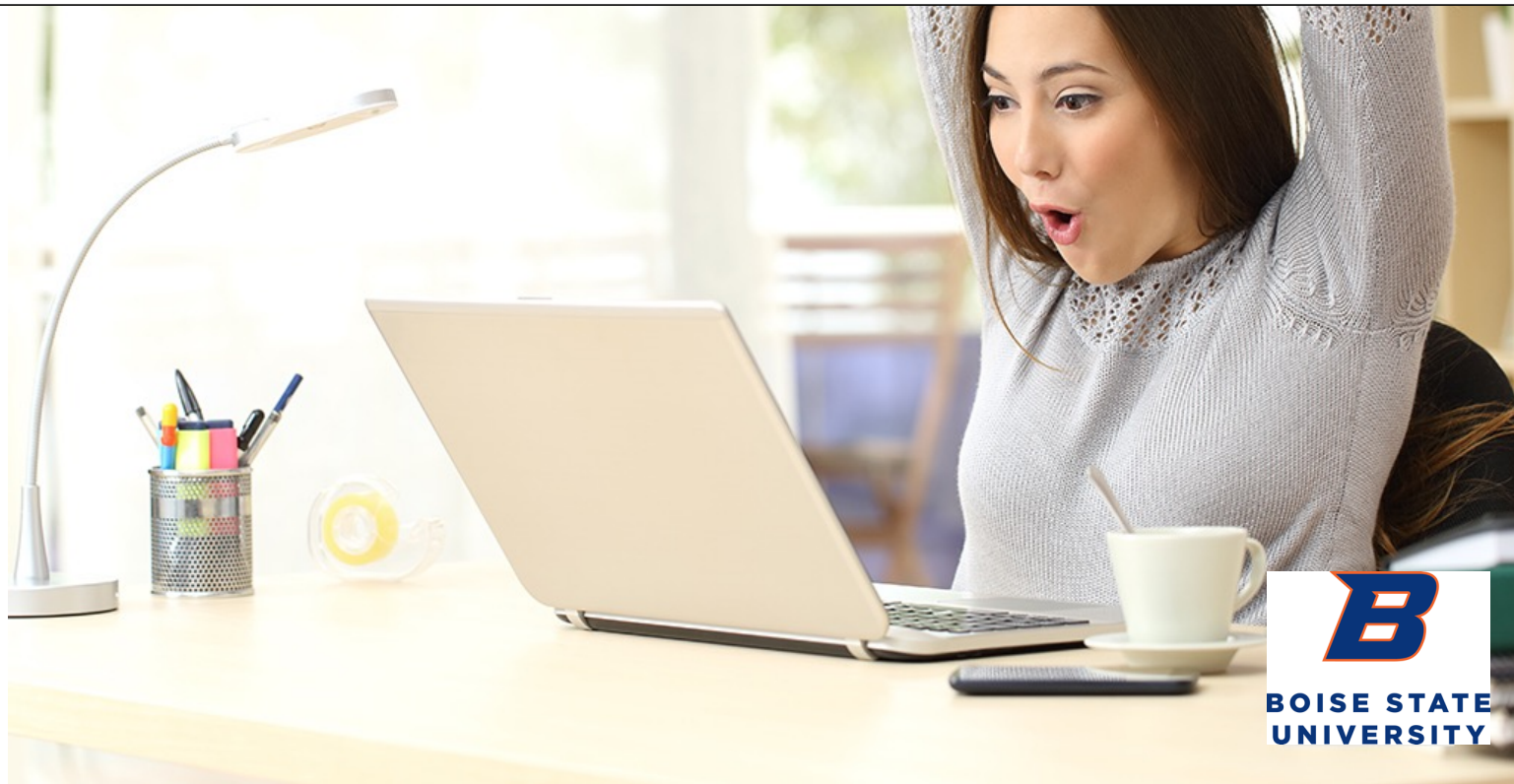


EEB 603 – Getting published



Why publish?

- **Publishing** research results is the one thing that **unites scientists across all disciplines**, and it is a necessary part of the scientific process.
- By publishing you are **achieving three key goals** for yourself and the larger scientific endeavor:
 - Disseminating your research.
 - Advancing your career.
 - Advancing science.
- In the EEB fields, publishing research is mostly equal to journal articles.

