

Scientific writing

Level 3

Current conditions of publication in international journals

- Increasing rejections rates (with some journals reporting rejection rates of 65–80%) and resultant higher quality standards imposed.
- There are fewer opportunities for inexperienced authors, those publishing in a second language, or researchers attempting to explore translation of existing knowledge into different cultures;
- Those articles are published that improve knowledge base, extend current debates on related issues or offer useful and illuminating developments for implementation;

Table 1 Analysis of retracted article for the top 25 countries based on the SCImago Journal and Country Rank portal [SJR, 2016; Scopus 2016]

Country	Documents	Citations	Citations per document	H index	Retracted articles (NRD)	Ratio of NRA (RRD)	Normalised RRD (NRRD)
United States	8,626,193	177,434,935	23.36	1648	113	1.31E−05	4
China	3,617,355	19,110,353	7.44	495	9126	2.52E−03	755
United Kingdom	2,397,817	44,011,201	21.03	1015	48	2.00E−05	6
Germany	2,176,860	35721869	18.5	887	29	1.33E−05	4
Japan	2,074,872	27,040,067	13.79	745	39	1.88E−05	6
France	1,555,629	24,700,140	17.95	811	11	7.07E−06	2
Canada	1,227,380	22,152,666	21.4	794	27	2.20E−05	7
Italy	1,200,448	18,019,464	17.52	713	6	5.00E−06	1
India	998,544	6,989,150	9.61	383	68	6.81E−05	20
Spain	952,099	12,628,097	16.14	591	5	5.25E−06	2
Australia	890,458	13,772,961	19.49	644	34	3.82E−05	11
South Korea	739,229	7,063,429	12.38	424	49	6.63E−05	20
Russian Federation	701,029	4,289,618	6.5	390	6	8.56E−06	3
Netherlands	681,804	14,278,721	24.56	694	12	1.76E−05	5
Brazil	598,234	5,036,027	11.73	379	2	3.34E−06	1
Switzerland	493,857	10,872,269	26.1	686	5	1.01E−05	3
Taiwan	491,560	4,790,230	12.17	331	117	2.38E−04	71
Sweden	460,607	9,417,604	23.21	614	8	1.74E−05	5
Poland	431,016	3,491,958	9.57	371	4	9.28E−06	3
Turkey	390,874	2,938,841	9.79	266	5	1.28E−05	4
Belgium	372,093	6,691,791	21.01	547	3	8.06E−06	2
Iran	287,010	1,504,541	9.83	180	95	3.31E−04	99
Israel	272,352	5,079,652	20.56	496	2	7.34E−06	2
Austria	268,472	4,334,382	19.24	449	4	1.49E−05	4
Denmark	263,026	5,494,671	24.94	518	1	3.80E−06	1

Country	Fraudulent Retractions 2000–2010	Number of Papers 2010 (Thousands)	Ratio of Fraudulent to Total Papers (Thousands)
USA	84	140	0.6
China	20	28	0.71
Japan	18	25	0.72
India	17	13	1.31
UK	7	41	0.17
Turkey	2	11	0.18
Iran	1	5	0.2
All Asian	63	94	0.67

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Research Misconduct in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

•Joseph Ana, Tracey Koehlmoos, Richard Smith, Lijing L. Yan,
PLOS Medicine, Published: March 26, 2013

•<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001315>

How to choose an appropriate journal

- Our previous experiences by a journal;
- Others' previous experiences by a journal;
- Online Journal finders:

<http://journalfinder.elsevier.com/>

<http://olabout.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-828005.html>

- Scientific method.

Authors' guidelines

- Aim and scope;
- Authorship, acknowledgment, funding;
- Authors contributions;
- Conflict of interest;
- Ethical approvals;
- Plagiarism;
- Appeal of decision;
- Copyright principles;
- Word/length limitations;
- Title page and cover letter
- The types of manuscript and their content
- References;
- Figure/images;
- Submission process;
- Fees for publication;
- Review process,
- Publication process

- Editing our article:
 - (1) Content editing (80%); CE
 - (2) Writing editing (20%); WE

Title

CE:

- Length: 8-12 words;
- Structure: Phrases without verbs, no abbreviation, foot notes, question/exclamation mark..
- Content: the study's keywords;
- Short title: 40-52 character with spaces.

WE:

- Uppercase words, a bigger font and bolded on the top of the page.

Abstract

CE:

- Concise sentences;
- Reflecting all parts of the article: 'background', 'aim', 'methods', 'results', 'conclusion', 'keywords';
- No abbreviation and reference;
- Repeating the keywords in the text;

WE:

- Structure/unstructured;
- Short sentences;
- Bolded headings, paragraphing.

Introduction

CE:

- Definitions of keywords (the focus of the study), no textbook knowledge;
- Funnel down rule (from general to specific);
- Reasons for conducting this study;
- Literature review rule;
- Claims should be supported by citations
- Aim of the study.

WE:

- 1000-1500 words;
- Paragraphing & Indentation;
- Subheadings
- Short sentences

Methods

CE:

- Organization of content;
- Full details of the study: design, sample and setting, data gathering/interventions/tools, ethical considerations, data analysis, statistical method;
- Chronological order.

WE:

- No word limitations;
- Past tense (simple past).

Results

CE:

- From simple to complex;
- Description along with statistical report;
- Figures and tables to complete the text;
- Figure/table legend;
- Captions for tables and figures;
- Exact statistics and p-values.

WE:

- Separate pages for figure and table;
- Horizontal/vertical lines;
- Order of numbers in the table.

Discussion

CE:

- A summary of findings;
- The brief paraphrased findings;
- Comparison with literature;
- Conclusion for the comparison.
- Selection of findings for comparison

WE:

- 1000-1500 words;
- Comparison words;
- Paragraphing

Conclusion

CE:

- How the findings can be used by researchers, practice, and;
- No repeating of findings;
- Limitations

WE:

- 100-300 words;
- Suggestion not recommendation

References

CE:

- All citations should be listed;
- The most recent citations, from the last 5 years;

WE:

- Citation style;
- Punctuations

