

Roundtable: Writing for Peer-Reviewed Publications (Joint Meeting 2004)

1. Why write?
2. Who are you writing for?
3. Getting started
4. Barriers

Selected Bibliography

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Writing for Peer-Reviewed Publications: NOTES

Participants: Janice Contini (Moderator), Helen Seaton (Recorder), Ellen Richards, Jerry Thompson, Marilyn Hall, Terry Henner

Janice Contini provided a handout consisting of four questions and a bibliography. The questions were:

1. Why write?
2. Who are you writing for?
3. Getting started
4. Barriers

We did not have time to discuss all four questions in depth.

Some of the reasons given for writing:

Promotion and tenure requirements

To gain name recognition and credibility.

To have publications on our CVs when applying for grants

To build collaboration

When writing outside the library field, collaborate with someone in that field

Institutional recognition

Barriers to writing:

Time was the factor mentioned by everyone

First time authors need help – a mentor or coach

Authors need to work closely with editors to make sure their paper meets journal requirements

Notes from selected articles:

1. Getting started

(from Bordage:

- Pay attention to relevance
- Select optimal study designs & instruments
- Select optimal statistics
- Interpret results honestly
- Present well written manuscripts

(from Duff:

- Critical reading of journal articles (individually, group)
- Writing with a mentor group
- Starting with small projects

(from Frisch:

- Feedback from colleague(s)
- Follow author guidelines

2. Barriers

- Time
- Failure to recognize expertise
- Reluctance to subject one's work to scrutiny
- Lack of confidence in writing ability

Coaching as a solution:

- Validation & encouragement
- Dialogue, feedback, and guidance
- Non-librarian to help avoid jargon

Initial requirements of authors:

- In depth knowledge & expertise
- Skill in communicating

Need to develop:

- Time commitment
- Perseverance
- Motivation
- Confidence
- Courage