

How to get published

Tel Aviv University

Agenda

- The publishing process:
 - **Conducting** publishable research
 - **Writing** your paper
 - **Choosing** the right journal
 - **Adhering to** their guidelines
 - **Preparing** your paper
 - **Managing** peer-review
 - **Handling** revisions and rejections
- Where to find help
- Getting started

What are journals looking for?

Conducting publishable research

Make sure...

... Your question is researchable and interesting

✓ Spend time refining the question and seek guidance from a supervisor

... Your research has not been done before

✓ Conduct a thorough literature review before and during methodology design stage

... Your methodology is appropriate

✓ Choose the most appropriate data collection and analysis techniques

... Your data is good-quality, relevant and representative

✓ Pay attention to sampling your population and maximising the validity of your data

... Your write-up answers your research question

✓ Write critically and analytically, not descriptively

Conducting publishable research

But how?

Speak to your supervisor

- They are there to help you, particularly regarding your research design and methodology

Communicate with other researchers

- Fellow researchers may have first-hand experiences they can share

Take advantage of your library's services:

- Your library will probably provide training sessions and workshops about designing your research project, academic writing, preparing manuscripts, understanding Open Access
- Your library will also offer databases and digital and print resources to help with your research project, for example books, journals and databases such as *SAGE Journals*

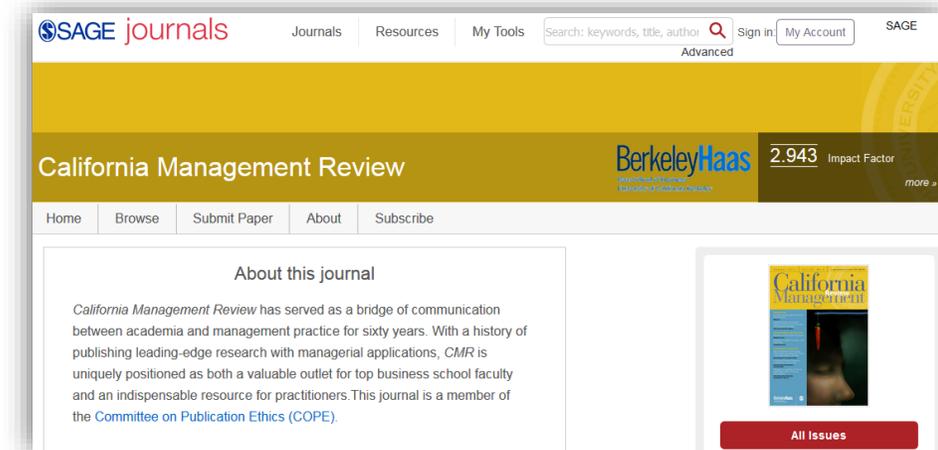
Preparation and submission

Choosing the right journal

Choosing the right journal is **key** to acceptance. Consider:

- Which journals do you read and cite regularly?
- Which journals focus most closely on your field of research?
- What is the publisher's reputation?
- Who is the editor?
- Who is on the editorial board?
- How international is the journal's scope?
- Do you know anyone who has published in the journal?
- Funded or self-funded?

TIP: Read 3 or 4 recently published articles from your chosen journal to get a feel for what submissions have been successful.



The screenshot shows the SAGE Journals website for the journal *California Management Review*. The header includes the SAGE logo, navigation links for Journals, Resources, and My Tools, a search bar with the text "Search: keywords, title, author", and links for Sign in and My Account. The journal title "California Management Review" is prominently displayed, along with the Berkeley Haas logo and an Impact Factor of 2.943. Below the header, there are navigation links for Home, Browse, Submit Paper, About, and Subscribe. The main content area features a section titled "About this journal" with a paragraph describing the journal's history and mission. To the right, there is a thumbnail image of the journal cover and a red button labeled "All Issues".

Choosing the right journal

Once you have created your shortlist of potential journals...

- What are their aims, scope and subject area?
- Are they a member of COPE?
- What is their impact factor?
- How well-ranked are they?
- What is their open-access policy?
- How long would the process take?

Review previous issues of each suitable journal...

- Do they publish your kind of work?
- Do you like their style?
- Do you think they would accept your work?
- What are their individual submission guidelines? Can you meet them?

What is Open Access Publishing?

A paper published via an open access (OA) route means that research literature is free-to-view by anyone in the world via the internet, and to reuse with a attribution under a Creative Commons licence, or equivalent.