Know your message – Key conclusion

- Before beginning writing your article (and thinking where to submit it), it is important to **know the key conclusion you want to communicate and WHAT IS YOUR TAKE HOME MESSAGE?**
- Consider your conclusion and ask yourself, is it:
 - New and interesting? (even replication studies can be/are new)
 - Contributing to a hot topic?
 - Providing solutions to difficult problems?
- If you can answer 'yes' to all three, you have a good foundation message for a paper.
- **Shape** the whole **narrative** of your paper **around this message**.

Know what criteria are used to judge your work: Example of a Review assessment form

- Decision:
- Priority Score:
- Originality:
- Title indicates contents clearly:
- Abstract and Key Words are satisfactory:
- Introduction is clear and concise:
- Methods are described adequately:
- Results are set-out logically:

Know what criteria are used to judge your work: Example of a Review assessment form

- Discussion is appropriate and concise:
- References are necessary and sufficient:
- Tables are needed and clear:
- Diagrams & drawings are needed and clear:
- Photographs contribute usefully to the paper:
- Figure legends are complete and accurate:
- Statistical analyses are satisfactory:
- Comments for the Author (Required):

Know your message – Key conclusion

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY B

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

SELECTION CRITERIA

Journals have specific criteria to select papers that they are publishing, be aware of those!

The criteria for selection are: **work of outstanding importance, scientific excellence, originality and interest to a wide spectrum of biologists.**

All manuscripts are assigned to a specialist member of the Editorial Board, who assesses the paper for its suitability in *Proceedings B*, based on scientific quality, interest and importance and relevance to a broad readership. Many good papers are rejected at this stage, often on the ground of being insufficiently novel or too specialised, due to an extremely high competition for space.

If sent to peer review, the final decision will be made by an Editor, whose decision will be based on the reports received from the referees and/or Editorial Board members.

<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/about>

Steps towards getting research published

- Once you know your message, getting your research published will be a four steps process:
 - **Step 1:** Selecting your journal.
 - **Step 2:** Writing your manuscript.
 - **Step 3:** Submitting your manuscript.
 - **Step 4:** Acceptance and publication.

Step 1: Selecting your journal

- To **target the best journal** to publish your research, you need to ask yourself: **What audience do I want my paper to reach?**
 - Is it a niche/technical or broad audience paper?
- Your **manuscript should be tailored to the journal** you want to submit to in terms of:
 - **Content** (Can you relate your research to other papers published in the journal? Are you citing publications published in your target journal?).
 - **Style** (as outlined in journals' author guidelines).

Step 1: Journal aims and scope

- Look closely at **what the journal publishes**; manuscripts are often rejected (desk rejection) on the basis that they would be more suitable for another journal.



ISSN: 0030-6053 (Print), 1365-3008 (Online)

Editor: Dr Martin Fisher

[Editorial board](#)

Published for [Fauna & Flora International](#)

Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation is a quarterly peer-reviewed journal of biodiversity conservation, conservation policy and sustainable use, and the interaction of these subjects with social, economic and political issues. The journal has a particular interest in material that has the potential to improve conservation management and practice, supports the publishing and communication aspirations of conservation researchers and practitioners worldwide and helps build capacity for conservation. Besides articles and short communications, *Oryx* regularly publishes reviews, forum sections and letters, and every issue includes comprehensive reporting of international conservation news. For a personal subscription please visit: www.fauna-flora.org/membership

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Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution is dedicated to bringing Darwin's dream within grasp - to "have fairly true genealogical trees of each great kingdom of Nature." The journal provides a forum for molecular studies that advance our understanding of **phylogeny** and **evolution**, further the development of phylogenetically more accurate **taxonomic classifications**, and ultimately bring a **unified classification** for all the ramifying lines of life. Phylogeographic studies will be considered for publication if they offer EXCEPTIONAL theoretical or empirical advances.

