



3 Tips for Publishing in Peer-reviewed Journals

by

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Outline

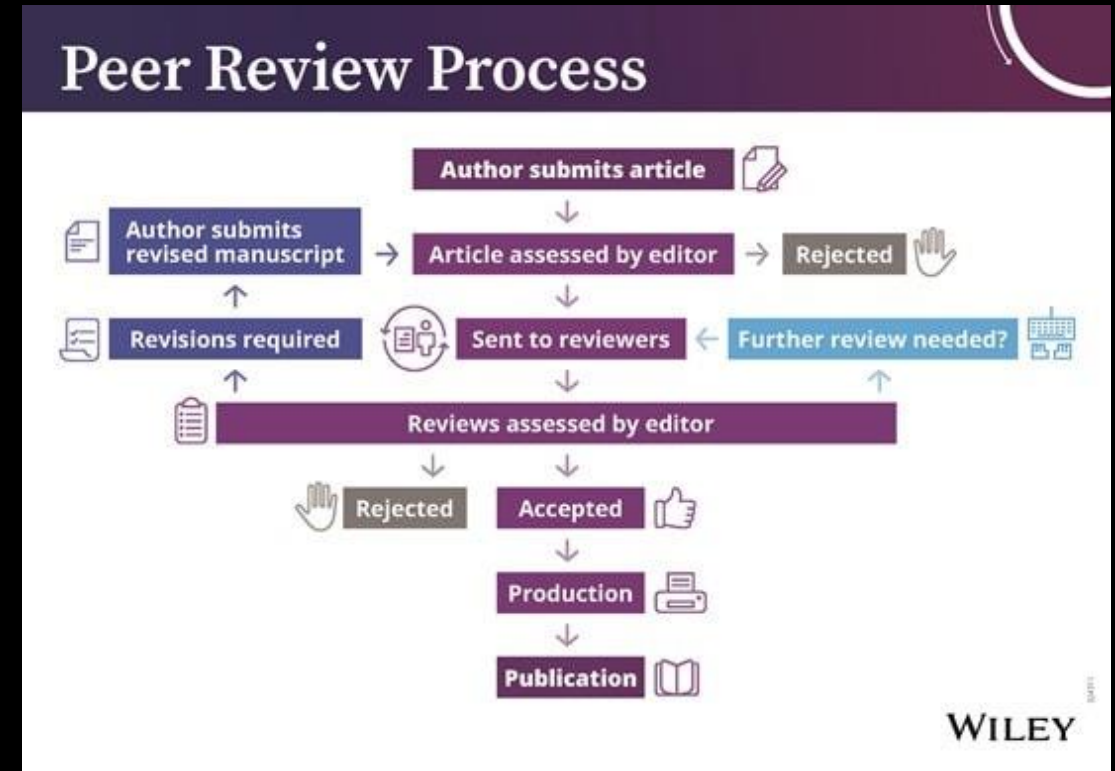
- Background
 - What *exactly* is a peer-reviewed journal?
 - What are some common challenges?
- *3 tips* to make your journey from manuscript to publication easier





Definition of Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Use a “peer-review” method
- Journal receives manuscripts from volunteer groups of authors (“authors”)
- Journal facilitates other writers unrelated to the journal or the authors (“peers”) to provide written feedback
- Authors revise the manuscript to meet with feedback by peer-reviewers



<https://authorservices.wiley.com/Reviewers/journal-reviewers/what-is-peer-review/the-peer-review-process.html>



Common Challenge #1: Predatory Journals

- Journals not operating in “good faith”
- Lack of peer-review infrastructure
- Trying to get money/charge fees
- Problems for:
 - Author
 - Peer-reviewer

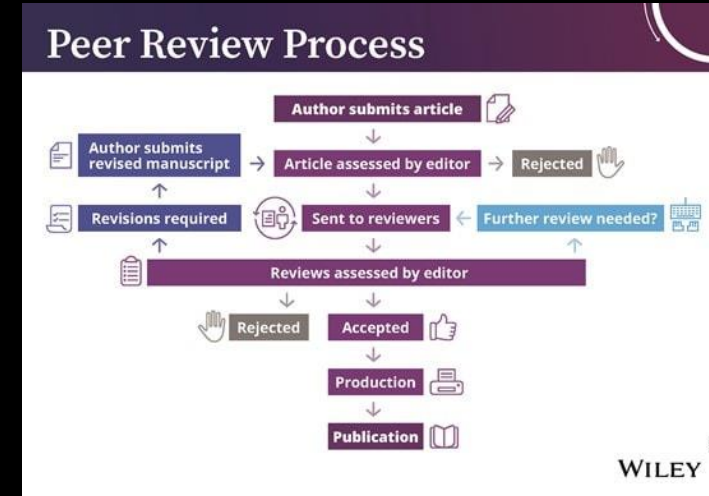


- Available here: <https://beallslist.net/>
- Provides A-Z searchable list
- Trustable



