

The Craft of Scientific Writing

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Kimmelman 361

The editorial process:
a look behind the scenes

Stage 0: manuscript preparation

- ◆ Manuscript sometimes formatted using a journal template (Word .dot or .dotx file) or L^AT_EX style file
 - ◆ Caveat: a Word template (.dot or .dotx) is *not* meant to be typed in and saved as a document. Save in your Templates folder; then start “New document” (.doc or .docx) using template.
- ◆ Bibliography needs to be formatted in specific style
 - ◆ Many authors use special software (EndNote, BibT_EX, Mendeley)
 - ◆ Others prefer to format by hand, retaining the ability to include comments in references (“For more details on [issue], see: ...”) and to group related references under a single reference number
- ◆ Reference numbering:
 - ◆ once done by hand. Major headache if revisions are required
 - ◆ L^AT_EX has had native automatic reference numbering since 1984 (`\cite{label}` paired with `\bibitem{label}`). For reference library management, companion program BibT_EX
 - ◆ Word has something like this, “Insert Footnote/Endnote” coupled with “Insert cross-reference...”
 - ◆ Make sure to do “Select All” then “Update fields” before saving or printing if you added or moved any references, just to be safe – otherwise cross-references sometimes not updated.
 - ◆ Reference management software like EndNote, Papers, or Mendeley can take care of this automatically.

Author ordering

- ◆ In some other fields (e.g., many physics journals): usual convention is alphabetical by last name
- ◆ In most chemistry journals:
 - ◆ First author: who did most of the work and (ideally) wrote the first draft of the manuscript
 - ◆ Second author: sometimes marked as “equally contributing first author” (especially if paper is a collaboration between, say, a theoretical and an experimental group, or a medicinal chemist and an oncologist)
 - ◆ Last author: by convention, the most senior researcher
 - ◆ Corresponding author: usually same as last author
 - ◆ If another – or more than one – author, indicated by asterisks next to their respective names in most chemistry journals

Author ordering (2)

- ◆ Two recent (related) innovations: an increasing number of journals now require one or both of the following
 - ◆ a brief “Authorship contributions” statement in the paper itself.
 - ◆ that either (a) require all authors to confirm in writing that they approve the submitted manuscript; or (b) [e.g., JACS] when the manuscript is submitted, give any author 48 hours to object.
- ◆ Addresses problems of:
 - ◆ “reputation hijacking” by adding very senior people as co-authors without their knowledge
 - ◆ of papers being submitted against the will of collaborators (e.g., because of a fundamental disagreement)
 - ◆ senior authors being on the hook for sloppiness or outright fraud in manuscripts they never saw nor approved
 - ◆ Minor problem: *courtesy/droit de signer* [sic] co-authorship. Statement ensures that everybody contributed at least something to the manuscript.

Types of papers

- ◆ Article: ordinary, full-length, research communication
- ◆ Note: short article
- ◆ (Rapid) Communication: short article presenting time-critical findings, submitted for accelerated publ. track
 - ◆ More thorough discussion in future full paper
 - ◆ Some (not all) journals allow re-publication of data from comm.
- ◆ Comment: on previously published paper in same journal. Generally of three types:
 - ◆ Criticism
 - ◆ Presentation of research findings that buttress the original paper's conclusions
 - ◆ Discussion of implications not pointed out in original paper
- ◆ Reply to comment
- ◆ Erratum
- ◆ Review: usually by invitation only
 - ◆ Minireview: usually of author's own work
 - ◆ Major review: comprehensive, objective overview of literature on specific topics
 - ◆ Invitations to review-only journal may be "solicited" by submitting a detailed proposal and outline to the editor

Stage 1: manuscript submission

- ◆ All major journals now use electronic submission portals (Manuscript Central, ScholarOne,...)
 - ◆ Virtually all others often will accept PDFs by Email
 - ◆ If still require 3 hardcopies: send them an MP3 of the “Jurassic Park” theme with my greetings <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHalXjs0cDA>
- ◆ Basic requirements still have not changed
 - ◆ Manuscript itself (PDF, sometimes Word or LaTeX can be autoconverted to PDF), properly prepared
 - ◆ Cover letter of some sort
 - ◆ Supporting information (usually: raw data of little interest to readers but essential for anybody trying to reproduce your work)
 - ◆ Review-only material: e.g., preprint of still unpublished paper that is heavily relied upon in the MS
- ◆ Innovation of the digital age: electronic supporting information, including “rich content” (multimedia files such as animations, source code and sample input files for programs, molecular visualizations)

