

GUIDE TO PUBLISHING IN PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS

Second Edition

This book is an indispensable guide to how to write articles, choose journals, and deal with revisions or rejection. The chapters are written by highly experienced journal editors – people who have actually made decisions on manuscripts and publication, as well as being eminent in their respective scientific field and written many articles themselves.

It showcases parts of articles, discusses journal submission, outlines the resubmission process, and highlights systemic issues. Clear instructions are given on writing an empirical article, literature reviews, titles and abstracts, introductions, theories, hypotheses, methods, and data analysis.

Each part of the journal publishing process is laid out, from presenting results, to mapping out a discussion and writing for referees. The integral skills of revising papers and ensuring a high impact are taught in “Article Writing 101.” Less intuitive knowledge is provided concerning publishing strategies, references, online submission, review systems, open access, and ethical considerations.

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ROBERT J. STERNBERG
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Contents

	<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>page</i> vii
	<i>Preface</i>	xi
PART I KINDS OF ARTICLES		
1	Writing an Empirical Article Daryl J. Bem	3
2	Writing a Literature Review Nancy Eisenberg	14
PART II PARTS OF ARTICLES		
3	Titles and Abstracts: They Only Sound Unimportant Robert J. Sternberg	33
4	Introducing Your Research Report: Writing the Introduction Philip C. Kendall, Lesley A. Norris, Lara S. Rifkin, and Jennifer S. Silk	37
5	Theories and Hypotheses Robert J. Sternberg	54
6	Writing about Methods Harry T. Reis	65
7	Data Analyses that Meet Current Standards of the Profession Elena L. Grigorenko	82
8	Results that Get Results: Telling a Good Story Peter Salovey	100
9	Writing the Discussion Section Susan T. Fiske	112

vi	CONTENTS	
10	References: The Why, Who, When, What, and Where of Providing References in Psychological Research Andrew N. Christopher and Andrea P. Francis	120
PART III THE JOURNAL SUBMISSION AND RESUBMISSION PROCESS		
11	Writing for Your Referees Robert J. Sternberg	131
12	Dealing with Reviews and Overcoming Rejection Henry L. Roediger, III, Kathleen B. McDermott, and Eric Eich	141
13	Rewriting the Psychology Paper Richard K. Wagner and Rachel E. Waters	153
14	Writing a High-Impact Article Robert J. Sternberg	165
15	Article Writing 101: A Crib Sheet Robert J. Sternberg	173
16	Selecting the Right Journal Outlet for Your Paper Louis Tay and Ed Diener	181
17	Journal Publishing Strategies Stephen J. Ceci and Wendy M. Williams	192
18	Online Submission and Review Systems Todd Reitzel	204
PART IV SYSTEMIC ISSUES		
19	Transparent Science: A More Credible, Reproducible, and Publishable Way to Do Science David Mellor, Simine Vazire, and D. Stephen Lindsay	219
20	Open Access Axel Cleeremans	238
21	Ethical Considerations in Submitting Articles Robert J. Sternberg	251
PART V CONCLUSION		
22	Final Comments about Publishing in Psychology Journals Robert J. Sternberg	261
	<i>Index</i>	265

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ix

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Preface

For psychologists who pursue a career in scholarship, there is one more certainty beyond death and taxes: rejected articles. Strongly refereed journals have high rejection rates and so it is almost inevitable that, sooner or later, usually sooner, one will get an editor's letter rejecting a submitted article. Even most articles that ultimately are accepted first were rejected. In some cases, the editor gave the author a chance to resubmit. In other cases, the author simply submitted the article to another journal. In either case, the article was rejected before it was accepted.

Outright acceptances are quite rare. When I was editor of the *Psychological Bulletin*, for example, our outright acceptance rate for initial submissions was probably about 2 percent. When I was editor of *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, my outright acceptance rate for initial submissions was 0 percent.

The goal of this book is to offer authors guidance in how to write better articles and thereby improve their chances for acceptance. The book is divided into 22 chapters, including a final integrative chapter, with each of the chapters covering a different aspect of the article-writing process, including writing an empirical article, writing a literature review, titles and abstracts, introductions, theories and hypotheses, experimental design, data analysis, results, discussions, citations and references, writing for reviewers, reading reviews, and methods.

A unique feature of this book is that chapter authors have been editors, associate editors, or publishing directors of major psychological journals, so that they are in a good position to write about writing articles. In writing their chapters for this book, all of these authors have written for diverse audiences, from beginning graduate students to seasoned professionals.

This book is not intended simply to repeat information contained in the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th edn., 2010) or in guides to writing papers, such as Sternberg and Sternberg (2016).

Rather, the book is intended to go beyond the mechanics of writing articles to the higher-order issues of how to use these mechanics in an effective and productive manner.

I am grateful to the American Psychological Association, which has given me the opportunity to edit two of its journals, and to the Association for Psychological Science, which has given me the opportunity to edit one of its journals, and thereby to learn first-hand about the journal-editing process.

This is a second edition of *Guide to publishing in psychology journals*. All chapters from the first edition have been revised, and some chapters with topics from the first edition have new authors. But the book also covers new topics that were not covered when the first edition was published in the year 2000. These new topics include replicability, electronic submissions and reviews, open access, journal statistics, writing for high impact, ethics in psychology paper writing, and transparency and openness in writing. I hope you enjoy this new edition!

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