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/molecular-phylogenetics-and-evolution>

Step 1: Editors and editorial boards

- **It is a good sign if you recognize the names of the editors and editorial board members of a journal from the work you have already encountered.**
- Research **who would likely handle your paper** if you submitted to a journal (find someone who would appreciate reading your paper).
- You **can suggest handling editors** in your cover letter or in the submission form, if it allows, but note that journals do not have to follow your suggestions and requests.

Step 1: Impact factor and other metrics

- **Impact factors** are the one unambiguous measure widely used to compare journal quality based on citations the journal receives.



Latest Issue

Volume 29, Issue 5
September/October
2018

Impact Factor
3.347

5 year Impact Factor
3.404

Editor-in-Chief
Leigh Simmons

About the journal

Bringing together significant work on all aspects of the subject, *Behavioral Ecology* is broad-based and covers both empirical and theoretical approaches. Studies on the whole range of behaving organisms ...

Find out more

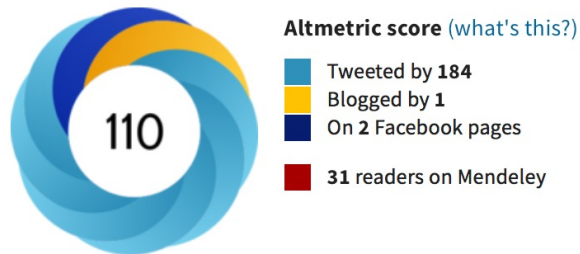
Please consult information presented in Chapter 4 for more details on this topic

<https://academic.oup.com/behco>

Step 1: Impact factor and other metrics

- Other metrics are becoming more common, e.g. **Altmetric score** measuring the impact of individual articles through online activity, or article download figures listed next to the published paper.