Cover letter (1)

- ◆ At it most basic, something like:
 - ◆ Dear Professor Slowcoach://Please find enclosed an original manuscript entitled://“The effect of lettuce quality on motion speed of *Testudo Graeca Terrestris*”//by A. Einstein, B. Zweistein, C. Dreistein, and D. Vierstein//which we would like to submit for publication [as an article/letter/note/... if applicable] in the Journal of Chelonian Transportation.//Looking forward to your opinion, I remain,//Yours faithfully,// B. Zweistein”
- ◆ If editor known to author on first-name basis, “Dear Harriet:” and “Best regards,” are fine

Harriet Slowcoach (1830-2006)



Cover letter (2): specific clauses

- ◆ In high-profile discipline-wide journals (JACS, Angewandte Chemie) and *especially* in SCIENCE or NATURE, a statement outlining the novelty in the research findings presented, and arguing why the paper deserves publication there
 - ◆ In journals with accelerated/higher-profile “Communications” sections, a statement outlining both why the research is important enough to be published there, and why it is time-critical enough to warrant accelerated publication
 - ◆ **note:** such sections usually have strict length limitations
- ◆ In discipline-wide journals, optionally a sentence which Section (or Associate Editor) the paper is intended for (especially if not obvious from subject matter)
- ◆ If paper submitted in answer to invitation or “call for papers” of a thematic issue, *festschrift* (=special issue honoring somebody), or memorial issue, this should be pointed out in the cover letter. (Such issues often have *ad hoc* editors who sometimes handle submissions themselves, but usually require submission through the regular route.)
- ◆ An increasing number of journals suggest (or, indeed, require) that you supply names and coordinates of three possible reviewers

What happens next?

- ◆ Manuscript arrives on editorial secretary's (virtual) desk
- ◆ (S)he verifies that all the files are readable/printable, all the required materials are included, etc.
 - ◆ Some journals: checks reference list for references to unpublished work, insists on review copy of same
 - ◆ Fairly rarely: checks whether references are in format acceptable to the journal (more commonly done when “pre-flighting” nearly accepted manuscript)
 - ◆ Increasingly: manuscript is run through a plagiarism detection system (iThenticate CrossCheck™)
- ◆ Then assigns a manuscript number for review (in older days: would start a file for the correspondence) and transfers manuscript to the Editor-in-chief

Editor in chief (1):

- ◆ Increasingly: weeds out obvious junk manuscripts (e.g., some crank arguing he's found a way to construct a *perpetuum mobile*, or who dedicates a 35-page essay to why some recent paper should have cited his unpublished manuscript from 40 years ago)
- ◆ For manuscripts that may be sound science but are clearly outside the scope of the journal, returns to author with polite note suggesting one or several more suitable journals
- ◆ If your paper survives this initial screening, what next?

Editor in chief:

- ◆ In SCIENCE or NATURE, will send paper to a member of the editorial board for pre-reviewing as to its importance
 - ◆ If not deemed sufficiently important or innovative, returned to author with a “Dear John” letter
 - ◆ Otherwise, sent out to several reviewers for in-depth reviewing
- ◆ In discipline-wide journals (e.g., JACS), will forward to most appropriate associate editor (usually, somebody working in the same broad specialty as the authors)
- ◆ In more specialized journals, will generally administer reviewing process him/herself

Reviewers

- ◆ Almost all (associate) journal editors keep a file of potential reviewers
 - ◆ Often built up of previous authors for the journal
 - ◆ Other policies vary:
 - ◆ Some journals prefer very senior academics
 - ◆ Advantage: expertise
 - ◆ Disadvantage: lack of time to review in-depth
 - ◆ May delegate reviewing to a student or postdoc
 - ◆ Advantage: they need the practice
 - ◆ Disadvantage: defeats the editor's purpose
 - ◆ Other journals prefer up-and-coming people
 - ◆ Who still have time to devote to detailed reviewing
 - ◆ But may, through lack of experience, get caught up in minutiae
 - ◆ Other methods:
 - ◆ Look at reference list, pick somebody who is repeatedly cited
 - ◆ If journal requests referee suggestions, often pick one reviewer from list and another from journal files

(Intermediate step)