Three types of OA, all of which are available at SAGE:

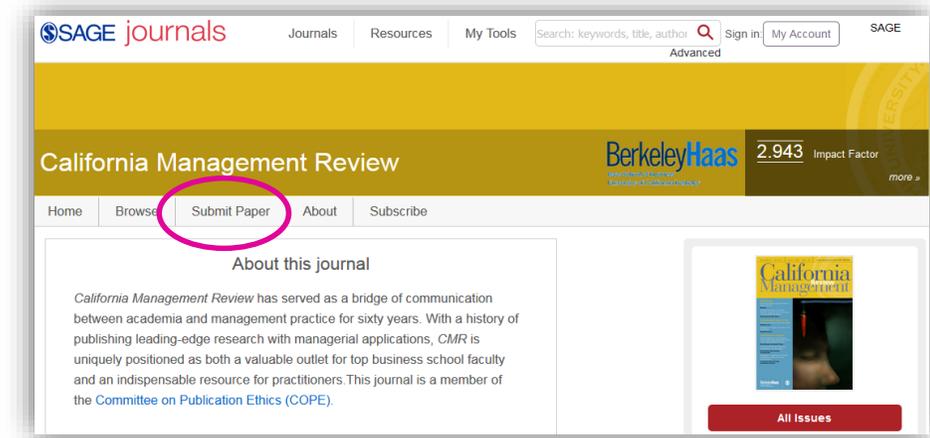
- **Pure ‘Gold’ OA Publishing** - Articles are peer reviewed, selected and formally published and then made available with no subscription pay-walls.
(~200 pure gold journals at SAGE).
Mega journals – such as SAGE Open?
- **Hybrid journals** - This is the practice of making articles published in traditional subscription journals freely available (~98% of journals at SAGE)
- **‘Green’ Open Access Archiving** - This relates to the practice of archiving a version of the article somewhere other than the publisher’s website where the final version of the article is hosted.

Adhering to submission guidelines

Different journals have different submission rules - even journals published by the same publisher!

Each journal makes its submission guidelines publicly available.

These are usually found on the journal website:

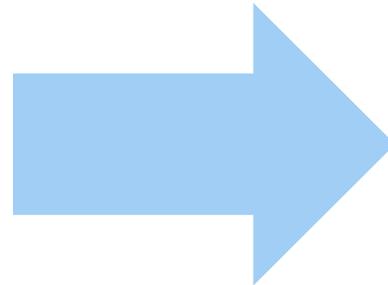


Most submissions are done through a website such as ScholarOne or ManuscriptCentral.

Writing your paper

When writing:

- Data and findings
- Figures and visualizations (tables, graphs etc)
- Methods, results, discussions
- Conclusion
- Introduction
- Abstract and title



When finished:

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Main text
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgement
- References
- Supporting materials

Article structure

Introduction

- What's the purpose of the study?
- What was the hypothesis you wanted to prove?
- What did you research?
- What is the question you are addressing?

Materials and Methods

- What did you do?
- What was your technique?
- How many patients did you use? How did you select them, etc.?
- Include any relevant materials or methods used, including ethical approval you needed to acquire

Results

- What answers did you get? Present your data
- What complications arose?

Discussion

- What do the results mean?
- What is the impact of previous studies, in relation to the present study?
- How is the data of the new trial related to totality?
- How does this answer the question in the introduction?

Conclusions

- What are the implications of the research?
- What future studies do you recommend?
- Conclusions should be placed after Discussion as a separate section

Preparing your title and abstract

The better your title and abstract, the more your work will be:

- Discovered
- Read
- Cited

Consider what your audience would be searching for (**keywords**). Choose these words carefully and test them with your own internet searches: are you finding what you would expect?

Include your keywords in:

- The title
- In your abstract (3 to 4 different keywords)
- Throughout your paper

... all without losing the natural flow of language!

Submit your paper

- Check the submission guidelines one more time
- Check your formatting and additional submissions
- Have it proof-read
- Submit to one journal at a time

And now wait....

... but for how long??