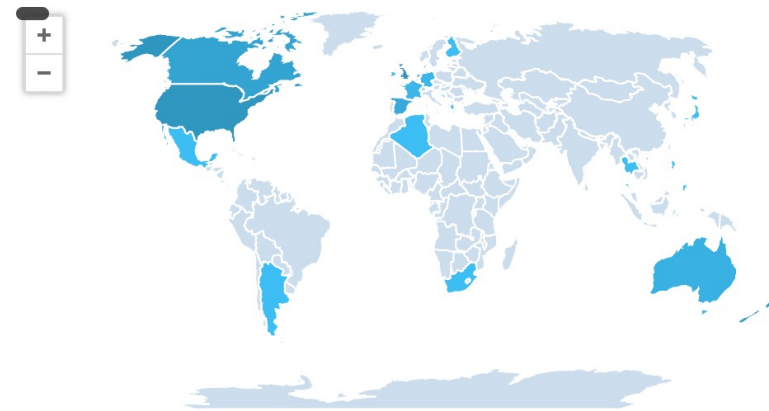
Online attention



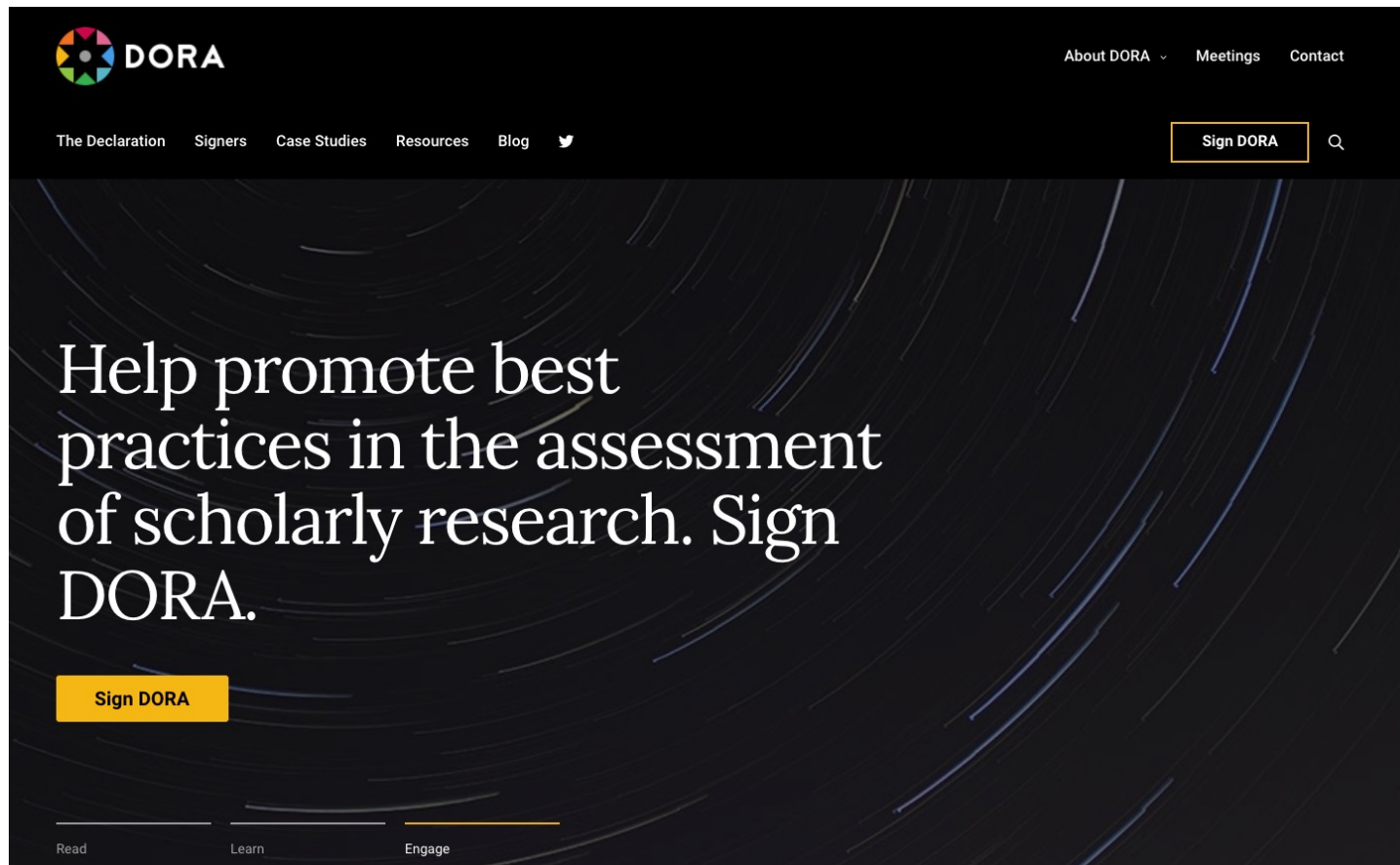
This Altmetric score means that the article is:

- in the 97th percentile (ranked 6,055th) of the 259,484 tracked articles of a similar age in all journals
- in the 97th percentile (ranked 70th) of the 2,493 tracked articles of a similar age in *Scientific Reports*

Twitter demographics



Step 1: Impact factor and other metrics



The screenshot shows the DORA website homepage. At the top left is the DORA logo, a colorful starburst icon next to the text "DORA". To the right of the logo are navigation links: "About DORA", "Meetings", and "Contact". Below the logo is a horizontal menu with links for "The Declaration", "Signers", "Case Studies", "Resources", "Blog", and a Twitter icon. On the right side of this menu is a search bar containing the text "Sign DORA" and a magnifying glass icon. The main content area features a dark background with a pattern of light blue and white curved lines. The central text reads: "Help promote best practices in the assessment of scholarly research. Sign DORA." Below this text is a yellow button with the text "Sign DORA". At the bottom of the page, there are three horizontal lines with labels "Read", "Learn", and "Engage" underneath them. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue hyperlink: <https://sfdora.org/>

Step 1: Open Access (OA)

- Do you need to publish OA?
- However, if you are not mandated to publish OA **your paper will still reach your target audience if you select the right journal for your paper (and can share it by email).**

Scientific Reports' article processing charge

Scientific Reports is an open access publication. To provide this service, all expenses, including peer review, production, and online hosting and archiving, are recovered via an article-processing charge (APC).

