

The Guide to Writing and Publishing Research Papers in Peer-Reviewed Journals

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Abstract

Writing is the best way to communicate new ideas and concepts to colleagues and interested parties worldwide, and through time. The objectives of a research project can only be fulfilled when the findings are published as a scientific paper. Publications should aim towards reaching the wider scientific community at the highest level. Consequently, the best way to disseminate information is through peer-reviewed journals at the international/national level. The science community has reinforced this fact by linking individual personal promotion and Higher Education Institutions research ranking directly with successful publication of research papers in quality journals. As a result, large numbers of papers are being submitted for publication. However, unfortunately, every year thousands of papers are either rejected or returned with a request for major revisions. This is on many occasions due to reasons other than the quality of the work. This paper provides guidance on the process of writing and publishing in a peer-reviewed journal. The requirements for organisation, structure, argument development and the composition of various sections in a paper have been discussed with the view to help novice researchers to achieve publications in journals.