

CHAPTER 1

Paper Publications in Academic Career

The paper publication is an utmost requirement of an academic and research career. It is the way to communicate your hard work effectively with the global academic and researcher fraternity. An academician or researcher always feels proud of his or her publications and is given due recognition. The publications may of several types.

Types and Traits of academic writing

Paper publication is one of the types of academic writing. In academics, it is a well-established trend and responsibility to share our gathered knowledge via writing an essay, passages, dissertation, thesis, research/ review articles, short notes, books, abstract, digital writing/ OERs etc.

Basic requirements and steps of academic writing

For all types of writing, the basic traits are the same.

- **Critical reading:** The first and foremost step of the academic writing process is critical reading. In this process, the reader gets engaged with the text deeply and in a complex manner. This engagement promotes readers' critical questioning with the context of the text. It also develops the understanding of judgment about the mechanism of

effective communication. In reading, we just absorb the idea or understand it, while in critical reading, we go through analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. Another difference between reading and critical reading is that in reading, our direction of understanding is towards the direction of the text while in critical reading, our direction is just opposite as we try to question every assumption and argument available. After reading, we conclude the text as a summary, but we interpret and describe the text in the case of critical reading.

- **Language:** Language is the second important part of academic writing. The most exciting fact about language is that your doing with language (output) reflects the language you have absorbed (input). So to write better, you have to read the best. Reading the academic write-ups is the first step in the process of writing. Learning one language is a different thing than getting that language into our awareness. Academic writing requires awareness of the language.
- **Good knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics** is also the central part of academic writing, which clearly demonstrates our ideas in a sophisticated and precise way.
- **The clarity:** In all forms of writing, you must be very clear in communicating your idea to the reader.
- **Completeness:** Each communication should be complete in totality. We can not leave it open-ended like in literature.
- **Rational & Logic:** The rational and logic must be there
- **Technicality:** Technical terms are always used depending on the field of research.
- **Sequencing:** The sequence of presenting the information is crucial for a smooth transition from one point to the next point. Connecting ideas and a cohesive writing style is a prime requirement in academic writing.
- **Unambiguity:** There is no place for ambiguity in AW.
- **The reader friendliness** is the key point.

In every kind of academic writing, the purpose of writing should be argumentary. The academic credibility of content is very important.

The process of academic writing consists of the following steps. Each step has its significance, and it is necessary to be followed cautiously (Table 1).

Table 1 Flow of action in AW

Step One Generating Ideas		Step Two Generating Outlines	Step Three Writing the First Draft	Step Four Writing Multiple Draft	Step Five Writing Final Draft	Step Six Publishing
Critical Reading	Critical Thinking					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze • Evaluate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret • Literature review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build framework around the idea • Sequencing of idea and sub-idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible ideas • Revising outline • Visual representation • Listing sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of write-up • Major changes • Feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formatting the final write-up • Proofreading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up publishers guideline

The importance of AW

If we split the importance concerning importance for stakeholders, the different stakeholders may have different points of importance.

For academicians

If you are a teacher, you might be well aware of the importance of publications. Can you imagine an academician without publications? I think this simple question is itself the answer. Just to list out, for teachers, the publication is

- an effective and well-accepted medium to disseminate the knowledge: Apart from your classroom teaching, if you go for publications, you will reach to more learners and students and will be able to disseminate your knowledge globally. So why be local be global.
- A tool for assessing the eligibility for new academic/ research positions or promotions: All institutions give huge weightage to publications for recruiting and promoting faculty members. For this, you all know that the quality publications published in reputed journals play a vital role. UGC regulation 2018 provides points for publications as Academic Performance Indicator (API).
- A benchmark to assess academic proficiency: Without any access to an academicians CV, the publications are always reliable indicators of their expertise. For example, do you get the reviewer's invitation from reputed journals? If yes, indeed, you might be having a good publication record in that area of research.
- A tool of Intellectual contribution to the knowledge domain: The teacher is ought to give a significant intellectual contribution to the knowledge domain. Even if you are not an active researcher you need to write to contribute in learning process. So, why do you want to limit yourself to your few students? Come up and contribute.

How good you are as a teacher is generally assessed and approved by your publications.

For students:

In this digital era students hardly go for writing lecture notes or some other basic writing. So, when it comes to deliver a piece of AW it becomes a hurricane task for them. Then students start putting the efforts. So, do not just wait for the last moment for delivering. Practice by preparing concise, logical, to the point and quality notes whatever you

have been taught in the class. Furthermore, always get it checked or reviewed by your mentor. For students the academic writing is important for getting these vital benefits.