SAGE Track (Manuscript Central)

Author Dashboard / **Submission**

Cover Letter [Edit](#)

Step 3: Attributes

Write Cover Letter

Enter appropriate keywords for your manuscript. Keywords may be used by the journal to match your paper to appropriate reviewers, and if your paper

Author Dashboard

- 1 Submitted Manuscripts >
- 1 Manuscripts with Decisions >
- Start New Submission >
- 5 Most Recent E-mails >

Submitted Manuscripts

STATUS	ID	TITLE	CREATED	SUBMITTED
ADM: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]19-0008	[REDACTED]	05-Mar-2019	05-Mar-2019
		View Submission		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Awaiting Reviewer Selection		
		Cover Letter		

ACTIONS	FUNDER	GRANT / AWARD NUMBER
	<i>No Funders Entered</i>	
	Add Funder	

Manuscript Information

* Number of Figures:	<input type="text"/>
* Number of Tables:	<input type="text"/>

The peer review process

What is peer review?

- The peer review process is essential to the development of research across all subject areas
- Filtering out poor quality articles
- Assessing validity
- Maintaining integrity of science

At SAGE we value the work done by peer reviewers in the academic community, who provide an essential service to the process of publication excellence, driving research within their fields of expertise

Types of peer review

- **Single blind** peer review – the name of the reviewer is hidden from the author
- **Double blind** peer review – names are hidden from both reviewers and the authors
- **Open** peer review – everyone is identified

Make sure you understand the peer review model before submitting.



The peer review process

Initial decision

- Desk reject: immediate rejection, no changes

Or

- Peer review

Peer review decision

- Reject
- Accept with major revisions
- Accept with minor revisions
- Accept and publish

Paper is sent out to two or three referees by an Associate Editor.

Referees write a report and make recommendations to the journal Editor.



Acceptance and rejection

Handling revisions

- Read the reports and Editor's letter carefully
- Follow the timeframes requested
- Clearly demonstrate what you have changed
- Address each referee point in a covering note
- If you can't meet all criticisms, explain why
- Be positive and polite

This process can take 2 to 3 iterations – so be patient.

Why do papers get rejected?

- Referees are not convinced of the contribution to the knowledge base
- Methods are not robust enough for the journal
 - e.g. too few observations on quantitative papers
 - e.g. transparency of qualitative methods
- Specific sections are weak
 - Conclusion
 - Discussion
- Bad grammar and written style

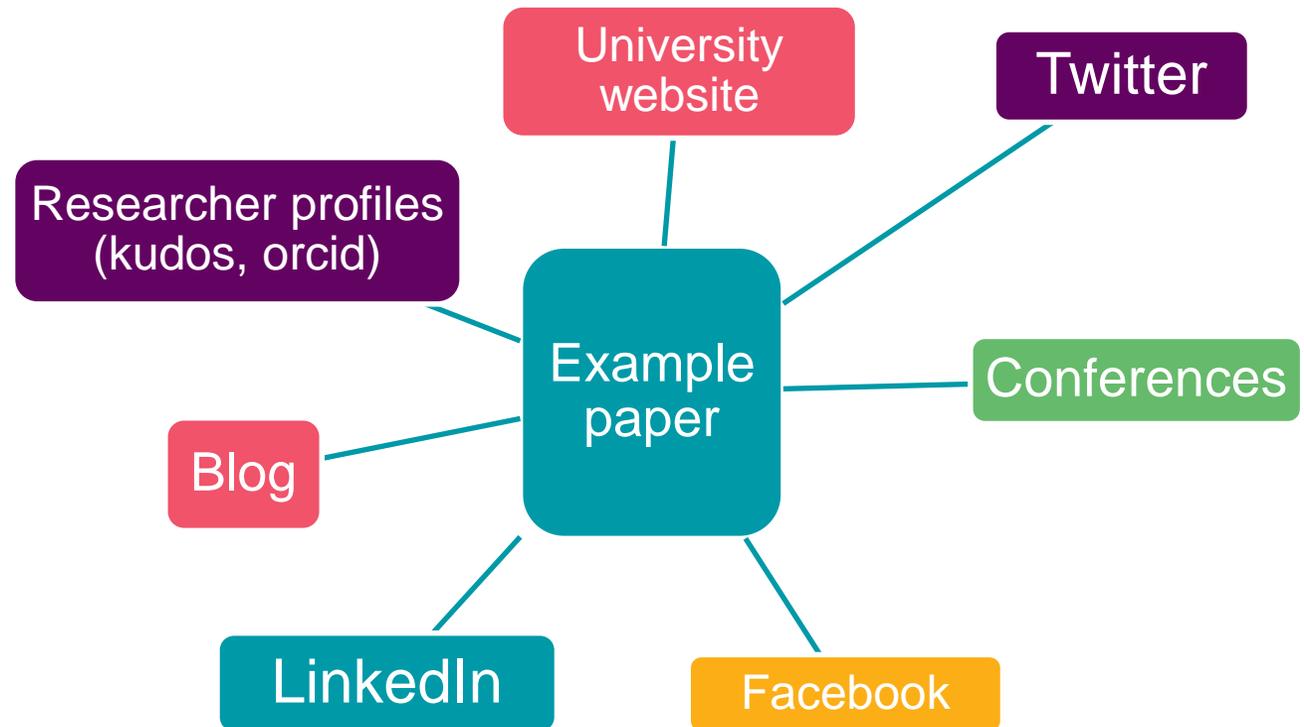
If your paper is rejected...