The following APC (plus VAT or local taxes where applicable) will be applied to papers accepted for publication:

- £1,165 (UK)
- \$1,760 (The Americas, China and Japan)
- €1,370 (Europe and rest of world)

Upon submission of an original research paper, authors will be asked to confirm that they take responsibility for payment of the APC. By paying this fee authors are permitted to post the final, published, PDF of their article on a website, institutional repository or other free public server immediately on publication.

http://mts-srep.nature.com/cgi-bin/main.plex?form_type=display_auth_instructions

Step 1: Author guidelines

- Author guidelines will outline the journal's requirements for submissions:
 - Aims and scope.
 - Formatting requirements (incl. words limit, numbers of figures, tables, references).
 - Journal policies (e.g. on data sharing & citation).
- **Always follow the author guidelines** (stick to the word limit and format it according to policy).
- Remember that **papers can be rejected immediately if they do not meet the author guidelines.**



3. MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS

The Journal publishes articles under the following main headers: 1) **Research Paper**, 2) **Methods and Tools**, 3) **Data**, 4) **Synthesis**, 5) **Perspective**, 6) **Commentary** and 7) **Correspondence**. All submissions are subject to peer review.

1) Research Paper. Research papers present new biogeographic research resulting from the analysis of a question in biogeography. For a typical Research paper, in which illustrative material (Tables and Figures) occupies about 3 pages of the journal when printed at final journal sizing, the text, inclusive of abstract and reference list, should not exceed 7000 words. Manuscripts should include a biosketch (see below); tables with their legends above; list of figure legends; and embedded figures, and the main headers in the main text of Research Papers should normally be Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References. Methods need to be described in a manner that allows a competent practitioner in the field to repeat the study. Authors must allow repeatability by either providing a thorough description of the methods or by providing relevant computer code.

Structured abstracts. Abstracts should be of no more than 300 words, presented as a series of factual statements under the following headings: Aim, Location, Taxon, Methods, Results and Main conclusions. The Aim should give a clear statement of the principal research question(s) or hypotheses, the Taxon indicate the main group (eg angiosperms), the Methods should give details of materials/sampling/methods of analysis, and the Main conclusions should give the main take-home message.

Biosketch/Biosketches. A short Biosketch/Biosketches entry (30-100 words for one author/150 words total for the first three authors, respectively) describing the research interests of the author(s) should be provided. For papers with four or more authors, biosketch details should be supplied for the first author only and/or a general statement of the focus of the research team (which may include a link to a group web page) plus, in all cases, a statement of author contributions, e.g. Author contributions: A.S. and K.J. conceived the ideas; K.J. and R.L.M. collected the data; R.L.M. and P.A.K. analysed the data; and A.S. and K.J. led the writing.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/13652699/homepage/forauthors.html>

Step 1: Ethics

Please consult information presented in Chapter 4 for more details on this topic

- Ethics can be divided into two groups:
 - **Research ethics:** include e.g. how you manage sensitive species information, whether you adhere to animal welfare guidelines and regulations or how you deal with data protection.
 - **Publication ethics:** concern practices around the publication process. Standards set across scholarly publishing help define good practice and identify cases of misconduct. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) provides the main forum for advice on ethics within scholarly publishing and has issued several sets of guidelines that help journals, editors and publishers handle cases of misconduct such as data fabrication, peer review fraud, plagiarism, etc.

ETHICS

Publication ethics *Behavioral Ecology* expects that authors will observe the highest standards with respect to publication ethics. For example, the following practices are unacceptable: (1) falsification or fabrication of data; (2) plagiarism, including duplicate publication of the authors' own work in whole or in part; (3) misappropriation of the work of others such as omission of qualified authors; (4) withholding information of relevance to assess possible conflicts of interest (e.g. financial support); (5) Failure to meet reasonable requests for access to data on which conclusions lie, etc. Allegations of unethical conduct will be discussed initially with the corresponding author. In the event of an unresolved dispute, the matter may be referred to the author's institution and funding agencies for investigation and adjudication.

The Journal applies plagiarism detection software ([iThenticate](#)) to submitted manuscripts and reserves the right to decline submissions suspected of plagiarism at any point during the assessment process. It will also retract articles found to violate plagiarism guidelines after publication. In addition, the Journal reserves the right to report any suspicion of plagiarism to the senior author's institution. Oxford University Press, publisher of *Behavioral Ecology*, is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the Journal adheres to the COPE code of conduct and [guidelines for authorship](#).