- **Opens up your mind:** When you write your brain works more effectively and new areas of brain start working. Learning to read and write alters brain wiring within months, even for adults
- **Better understanding of the topic for effective communication:** If you know AW you can effectively express or communicate your level of understanding.
- **Triggering the analytical thinking:** AW trigger the analytical thinking. Furthermore, being analytical is important for academic and research. You are required to analytically study two or more related studies for getting the essence out of the work as your future plan of work. You are ought to study and present two or more work analytically rather than doing simple description of previous works.
- **Triggering critical and objective thinking:** Learning is not complete until it is thought critically and objectively. Without critical thinking information can not be framed to build knowledge. (Information \square Knowledge \square Wisdom)
- **Learning Focused and framed writing:** As you have to be more formal and bound to some framework or style in AW. It enables you to deliver the best in the required style/template/framework (as per the requirement of thesis/articles etc).
- **Fulfilling the mandatory requirement:** In the PG dissertations and Ph D thesis, papers are mandatory requirement for submission.

For researchers

If you are a researcher, publication is very vital and indispensable for you. Let see, why it is important.

- **Getting your work evaluated for free:** Can you get your research work evaluated with peers without any cost of time and money? Just write a paper communicate to a good journal. Even if your paper is rejected you will get the vital inputs, comments and suggestions from the experts FOR FREE. Moreover, you will find that many a times even your supervisor can't give these vital suggestions.
- **Fulfilling the mandatory requirement of publications with Ph D thesis:** Almost in all institutions published articles out of the work are to be submitted for getting the permission to submit Ph D thesis.

- **Sharing the research output with national and international researchers:** you publish your work in reputed journals and by this you present your work (in the form of research or review articles etc.) globally.
- **Getting recognition/ international approval for your work:** When you publish a paper, it is evident that it has gone through the rigorous peer-review process from the experts of the field. So it is itself recognition as well as the international approval of your work.
- **Giving weight to your CV and getting weightage in the academic and research jobs:** publications are the heart of a researcher's CV. This gives an immediate impression of your proficiency in research. Author metric like h index, total citations etc gives direct message to the world how effective a researcher you are.... We will discuss these in next week's chapters.
- **Planning future research:** AW lays a foundation for future work. When you plan, design and draft a manuscript at that time only you will find that this this point are to be kept in mind in future while doing the experiments. Alternatively, you will be able to chalk out the next level of work for further stage of your research.
- **Getting project grants:** Only when you have the prior publications on the field of your project proposal you have the chances to get the grants from funding agencies.

For Institutions

- **As Performance indicator of Institutions:** Many well known agencies do the survey and use number of publications and citations to measure performance for their ranking. Times higher education world university ranking (www.thewur.com) ranks global institutions on the basis of several factors including total number of publications by the institutes. In national level, India has a similar ranking of institutions through the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). (<https://www.nirfindia.org/2018/Ranking2018.html>). All institutes showcase their total number of publications on their website's homepage to show their excellence in research.
- **For getting the funds from funding agencies:** After patents and technology development, almost all the institutes give prime importance to AW. The one who performs well gets more funds from government agencies or has better chances to get funds.

- Attracting Prospective students, Researchers and foreign collaborations
- Publications of an institute are the marker of its reliability as state of art research institute. This helps to attract prospective students, researchers and foreign collaborators. The collaborations further take the research to the next level and give recognition globally.
- Building goodwill and prestige: Directly or indirectly, it also builds goodwill of the institute in the academic, society and market. This helps in attracting more campus placement of students.

Challenges

We have discussed a lot about the importance and positive side of the publications. Nevertheless, let us have a look on the challenges or other side of the coin. Knowingly or unknowingly, many authors or researchers are indulged in unethical publication practices. Ghostwriting, publishing in substandard journals, contract writing, falsification, fabrication, plagiarism, paid publication etc. are some of the unethical practices which must be avoided to preserve academic integrity. The focus of publications must be on quality and not quantity. In the Indian context, the flood of TDH (Tom Dick and Harry) journals has also affected the credibility of Indian research globally. To get more and more score in Academic performance indicators, many researchers are just publishing for numbers.

Please remember the trend has come that many states of art institutes and Universities just ask for the papers published in SCI-indexed journals. Then all your efforts and money to publish your papers and to have a long list of papers in those TDH journals will go all in vain.

We must not fall in the trap of these TDH journals just to increase the numbers. Publishing in these substandard journals may be disgraceful for authors and their institutes.

Suggested Readings

- <https://www.nirfindia.org/2018/Ranking2018.html>
- <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/>
- The best universities in the world 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GNVbF140F8>
- The Handbook of Academic Writing: A Fresh Approach By Rowena Murray; Sarah Moore Open University Press, 2006

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