- ◆ Increasingly: editorial secretary first Emails prospective reviewer asking if (s)he is willing to review such-and-such a paper by so-and-so (often includes abstract for perusal)
- ◆ Reviewer may decline for number of reasons
 - ◆ Too busy
 - ◆ Conflict of interest (competitor, former advisor, former student, relative,...)
 - ◆ Outside field of expertise
- ◆ If reviewer accepts, either:
 - ◆ Emailed manuscript and reviewing instructions
 - ◆ Sent URL and password for web access to manuscript and reviewing form

Special cases

- ◆ Errata: generally not reviewed. Editor may return for “data compression” if patently unreasonable
- ◆ Comments: generally sent to the corresponding author of the paper being commented on
- ◆ Replies to comments: generally sent back to author of comment (may cause several iterations), except in extreme cases such as the following one

THE JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS: The First 50 Years

J. W. Stout

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60637

Gives this nice example of a comment (and of a catastrophic failure of the peer review process):

In 1971 a Note (6) was published proposing an atomic orbital that combined the usual analytical hydrogen atom orbital with a Gaussian. The author had tested this orbital on the hydrogen atom itself, and his computer program, using the variation method, arrived at a ground state energy slightly above the well-known exact value and a ground state function with a nonzero Gaussian admixture. Everyone who has taught an introductory course in quantum mechanics is aware that the variation method applied to a function that contains the exact function as a component will result in the exact function and its corresponding energy value. It was apparent that neither the referee, an eminent expert in molecular orbital calculations, nor the editor had read the Note. At the lunch table in the faculty club I received sarcastic remarks on the decline of the *JCP* and the Comments began to come in. In this case I was successful in persuading the critics to prepare a single joint Comment with five authors, which was published (7) in the 15 January 1972 issue.

6. Rouse, R. A. 1971. *J. Chem. Phys.* 54: 4135–36

7. Goodfriend, P. L., Brownstein, K. R., Katriel, J., Adam, G., Power, J. D. 1972. *J. Chem. Phys.* 56: 1016–17

Reviewer form

- ◆ Generally contains several of the following fields:
 - ◆ Overall recommendation: variations on following choices
 - ◆ Publish as is, or with minor editorial revisions
 - ◆ Publishable subject to certain revisions
 - ◆ Potentially publishable, but must be re-reviewed after substantial revision
 - ◆ Potentially publishable, but more suitable for another journal:

 - ◆ Reject
 - ◆ In many journals, grades (1-10 or “Bottom 25%/Middle 50%/Top 25%/Top 10%”) for criteria such as
 - ◆ Originality
 - ◆ Scientific quality
 - ◆ Language
 - ◆ ...
- ◆ Detailed comments for author viewing (mandatory)
- ◆ Comments for editor’s eyes only (optional)

Specific to JACS (Journal of the American Chemical Society)

- ◆ [In one wording or another:] “Suitable for publication, but in a more specialized ACS journal: ”
 - ◆ Inorganic Chemistry
 - ◆ JOC (Journal of Organic Chemistry)
 - ◆ Organometallics
 - ◆ Journal of Physical Chemistry A/B/C
 - ◆ Langmuir
 - ◆ ...
- ◆ Editor may then offer author to forward manuscript and referee reports to said journal
 - ◆ Acceptance then usually quite rapid

What happens when reviewers disagree

- ◆ Usually reviewers basically agree about suitability (or lack thereof) of the paper
- ◆ Sometimes, papers come back with one very positive and one very negative report
- ◆ Editor may then do one of the following:
 - ◆ Send out for additional referee report, and go with majority recommendation
 - ◆ Send manuscript *with reports and all* to a member of the editorial board for adjudication
 - ◆ Use a frequent, trusted reviewer for the same purpose
 - ◆ Review the paper himself

What happens when reviewers decline or tarry?