Research ethics All **animal experimentation** reported to the journal must meet the [ABS/ASAB](#) guidelines for [ethical treatment of animals](#). Authors must cite the granting body and reference number for animal ethics approvals associated with the work within the methods of the manuscript, and will be asked to confirm the above points when their manuscript is submitted.

C O P E

Committee on Publication Ethics

<https://publicationethics.org>

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Promoting integrity in research and its publication

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Diversity in Peer Review

For September's #PeerReviewWeek18 we're celebrating with new and revised peer review resources. Diversity and inclusion in peer review: podcast with Prof. Andy Hor of Hong Kong University; updated eLearning module; Spanish translations and more.

[Read more](#)

NEWS

This month's news

Latest news gathered by COPE Council members.

NEWS

Podcast: Diversity in Peer Review

With Prof. Andy Hor of Hong Kong University.

Step 1: Authorship

- **Start talking about authorship with collaborators at an early stage** – before submitting and ideally before writing the paper.
- To deal with potential issues, ask yourself the question:

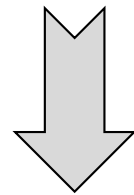
➤ **Who will do what?**

- Use the **CRedit** (Contribution Roles Taxonomy) model:
<https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/open-access/credit.html>



Contributions

F.F., N.A.B. and S.B. designed study; F.F., E.B., S.P.B., J.M., and S.B. compiled data; F.F., S.B. and J.M. performed analyses; S.I.B., P.M.H., A.L., D.P.L., S.M., H.R., C.R., D.W.S., and P.T. provided material and/or sequences; F.F., J.M. and S.B. wrote the manuscript; all authors critically read and revised the manuscript, and approved the final submitted version.



**By fixing authors' contributions you fix authorships
(and who should be first, last, second and in the
middle)**

Article | [OPEN](#) | Published: 16 April 2018

Gymnosperms on the EDGE

Félix Forest , Justin Moat, Elisabeth Baloch, Neil A. Brummitt, Steve P. Bachman, Steffi Ickert-Bond, Peter M. Hollingsworth, Aaron Liston, Damon P. Little, Sarah Mathews, Hardeep Rai, Catarina Rydin, Dennis W. Stevenson, Philip Thomas & Sven Buerki

Scientific Reports **8**, Article number: 6053 (2018) | [Download Citation](#) ↓

Step 2: Writing your manuscript



**Writing
science well:**
Techniques, tips and pitfalls

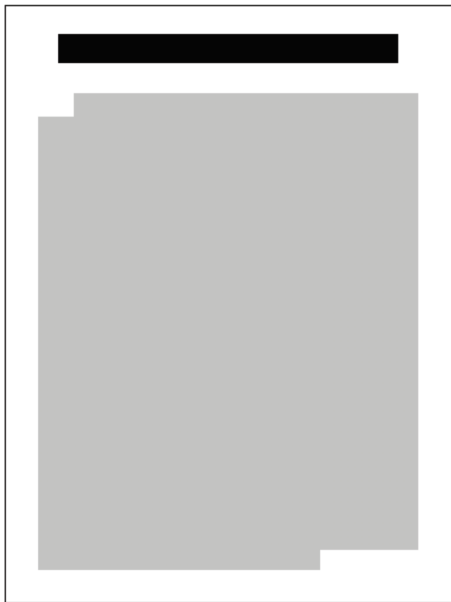
WILEY

Step 2: Writing your manuscript

- **Develop a narrative leading to your main conclusion and develop a backbone around that narrative.**
- The narrative should progress logically, which does not necessarily mean chronologically (= how research was conducted).
- **Work out approximate word counts for each section** to help manage the article structure and keep you on track for word limits.
- It is important to **set aside enough time to write your manuscript and – importantly – enough time to edit**, which may actually take longer than the writing itself. Set a timetable with milestones (= when each part will be delivered).

Step 2: Structure

- The article structure will be defined in the author guidelines, but if the journal's guidelines permit it, there may be scope to use your own subheadings.