- Stay calm - criticisms are there to enhance your paper
- Read the referees' report and the Editor's letter
- Try and re-work the paper according to their recommendations
- Consider submitting to an alternative journal
 - You will need to reformat the paper to fit the new journal's requirements
- Start again and write another paper!

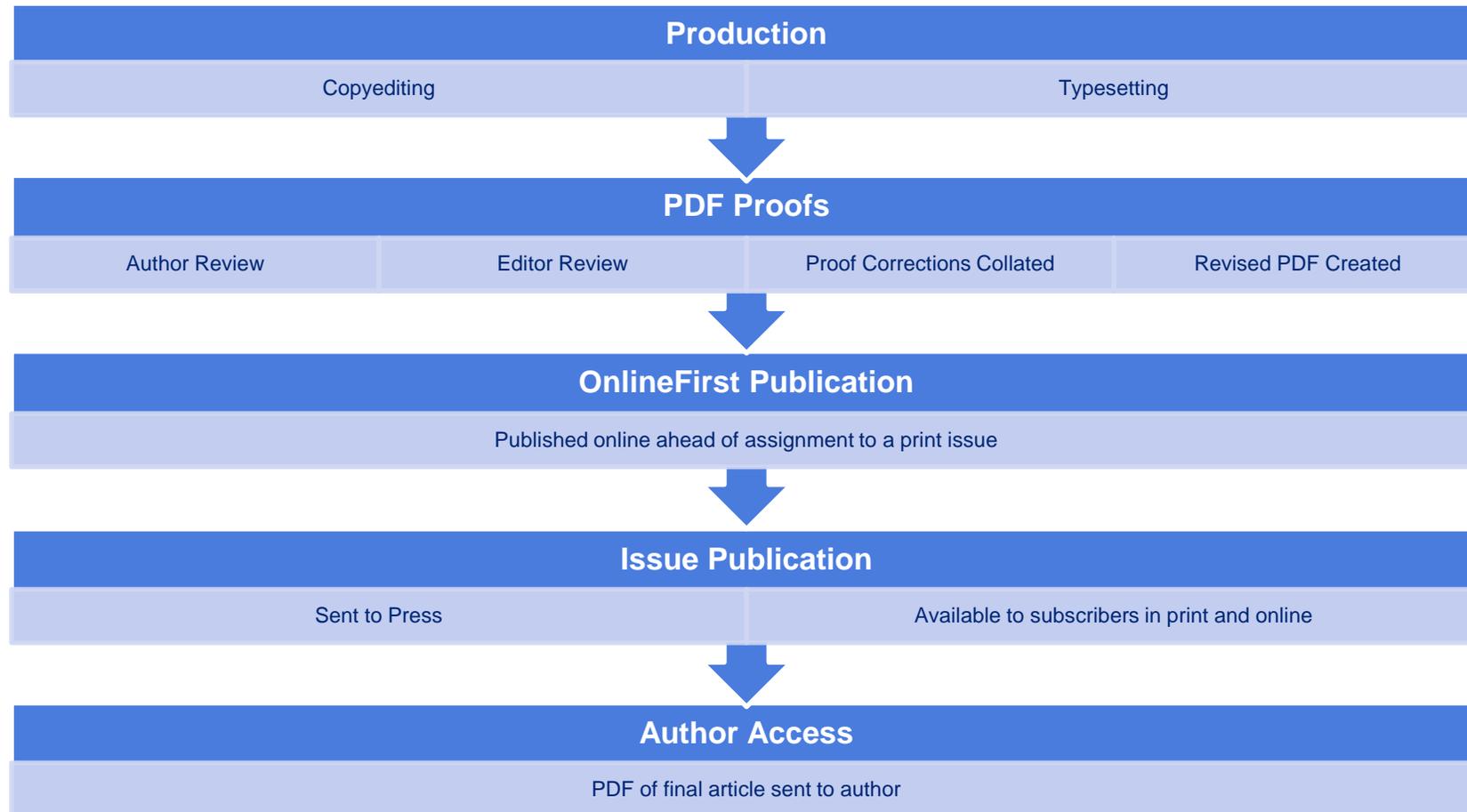
- Doesn't mean it's a bad paper, just the wrong journal!

