Getting published in a leading journal: perspectives of authors, editors, and a publisher

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES, COOLBAUGH 131 LECTURE HALL
MON OCT 8TH
4PM-5PM
Panellists

Douglas J. Arent
Deputy Associate Lab Director, NREL
Editor-in-Chief, Renewable Energy Focus

Morgan D. Bazilian
Payne Institute, Colorado School of Mines
Editorial Board Member, Energy Strategy Reviews, Energy Research and Social Science

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Professor, Colorado School of Mines
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Adam Fraser
Senior Publisher
Elsevier Journals
The role of a publisher (me)

- A.k.a. “publishing editor” or “journal publishing manager”
- Focus on a particular, but quite broad subject area
- Oversee editorial office, submission system, production of journal, distribution, legal issues, ethics issues, recruitment, outreach budgeting & payments, contracts etc.
- **No hands-on work on peer review**
- Editorial independence
What to expect when you try to publish…

Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as “quite an improvement.”

By Nick D. Kim, PhD
“Typical” peer-review process

Author responsible

Journal responsible
Authorship

Should always be established at beginning

Comes with credit but also with responsibility

Definitions vary per community/journal

Avoid disputes, gift and ghost authorship
Choosing the right journal

- Check your references – who are you citing? Where do they publish?
- Do you read that journal?
- Who is your audience? Who or what are you trying to influence?
- What is the aim of your research?
- Ask your colleagues/ senior people in your lab

- **DO NOT** submit to more than one journal at a time
Read The ‘Guide for Authors’ and the Aims and Scope

- Find it on the journal homepage of the publisher
- Editors do not like wasting time on poorly prepared manuscripts
- Each journal can have unique, or specific requirements (e.g. about reporting of data, word length etc)
- Submitting to an incorrect journal costs you time, and effort, think carefully and then submit!
Revise and resubmit

• Cooling off period
• Take on board the comments
  • What can you improve?
  • Don’t assume the reviewer doesn’t understand
• Make change requested or challenge it?
• The response to reviewers letter
  • Respond to all points!
Why do reviewers review?

- Sense of “duty” to the field
- “Sharing economy” of reviewers as authors (and vice versa)
- Value from mentoring young researchers
- Enjoy reviewing
- General interest in the area
- Awareness of new research and developments at an early stage
- Career development
- Help with own research or new ideas
- Association with journals and Editors
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