

Tips to Draft a Manuscript and Have It Published in Journal of Mountain Sciences

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Abstract: Even for early career scholars, publishing in peer-reviewed papers remains quite difficult and particularly for them, they may not necessarily be aware what journals are looking for in terms of how to write academically. This article serves as a template for submitting manuscripts to JMS. Submitters are given an introduction to the aims and scope of the journal, and details on constructing a manuscript that is not only well formatted -with clearly stated objectives, methodological transparency, results presented concisely- but also what it takes to make your work applicable in broader settings. This extended abstract further explores critical elements of the publication process, namely journal selection, preparation of the cover letter, and responding effectively to the reviewers. Common reasons for desk rejection are explored, together with crucial academic and ethical standards that can help authors avoid avoidable mistakes. The paper draws these elements together in a systematic framework for enhancing clarity, scientific rigor, and publication success in JMS and similar international journals.

Keywords: Academic writing, Peer review procedure, Manuscript preparation, Scholarly publishing.

Introduction

An essential milestone of an early-career researcher is to publish a paper in a reputable peer-reviewed journal. Many find the procedure challenging since they have not been exposed to the conventions of academic writing, journal expectations, or scholarly review mechanisms (Belcher, 2019; Day and Gastel, 2012).

This extended abstract is prepared for journal session entitled "How to Get Your Paper Published in a Peer-Reviewed Journal: A Workshop with the Editors of the Journal of Mountain Science (JMS)" provides comprehensive and practical tips for writing, refining, and successfully submitting a manuscript to JMS and other international journals focusing on sustainable development, mountain environments, and geohazards.

Understanding the scope and expectations

This extended abstract is an overview of JMS's aims and scope, and readership. As an interdisciplinary journal dealing with ecology, geology, natural hazards, climate

interactions, engineering solutions, mountain environment and mountainous socio-economic development, the journal expects that manuscripts will provide substantial scientific contributions to a large group of researchers. Many manuscripts are rejected because either they do not fit within the journal's thematic scope or they fail to demonstrate the relevance of the research problem to a broader audience, thus, understanding this breadth is crucial (Cargill and O'Connor, 2013). Early career researchers will understand what constitutes a publishable contribution and how to appropriately frame the research work by understanding the expectations of the journal.

Structuring a high-quality scientific manuscript

The format of a high-quality scientific manuscript that is tailored for JMS occupies majority of the session, with participant learning the essential elements of a well-crafted paper, including creating an appealing title and abstract that summarizes the purpose of the study, the methods used, and key findings of the investigation (Day and Gastel, 2012; Hengli and Gould, 2002).

The importance of writing a suitable introduction will be highlighted where authors will outline the aims of a study in keeping with the framing of context, highlighting knowledge gaps, and relevance to mountain systems. Special attention will be given to the methodology section, one of the sections under intense scrutiny during peer review, which should be open, reproducible, and appropriately justified.

Particularly important will be the emphasis on presenting results logically and visually, with high-quality figures, tables, and maps, avoiding redundancy, which enhances clarity throughout the session. The implications of findings to theory, practice, and policy of mountain science will be emphasized during the discussion section and guidelines on interpretation of findings within a broad scientific context.

Navigating the publication and peer-review process

The workshop will explain how journal editors and reviewers evaluate submissions, further demystifying the publication process beyond manuscript structure. It will cover how best to select a journal for one's research, with an emphasis on matching the JMS requirements of novelty, methodological rigor, and cross-discipline relevance.

A suitable cover letter, a commonly overlooked yet vital constituent of submission, will also be discussed during the talk. It should clearly state what the study contributes, its novelty, and how it fits into the journal's format. Furthermore, valuable recommendations will be provided on handling conflicting suggestions, preparing a point-by-point rebuttal, and maintaining professionalism even in instances when the criticism may appear challenging or disheartening.

Academic ethics and responsible authorship

The talk will touch another important area—the authors' ethical responsibilities. Researchers early in their careers often violate academic norms due to a lack of education in this regard. Therefore, ethical research procedures, data transparency, proper acknowledgements, avoiding plagiarism and duplicate submission, responsible authorship principles, and correct citation and referencing will be ensured. Each of these basics is considered critical to uphold in the integrity and credibility of scientific research to avoid desk rejection (COPE, 2021).

Avoiding desk-rejection by enhancing manuscript quality

The talk will also outline common reasons for desk rejection, such as poor English, unclear research questions, methodological shortcomings, lack of novelty, poor figures, poor formatting, and/or lack of exposure to literature on an international scale—once again, according to Day and Gastel (2012) and Elsevier (2022). If the participants are informed of these potential pitfalls and take care to avoid them, then this will increase the chance that their manuscript will proceed to peer review. In addition, other ways to improve readability and impact will be given, including concise writing, clearer sentence structure, improved logical flow, and more effective summarization of important contributions.

Conclusion

The general intent of the presentation is to equip young and early-career scientists with helpful tools to better navigate the publication process. Improving manuscript structure, fitting the research to the requirements of the journal, and maintaining ethical scholarship can all significantly enhance the likelihood of publication for researchers, as noted by Belcher (2019). The same would apply to other reputable scientific journals, such as the *Journal of Mountain Science*.

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