Writing and Publishing Research Results

Part 3 of the ALCTS Series
Research and Publications Basics

Presented by Mary Beth Weber
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Introduction

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Overview

Part One
- Elements of a research paper
- Research methodologies
- Data analysis
- Preparing your paper
- Submission

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Why Publish?

• Share information that will benefit others
• Provide solutions to issues facing one’s profession
• Job requirement
• Invitation to submit a research paper
• Some people enjoy writing
Challenges

• Lack of experience or time (or both)
• No support from one’s employer
• Unsure topic is substantive enough to warrant a research paper
• Difficulty getting started or sustaining the effort
Elements of a Research Paper

Title
Abstract
Introduction
Literature Review
Research Method
Research Results
Discussion
Conclusion
References

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Getting Started

• Research your topic
• Reach out to a journal editor to discuss your idea
• Research journals
• Start conducting your research
Research Methodologies

- Hybrid
- Qualitative
- Quantitative
Analyzing Your Research Findings

• Most critical part of your research
• Summarize and interpret data
• Don’t just provide numbers. Attach meaning to them
• Discuss any limitations encountered
Analyzing Your Research Findings
(continued)

• Present your data
• Data analysis
• Include recommendations
Data Presentation Examples

Figure 3. Percentage of Position Listings with No Digitization or Digital Preservation Responsibilities By Year, 2004-15

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Data Analysis Tools

- **R** - Used for statistics and data modeling
  https://www.r-project.org/about.html
- **Tableau** - Free software; connects data from any source (Excel, web, etc.) to create data visualizations, maps, dashboards, etc.
  https://www.tableau.com/
- **Sas** - Programming language used for data manipulation and analytics.
Data Analysis Tools (continued)

• Excel- Easy to use; use to filter data, has graphing tools, ability to create pivot tables
• Splunk- Analyzes and searches machine generated data.

https://www.splunk.com/
Structuring Your Research Paper

- Outline
- Title
- Abstract
- Format
- Check references
- Supplemental materials

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Get Started!

• Start writing
• Revise
• Get feedback
• Revise (again)
• Submit!
Where to Submit?

- What major research journals have published papers on your topic or similar topics?
- What journals were consulted for your literature review?
- What is the journal’s impact factor?
- What’s the acceptance rate?
- Are papers peer reviewed?
- Where does the journal index papers?
Where to Submit? (continued)

- Availability
- Who holds the copyright to the paper?
- Does the journal permit authors to post published papers to an IR?
References


Thank you!

Questions?
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