**By breaking down
your manuscript
into smaller
sections, you will
communicate your
message in a
much more
digestible form**

Step 2: Title

- **The title is the most visible part of your paper, so it is important that it clearly communicates your key message.**
- Pre-publication, reviewers base their decision on whether to review a paper on the quality of the title and abstract.
- Post-publication, if you publish in a subscription journal, the title and abstract are the only freely available parts of your paper which will turn up in search engines and thus reach the widest audience.
- Draft a title before writing to help you focusing your paper.

Step 2: Title

- The **title needs to be informative and interesting** to make it stand out to reviewers and subsequently readers.
- Some key tips for a successful title include:
 - Write it in statement form.
 - Keep it around 15 words.
 - Use punctuation to split the main message and qualifier/subtitle.
 - Keep it general – readers prefer titles that emphasize broader conceptual or comparative issues, and these titles fare better both pre- and post-publication than papers with organism-specific titles.
 - Do not use abbreviations even if they are familiar in your field. You should keep a broad audience in mind.

Step 2: Abstract

- Write your abstract after you have written your paper, when you are fully aware of the narrative of your paper.
- Your abstract should:
 - Articulate your new and interesting key message.
 - Outline the methods and results.
 - Contextualize the work.
 - Highlight how your research contributes to the field and its future implications.
 - Have the last sentence communicating the key message.

Step 2: Abstract



plants

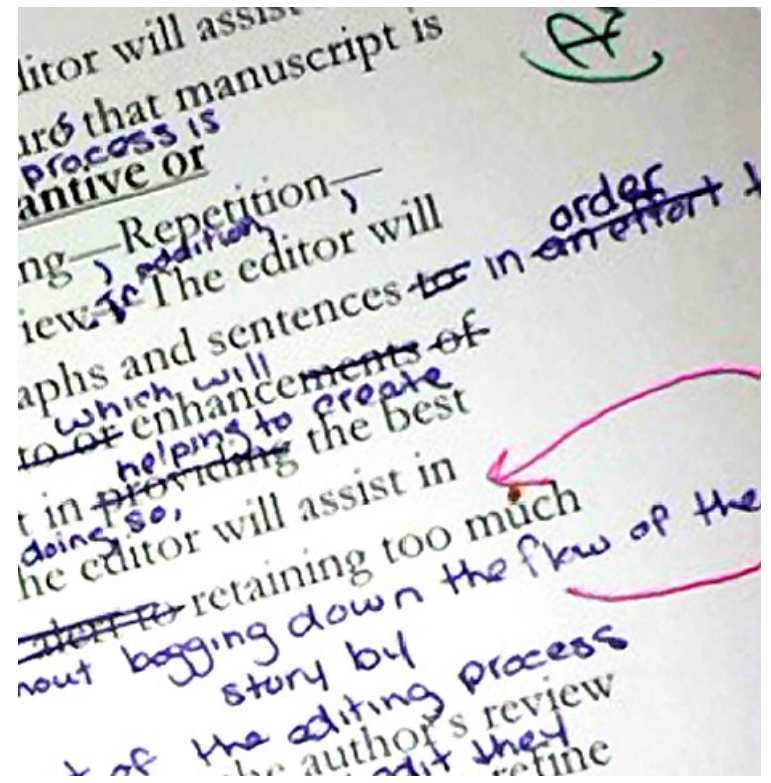
- **Abstract:** The abstract should be a total of about 200 words maximum. The abstract should be a single paragraph and should follow the style of structured abstracts, but without headings: 1) Background: Place the question addressed in a broad context and highlight the purpose of the study; 2) Methods: Describe briefly the main methods or treatments applied. Include any relevant preregistration numbers, and species and strains of any animals used. 3) Results: Summarize the article's main findings; and 4) Conclusion: Indicate the main conclusions or interpretations. The abstract should be an objective representation of the article: it must not contain results which are not presented and substantiated in the main text and should not exaggerate the main conclusions.