What to do if it goes right!?

- **Celebrate!**
- Promote your paper!



Production process



Roles and responsibilities

Responsibilities of the author

- **Professional ethics** as a researcher searching the truth (*no fraud or distortion*)
- **Accurate and professional account** of research and relevance to others (*clear concise communication*)
- A commitment to **the public good** and public values (*despite intense competitive pressure in research*)
- **Respect to peers and to the public** served (*issues such as privacy*)

Copyright and publishing ethics

- Obtain permission for all copyrighted material
- Authorship / Acknowledgement
- Funding statement
- Conflict of interest
- Research ethics
- **COPE**: Committee of Publication Ethics (95% of SAGE Journals are COPE members) <http://publicationethics.org/>

Responsibilities of the publisher

- Sustainability of journals
- Quality of journals
- Quality of editor and editorial boards
- Relevance of the journal as a field develops (managing the aims and scope)
- Dissemination of content
- Uphold ethical values of the publication

Author rights in the digital age

- Copyright situation can be much more complex
- Funders may require authors to make their papers available in repositories
 - Responsibilities sometimes at odds with publisher requirements
 - It may be up to you to ensure the paper is posted in the right place
- Publisher policies vary

Stay informed and if unsure, ask!

Next steps

Key summary

- Methodology quality is a key publishing criteria
- Make sure you have something worthwhile to say
- Find the right journal to say it in
- Read articles from your chosen journal to get a sense for what they publish
- Ask a friend, colleague or peer to proofread your work before submission
- Find specific submission guidelines and follow them completely
- Submit to only one journal at a time
- Take any feedback constructively – not personally

Where can you find help and support?

Your colleagues, faculty, the library!

Think. Check. Submit

- A campaign designed to help researchers follow best-practice during the submission process

Sense About Science

- Offers free resources to help scientists ensure their work is academically rigorous and reaches the widest possible audience

SAGE is dedicated to helping researchers be the best they can be

- SAGE's Journal Author Gateway provides plenty of tips on improving your chances of publication

Advice from the former editor of *Current Sociology*!

Martín, E. (2014). How to write a good article. *Current Sociology*, 62(7), 949 -955. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011392114556034>

The screenshot shows the journal's interface. At the top, the journal title 'Current Sociology' is displayed alongside the ISA (International Sociological Association) logo and an impact factor of 1.241. Navigation links include 'Journal Home', 'Browse Journal', 'Submit Paper', 'About', and 'Subscribe'. A search bar is located on the right. On the left, an 'Article Menu' sidebar offers options to 'Download PDF', view the 'Full Article', and a 'Content List' containing 'Abstract', 'How to write a successful article', and 'Common mistakes that everybody knows and everybody makes'. Below the menu are icons for 'Article Metrics', 'Cite', 'Share', 'Request Permissions', and 'Related Articles'. The main content area features the article title 'How to write a good article' by Eloísa Martín, published on October 21, 2014, as an editorial piece. It includes a DOI link, an Altmeter score of 94, and a 'Check for updates' button. The abstract is presented in three languages: English, French, and Spanish; Castilian. The English abstract states: 'This article presents the main challenges of academic writing and publication in scientific journals. It reveals some of the most common mistakes in the process of manuscript submission and review, and offers some possible solutions.' Below the abstract are sections for 'Keywords' (Academic journal, academic writing, internationalization, relevance), 'Mots-clés' (Ecriture académique, internationalisation, pertinence, revue académique), and 'Palabras clave'. On the right side, there is a box indicating the article is available in 'Vol 62, Issue 7, 2014', a red 'advance a SAGE preprints community' banner with a 'NOW LIVE!' call to action and a 'Submit today' button, and a 'SAGE Recommends' vertical sidebar. A 'Related Articles' section at the bottom right lists 'How double-blind peer review works and what it takes to be a good referee' and 'Letters of rejection'.

Any questions?

Thank you for listening!

Chloe.Turner@sagepub.co.uk