

Publishing Research

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What is a Publication?

Publications are formal reports that help present research findings and results, usually found in the form of an academic paper.



Why Publish?

Publishing your research credits you for the work that you have done, and allows for your work to be formally cited and referenced. When your work is referenced, your research gains additional credibility and helps expand the field of research even further. Additionally, having publications improves your chances at landing jobs and getting into graduate school.

How do I Publish a Paper?

The simple answer is to ask your faculty mentor; your faculty mentor is experienced at publishing their own research, and they know the details of specific submission and review processes for certain publishers in your field. This document summarizes the general publication process, but keep in mind that different fields have varying submission/review requirements. **Your faculty mentor provides the best, personalized help for publishing your work.**

FAQ

Is it Difficult to Publish?

Generally, yes. In a 2018 report, Dr. Khadilkar mentions that “most top journals have almost 80% rejection rates”, and thus have very high standards for format and content [1]. The submission process is time consuming, and may take over a year to submit a paper for review.



What should I consider when Preparing to Publish?

The following is a brief checklist of items that you may see in the submission process. **Keep in mind this is a generalized list, and will vary depending on research field.**

Publication Consideration Checklist

1	Publisher of Choice	Decide which Publisher you will publish to (based on field of research)
2	Paper Format	What is the specific format of the paper? (i.e. MLA, IEEE, etc.) How do you list figures? How do you state and cite references?
3	Cost	What is the upfront payment to submit a paper?
4	Required Documents	Do you need a cover letter? A list of figures and tables? What other documents are required?

[1] Khadilkar SS. Rejection Blues: Why Do Research Papers Get Rejected? J Obstet Gynaecol India. 2018 Aug;68(4):239-241. doi: 10.1007/s13224-018-1153-1. Epub 2018 Jul 5. PMID: 30065536; PMCID: PMC6046667.

FAQ

What is an Open Source Journal?

Open Access or Open Source Journals are publishing journals that allow publications to be accessed without subscription to the journal.

The University of California has Open Access (OA) agreements and discounts with certain publishers and journals. This eases the process of publishing by reducing costs, as well as having direct access to a majority of commercial publishers and journals.

View the [UC OA Policy Here](#).



UCI Libraries also has resources to help! View "[Understanding Research Publishing in Open Access Journals](#)" curated by Linda Murphy, the UCI Health Sciences Librarian

Other Journals are trusted to promote sole open access to journals and articles, which includes [The Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) and [The Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association \(OASPA\)](#). It is recommended to view these Open Access Journals for a better idea of requirements and standards for papers (more information provided by UCI Libraries).

And although these journals may have lower cost restrictions and are more open to the public, **this does not mean that their standards for publishing are low.** Both DOAJ and OASPA have their own high standards for publications, which are globally recognized.

FAQ

What should the Paper Include?

Academic papers follow a fairly standard guideline in accordance with their research field. **For a majority scientific papers, the order of sections generally follows the below format.** *Note: This format is very similar to your UROP proposals, with a different goal of showing the results of your project (rather than proposing a project for funding).*



1	Title and Authors	List title of paper and authors, including any proper affiliations (i.e. “The Department of Humanities, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, the United States”)
2	Abstract	The purpose of the abstract can vary depending on the subject, usually a summary of the paper.
3	Introduction	Introduce the problem that you are trying to solve.
4	Method	Describe the research method, which includes any equations or concepts used, or interview questions and number of people surveyed.
5	Results	Include findings, and if applicable display results in figures and graphs.
6	Discussion / Conclusion	Make comments on the results, why the results are important, and potential improvements/future plans.
7	References	List of references in desired citation format (i.e. MLA, IEEE, etc.)

FAQ

What are Some Useful Tips and Tools to Help Me Get Started?

- Read other literature related to your field of research, and note the formatting of the papers.
- **Apply for the UROP “Travel or Publication Award”** which helps offset expenses related to publishing research. See more information and deadlines for the award [here](#).
- Find the right publishing Journal for you. Open Access Journals like DOAJ and OASPA are great starting points, **visit the [UCI Library](#) for more help.**
- Take note of ALL references that you use. *Zotero is a great resource for this.*
- **Work closely with your Faculty Mentor, and commit a lot of time to drafting and revising your paper.** The more time you spend on editing your paper, the better the result!



Questions? Contact Us!