Step 2: Writing style

- **Write with clarity, simplicity and accuracy.**
- Keep sentences short (ca. 12 words on average).
- Every extra word you write is another word for a reviewer to disagree with.
- Single out the narrative that leads to your main conclusion and write that.
- In your introduction, state that **your research is timely, important and why.**

Step 2: Writing style

- **Begin each section with that section's key message and end each section with that message again plus further implications.** → This will place your work in the broader context that high-quality journals like.
- **Draft and redraft your work to ensure it flows well and your message is clear and focused throughout.**



Step 2: Keywords

- **Keywords are used by readers to discover your paper.**
- You will increase the chances of your paper being discovered through search engines by using them strategically throughout your paper – this is search engine optimization (SEO).
- **Build up a list of 15–20 terms relevant to your paper** and divide them into two groups: *i)* a core group of around 5 keywords, *ii)* a larger group of secondary keywords.
- **Place your core keywords in the title, abstract and subheadings.**
- **Place secondary keywords throughout the text** and in figures and tables.

Step 2: Figures & tables

- **Figures and tables enhance your paper by communicating results or data concisely.**
- Not only does this keep your word count down but a well-designed figure can replace 1000 words!
- **Figures** are useful for communicating **overall trends and shapes**, allowing simple comparisons between fewer elements.
- **Tables should be used to display precise data values** that require comparisons between many different elements.
- Captions should be understandable in isolation from the rest of your manuscript.


Step 2: Editing

- Key things to look out for when editing include:
 - Spelling and grammar.
 - Make sure all statements and assumptions are explained.
 - Remove redundant words or phrases.
 - Abbreviations – check that they have been expanded on the first use.
 - Acknowledgements – make sure all funders are clearly mentioned and that all people who contributed in any way are acknowledged.

Step 2: Editing

- Key things to look out for when editing include:
 - Keywords – they should be consistent, evenly spaced throughout the text and placed at key points in your manuscript.
 - Make sure you have specifically dealt with the hypothesis set out in the introduction.
 - Circulate manuscript to co-authors to get their comments and final approval.

Step 3: Submitting your manuscript

manuscripttrackingsystem SCIENTIFIC REPORTS 

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Author Instructions

Review Process

The manuscript submission and peer-review process is broken down into the following steps:

1. The author submits a manuscript.
2. An Editorial Board Member is assigned to the manuscript.
3. The Editorial Board Member decides whether to send the manuscript out to review.
4. The Editorial Board Member assigns potential reviewers to the manuscript.
5. Reviewers agree to review the manuscript.
6. Reviewers submit their reports to the editor using an online link.
7. The Editorial Board Member makes the final decision.

Step 3: Cover letter

- A Cover letter should:
 - State your key message and why your paper is important and relevant to the journal.
 - State that your paper is not under review in another journal and hasn't been published before.
 - Be shorter than your abstract and be written in less technical language.
 - Be used to recommend reviewers.
 - State any potential conflict of interest with other teams and blacklist potential reviewers.

Step 3: Handling revisions

- **Very rarely is a paper immediately accepted** – almost all papers go through few rounds of reviews before they get published.
- Here are some tips on handling reviewer comments and revising your paper:
 - Review reviews and make a list of points that need to be addressed.
 - Start with the minor revisions such as spelling, grammar, inconsistencies.
 - If you disagree with certain comments, disagree with evidence.
 - If things can't be dealt with in this paper, then explain that to the editor.
 - Respond to comments as thoroughly as you can.

Step 3: Handling rejections (and appeal)

- **Reviewers are volunteers but the service they provide is invaluable**
– by undergoing peer review, regardless of the outcome, **you are receiving some of the best advice from leading experts for free.**
- **Don't take reviews personally** (= don't be emotional)!
- Revise your manuscript before resubmission.
- You can appeal, but don't hold your breath.

Step 4: Acceptance & publication

- A paper post-acceptance workflow is usually as follows:
 - Published online, unedited, but citable as an 'Accepted Article' (usually a DOI is assigned and your paper is citable at this stage).
 - Copyedited (quality varies between journals).
 - Typeset and a proof of paper is sent to you for checking. Author queries will be marked on the proof.
 - Finalized proof is published online in 'Early View'.
 - According to the journal's schedule, paper will be placed in an issue.