Common Challenge #2: Confusion as the Process Continues

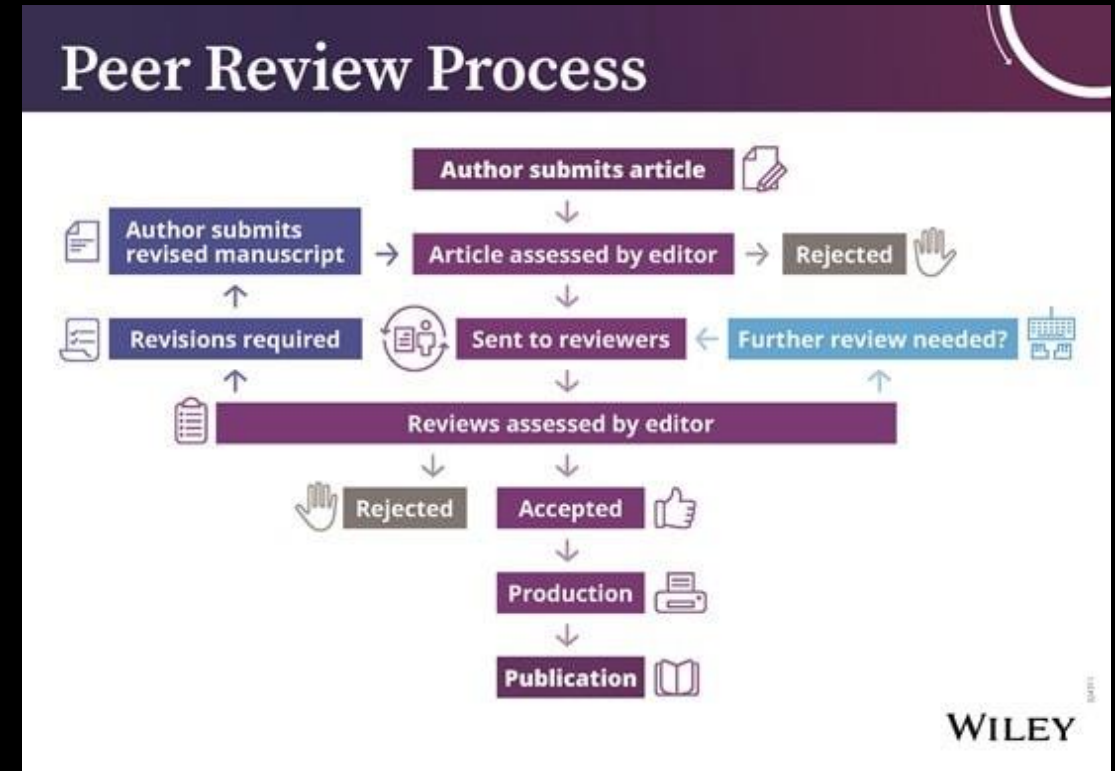
- You may submit, but journal says, “No thank you” and does not review
- May recommend different journal with same publisher
- You may get a review, but then they think you should revise it and publish it in a different journal
- You may need to submit it multiple times to multiple journals
- Usually multiple reviewed drafts





Common Challenge #3: It Takes So Long!

- Can be hard to figure out which journal will want to review the paper
- Even if a journal decides to review the manuscript, the reviewers almost always want changes (at least minor)
- The less back-and-forth, the faster the process goes





3 Tips Aimed at These Challenges

Intended outcomes:

- Can help ensure you are aiming your manuscript at reputable journals
- Prevent confusion as the process continues
- Shorten the process overall



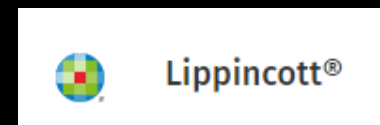


Tip #1: Know Your Publishers

- What journals in your field are published by what publishers?
- What do their “instructions to authors” pages look like? Do they have similarities?
- When you write, what journals do you find yourself referencing? What publishers are they attached to?

Examples from “Academic Publishing Guide for Faculty and Researchers” from Sacramento State, available here:

<https://csus.libguides.com/publishing/choosing-a-publisher>





Tip #2: Keep a Notes Page on all your Submissions

- Each time you submit to a new journal, **make a Word document** with notes about the specific submission
- Each time you submit a revised draft, the journal will want a “categorical response”, which is a letter explaining each change.

Three overlapping document pages are shown, each with a colored border. The top page (green border) is titled 'Notes about Journal of Public Health Dentistry'. The middle page (blue border) is titled 'Notes about American Journal of Preventive Medicine'. The bottom page (orange border) is titled 'Notes About Health Affairs' and contains detailed submission guidelines.

Notes about Journal of Public Health Dentistry

Home page: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jphd.12111](#)
Instructions for authors: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jphd.12111](#)
Author login: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jphd.12111](#)

Notes about American Journal of Preventive Medicine

Submitted: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajpm.12111](#)
Processing: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajpm.12111](#)
Cost for color: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajpm.12111](#)
“Submit your manuscript”: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajpm.12111](#)

Notes About Health Affairs

Journal website: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/>
Instructions for authors: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/help-for-authors>
Where to login: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/healthaffairs/default1.aspx>

We are submitting for “Research Paper”

Research Article: 2,000 to 5,000 words, up to 4 exhibits (tables and figures)

Research articles can be

- Based on original/primary research or secondary research
- Descriptive or analytical
- Quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods
- Case studies

Research articles proceed according to a standard formula, including sections presenting an introduction, data/methods, results/findings, discussion/conclusions.

Research Article: 2,000 words to 5,000 words, including an abstract--between 150 and 180 words--and no more than 4 exhibits-- tables and figures

Our maximum length is 5,000 words (that total includes abstract, main text, and references/endnotes).



Tip #3: Have a “Pretend Reviewer”

- Have colleague who is not an author or involved in your research “pretend” to be a reviewer
- Have them write an actual review
 - Similar to giving feedback to students if you are correcting papers
- **Goal of this step:** To catch obvious issues and prevent some back-and-forth





Review: Today's Peer-reviewed Journal Tips

1. Get to know your publishers
2. Keep a notes page for each journal on all your submissions
3. Have a colleague act as a “pretend reviewer” before you submit





Special Offer!

Manuscript Review

\$50

**Let me be your
“pretend reviewer”!**

Process

1. **Send me (by e-mail or LinkedIn) your current Word version of the document**, along with information about where you are submitting it (grant, journal, etc.)
2. **Pay fee** – I will send a Paypal invoice to your e-mail address.
3. **I will write a professional peer-review of it in Word**, and e-mail it to you so you can make the revisions!