- ◆ Decline: seek additional reviewers
- ◆ Accept, but do not submit on time
 - ◆ Editor handling manuscript sends reminders, polite at first, progressively more firm later
- ◆ Two reviewers sometimes not sufficient for interdisciplinary work
- ◆ Three reviewers standard for JACS

Referee reports returned to author

- ◆ Reports are “anonymized” by editor if necessary
 - ◆ True “double-blind reviewing” (where reviewer does not know identity of authors) unfeasible in practice
- ◆ Usually letter one of:
 - ◆ **Rejection:** We are sorry to inform...
 - ◆ **More specialized journal:** offer to forward referee reports
 - ◆ **Major revision:** Please submit a revised manuscript accompanied by a cover letter detailing all changes made in response to referee comments, or explaining why a particular change was not made
 - ◆ **Minor revision:** here changes are often optional
 - ◆ **Acceptance in present form**

Content of referee reports

- ◆ A good referee report, IMHO, is one that makes the revised manuscript a better paper
 - ◆ Generally tips for additional experiments/ calculations, substantial presentation suggestions,...
 - ◆ Yours truly has been fortunate to get some of these
 - ◆ Praise for author: flattering but of limited use otherwise
 - ◆ Corrections for subtle points of spelling and grammar, or typos in references: if correct, will save you headaches at proof stage
 - ◆ Very common: pointing out overlooked literature references (often by reviewer or a close associate)
 - ◆ “self-serving arguments are not *ipso facto* illegitimate”
 - ◆ Substantial criticism on the science (beyond purvey of this course, unless caused by misunderstanding)
 - ◆ Suggestions for additional work/investigations
 - ◆ May or may not be worthwhile if enough material for another paper
 - ◆ Concerns about “salami publication”
 - ◆ Or the opposite: request that a long paper be split in two
 - ◆ Requirements/suggestions for shortening the paper
 - ◆ Sheer, unadulterated whining (קוטר)

What (not) to do in response to a referee report

- ◆ **Don't:** Accuse reviewer of bias, bigotry, competitor sabotage, excessive concern with being cited, ...
 - ◆ If you have substantial reason to believe this may be involved (and yes, such things *do* happen, even though they are rare in the natural sciences), take up issue with editor, but *be diplomatic*.
- ◆ **Don't:** Claim to have made all changes required in the cover letter to the revised MS, yet quietly ignoring them
 - ◆ This may land you on an editorial “graylist” of authors whose papers get singled out for special treatment

(continued)

- ◆ **Do:** if changes are reasonable and feasible, just make them, document them in your cover letter, and don't kvetch about it
- ◆ **Do:** if a referee requests things that are demonstrably incorrect, rebut politely and factually in cover letter, citing authoritative sources if possible
- ◆ **Do:** if a referee requests additional experiments/ calculations that would take months and either not materially add to the paper, or (at the other extreme) be worthy of a paper in their own right, explain politely to editor why you refrained from doing them or are deferring them to a future publication
 - ◆ Ditto when would require resources that you just don't have available
- ◆ **Optional:** if a referee makes a particularly helpful suggestion, add a short sentence to the paper acknowledging this.
 - ◆ Some journal editors, however, strongly feel that one should not acknowledge anonymous referees

Other useful tips

- ◆ When changes in a revised manuscript are numerous and distributed (as opposed to, say, addition of a new section or table), send the editor a PDF with the affected passages highlighted or redlined (=marked with a vertical line in the left margin).
 - ◆ Word “Track changes”; there are utilities for LaTeX
 - ◆ This saves him/her time, and you possibly you another iteration of the manuscript
 - ◆ That’s what the “review-only material” upload button is useful for
- ◆ When editor demands significant shortening, nonessential (but still useful) tables etc. can be relegated to electronic supporting information
 - ◆ In Internet age almost as accessible as the paper itself (often with single click from HTML version)

Upon acceptance

- ◆ Editor sends you acceptance letter
- ◆ Manuscript in source form (Word or L^AT_EX, not PDF) is forwarded to the publisher
 - ◆ Some publishers (e.g., American Institute of Physics) require that you upload final version of manuscript to their servers. Sometimes occasion to catch typos etc.
- ◆ You may be requested to transfer copyright at this stage, if you have not already done so
 - ◆ If a review article including figures from other published papers, copyright permission needs to be secured at this stage
 - ◆ Note: figures are complete units, so “fair use” doctrine does not necessarily cover it
 - ◆ Such permission, with appropriate citation, is generally granted almost automatically on an administrative basis

Copyright transfer to publisher

- ◆ To remove all doubt (להסיר ספק), such a transfer does *not* involve any intellectual property in the manuscript, *only* the specific manuscript [“idea-expression distinction” in intellectual property law]
- ◆ You are basically signing over to the publisher the right to publish and republish *that specific piece of writing* in print and electronic formats
- ◆ Electronic preprint policies: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>

