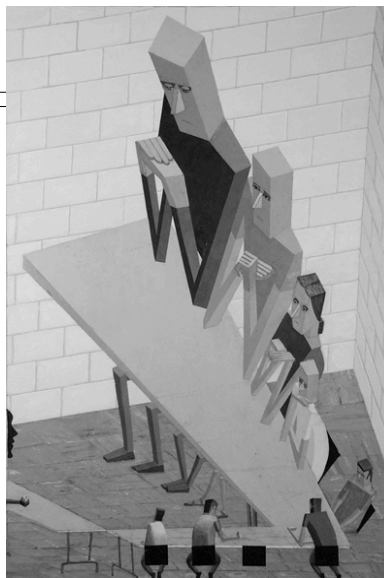
- Peer review requires a community of experts in a given (and often narrowly defined) field, who are qualified and able to perform “impartial” review.
- The use of referees permits specialists familiar with research similar to that presented in the paper to judge whether the paper makes a contribution to the advancement of knowledge. (Cabbel, 2007)

## **IMPLICATIONS OF PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM**

- There is no independent or objective tool of assessing quality of manuscript
- Quality is assessed through subjective but partial and expert opinions
- Thus, there are strong interpersonal & intersubjective processes involved

## IMPLICATIONS OF PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM

- **NOTE: Gate-keeping function of referees or peer reviewers.**
- **“ Prestige of journals relies partly on the credibility of the peer review process of the journal**



## HIGH STANDARD: INDEXED JOURNALS

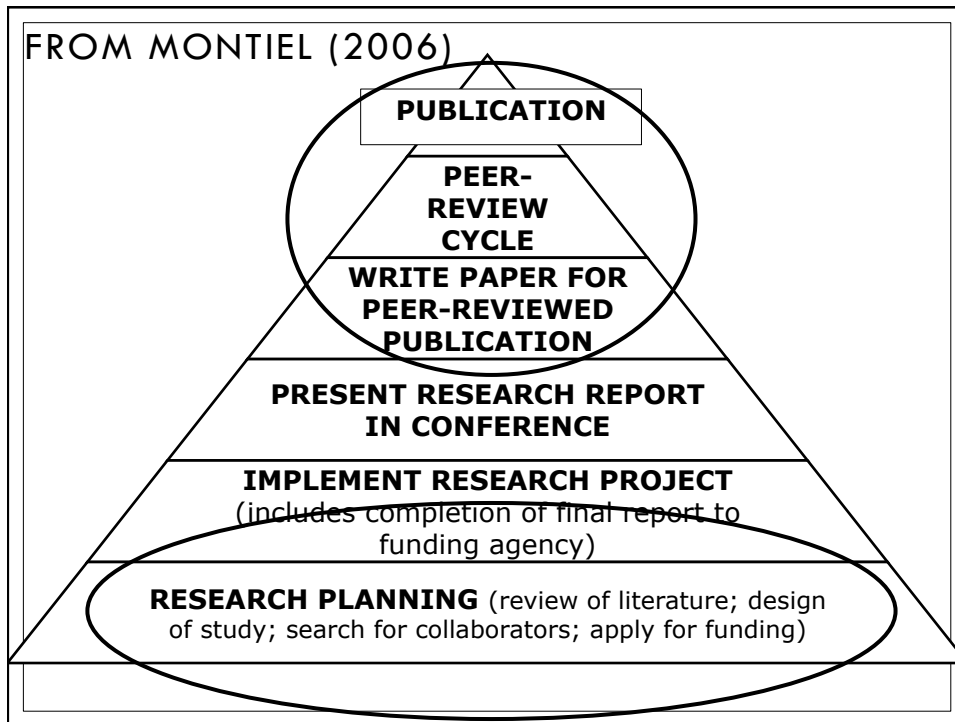
- ❖ **Scopus (published by Elsevier)**  
[https://www.scopus.com/sources.uri?DGCID=Scopus\\_blog\\_post\\_check2015](https://www.scopus.com/sources.uri?DGCID=Scopus_blog_post_check2015)
- ❖ **Clarivate (previous ISI, published by Thomson Reuters)**  
<http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com/mjl/>
- ❖ **Education in Research for Australia (ERA)**
- ❖ **European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences (ERIHPLUS)**



## HIGH STANDARD: INDEXED JOURNALS

- ❖ **Strict refereeing process**
  - **from 2 to 4 referees for each manuscript submitted**
  - **referees are invited from authors who have published in the field/subfield**
  - **acceptance rate is less than 50% (some have less than 10% acceptance rate)**
- ❖ **Articles published tend to be more highly cited in the field**

## HOW TO GET PUBLISHED IN THE INDEXED JOURNALS?



**STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING THE CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE (STERNBERG)**

- The paper contains one or more surprising results that nevertheless make sense in some theoretical context
- The results presented in the paper are of major theoretical or practical significance
- The ideas in the paper are new and exciting, perhaps presenting a new way of looking at an old problem.
- The interpretation of the result is unambiguous.

### STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING THE CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE (STERNBERG)

- The paper integrates into a new, simpler framework, data that had previously required a complex, possibly unwieldy framework.
- The paper contains a major debunking of previously held ideas.
- The findings or theory presented in the paper are general ones.

### SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ✓ new theory, argument or conjecture | ✓ replication (new supporting evidence)          |
| ✓ new definition                     | ✓ clarification / elaboration                    |
| ✓ new synthesis of previous findings | ✓ rephrasing or recasting of question            |
| ✓ new measures or tools              | ✓ evaluation of earlier assertion                |
| ✓ new interventions or programs      | ✓ new or alternative interpretation              |
| ✓ new methods or analysis            | ✓ refutation or rebuttal (new contrary evidence) |
| ✓ new phenomenon                     |  |

## SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS



### Significant contributions

- push current knowledge forward or towards some positive direction
- always involve building on the previous contributions

The degree of importance of the contribution depends on the degree to which the contribution advances the current knowledge.

## “CONTRIBUTIONS” THAT ARE TYPICALLY REJECTED *(IN MY EXPERIENCE AS EDITOR)*

- X Manuscript that do not have a clear theoretical point of view (absent or incoherent)
- X Replication of old finding with no new feature or contextualization
- X Replication of “new” finding with small non-representative sample
- X Descriptive study w/non-representative sample
- X Qualitative data that were analyzed superficially

OTHER FORMS OF WEAK OR  
BAD CONTRIBUTIONS

- XInappropriate reading and/or response to other contributions
- Xindiscriminately disagreeing or agreeing with everything
- Xtalking about something most people do not care about something of narrow interest
- Xoverreaching in arguments (without evidence)

OTHER FORMS OF WEAK OR  
BAD CONTRIBUTIONS

- Xsaying something obvious or that everyone already knows
- Xall your findings have already been shown in the literature
- Xjust presenting findings without linking these to some aspect of the current knowledge (or linking to outdated knowledge)

**WHAT ABOUT STUDIES  
THAT FOCUS ON  
DESCRIBING A VERY  
SPECIFIC SAMPLE IN  
THE PHILIPPINE  
CONTEXT?**

**WILL THAT BE A SIGNIFICANT  
CONTRIBUTION?**

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE**

### **REMEMBER:**

- **A contribution to the research literature needs to be defined in the context of the nature of the research enterprise.**
- **A significant contribution can only be understood in the context of the current research environment and the types of research outputs that are being or considered within.**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING THE RESEARCH LITERATURE

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE

- You will have to decide what you want to contribute to the research literature
- Remember: your manuscript will be assessed in terms of how important are its contributions to the literature.
- So you need to determine what is the contribution you want to write about!

## SOURCES FOR REFERENCE ARTICLES

- Open access journals
  - Listed in Scopus or Clarivate
  - Examples: Frontiers Journals  
<http://home.frontiersin.org/about/journals-a-z>
  - Listed in Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)  
<https://doaj.org/search#.WXGZMYpLfeQ>
- ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/>  
GoogleScholar: <https://scholar.google.com>  
<https://scholar.google.com.ph/>

## DECIDING WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT

- You will have to decide what you will write about based on what you want to contribute to the research literature
- Remember: your manuscript will be assessed in terms of how important are its contributions to the literature.
- So you need to determine what is the contribution you want to write about!



## SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ✓new theory, argument or conjecture | ✓replication (new supporting evidence)          |
| ✓new definition                     | ✓clarification / elaboration                    |
| ✓new synthesis of previous findings | ✓rephrasing or recasting of question            |
| ✓new measures or tools              | ✓evaluation of earlier assertion                |
| ✓new interventions or programs      | ✓new or alternative interpretation              |
| ✓new methods or analysis            | ✓refutation or rebuttal (new contrary evidence) |
| ✓new phenomenon                     |   |

## THINKING ABOUT ONE'S CONTRIBUTION(S)?

■Most scholars in my field/subfield now think/say that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

■My research shows that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### **REALIZING WHAT YOU HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE**

- It is important that you find something in your research that some group of other scholars will find interesting.
- You need to know the breadth and depth of existing research literature
- You need to consider the diversity within the community of researchers in your field/subfield.
- Even “small” contributions will have space in the research conversation.

### **REALIZING WHAT YOU HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE**

- Your “contributions” may not be the same as you had planned in your research proposal.
- Your research question/problem should “match” your “contributions.”
- Be very clear about what your “contributions” are in relation to what the present literature is stating.

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- We did not actually talk about “writing” !!!
- We talked about “publishing” – which is doing research of a particular quality or standard
  - Publishing is not just about style, organization, and other writing tips.
  - Publishing is about doing good research appropriate to the standards of each discipline or subdiscipline.

## NEXT STEPS...

- Do your research projects, with some publication plans in mind...
- Keep finding ways to make your study better, and better, and better...
- Then our next workshop will be about writing the manuscripts reporting your research!