

Publishing Research Results: The Writing Process

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Abstract

Command of the skill of academic writing is of great importance in modern research, particularly in view of the increasing internationalisation of research and the prevailing culture of ‘publish or perish’.

The presentation reviews the process of writing for academic journals, taking a generic approach and focusing on the project-like nature of academic writing. In addition to considering reasons for writing and obstacles to writing, strategies aimed at improving effectiveness are proposed and discussed.

Academic writing as a genre has clearly defined features, for example, overall structure, rhetorical conventions (such as formality, hedging etc), explicit expression of relationships, explicit referencing, use of academic vocabulary, and multi-author texts. To gain acceptance in the field, authors must adhere to the conventions – correct form is regarded as just as important as correct content.

Despite the many pitfalls in the writing process, the presentation concludes that strategies can be learnt by studying but writing is learnt by writing.

Index Terms: Academic writing, Academic publishing