“Just accepted” manuscripts

- ◆ Option to have the final accepted manuscript immediately (usually within 24-48h) published online “as is”, with a citable DOI
 - ◆ date of appearance online counts as “first publication date” in priority disputes
 - ◆ option introduced under pressure from authors
 - ◆ especially in journals that have restrictive e-print policies (e.g., all ACS journals)
 - ◆ typically “just accepted” manuscripts still tucked away a bit on journal home page
 - ◆ Citing/quoting anything from that: be aware of any changes introduced at proof stage
 - ◆ wouldn't be the 1st time that major data cleanups occur at proof stage
 - ◆ Publishers often add hyperlinks to cited paper: for that reason, editorial office may “preflight” your references by running them through CrossRef

Desk editor

- ◆ Prepares manuscript for typesetting
 - ◆ [In theory:] Cleans up English where necessary (*vide infra*)
 - ◆ Applies any formatting markup required by journal's "house style"
 - ◆ Gives additional instructions to typesetter as required
- ◆ **Caveat:** is usually an English major with little, if any, ability to understand the science (s)he is editing
 - ◆ May "correct" sloppily written sentences...
 - ◆ ... and in the process, change the meaning to something subtly or radically different from what you originally intended
 - ◆ Best medicine=prevention: write as well as you can, so no heavy editing required in the 1st place
- ◆ However, can usually be relied upon for minutiae like hyphenation, - vs. - vs. —, italicizing foreign-language phrases (*in vitro*, *ab initio*, *force majeure*, ...), and the like
- ◆ Will normally attach "author queries" to page proofs for any issues that require author input
 - ◆ This nowadays includes references not found in CrossRef query, and thus presumed to have typos in them

DOI (*Digital Object Identifier*)

- ◆ “Citation” of the Internet age
 - ◆ Perpetual weblink that is immune to “link rot”
- ◆ Weblink maintained in central repository (<http://dx.doi.org>) kept up-to-date by publishers
 - ◆ “dx” stands for digital exchange
- ◆ Example DOI: 10.1021/ja050613h
 - ◆ 10.1021 is the publisher code (in this case, ACS)
 - ◆ ja050613h is the article code
 - ◆ <http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/ja050613h> will get automatically redirected to whatever the current location is of paper 10.1021/ja050613h
 - ◆ Conventional reference: *Journal of the American Chemical Society* 127, 9322-9323 (2005)
- ◆ DOIs usually listed on 1st page of online papers
- ◆ Database mapping conventional references to DOIs maintained at <http://www.crossref.org>
- ◆ User querying possible: <http://www.crossref.org/freeTextQuery/>

Publishers:

- ◆ Can bulk-query the crossref.org database with the reference list of your paper
- ◆ Gives them batch of DOIs to add as hyperlinks
- ◆ Typos in references cause failed lookup: generally author requested to correct in author query
 - ◆ Side effect: data in Web of Science/Science Citation Index much more accurate for recent additions

Typesetting:

- ◆ Generally *not* done with word processors but with specialized typesetting systems
 - ◆ Word processor philosophy: WYSIWIG (what you see is what you get)
 - ◆ Markup language philosophy: WYSIWYM (what you see is what you mean)
 - ◆ Operator indicates *logical* features (heading level, emphasis, cross-references,...), not actual formatting
 - ◆ Translation of such markup into formatting is imposed by “style file” that ensures uniformity across the journal
 - ◆ Examples of markup languages: HTML (language of the web), L^AT_EX, SGML/XML, ...
 - ◆ Word does have “structured editing” capability, in practice users too undisciplined
 - ◆ Typesetting systems also capable of things not routinely done by word processors (e.g., true kerning)

A note on figures

- ◆ If at all possible: submit in scalable format (“vector graphics”)
 - ◆ Examples: ChemDraw, .eps, .pdf,...
- ◆ If source graphic is fixed resolution
 - ◆ Use lossless formats if at all possible (TIFF preferred, otherwise GIF, PNG)
 - ◆ Use resolution and size big enough that resolution at final journal size will be at least 300dpi, preferably 600dpi or better
 - ◆ If you *have* to use lossy formats (JPEG), make sure resolution and quality high enough to allow resampling

Page proof

- ◆ In old days of mechanical typesetting: 1st stage was “galley proof” in which columns were typeset for correction, followed by “page proof” after 1st round of corrections
- ◆ Nowadays separate galley proof redundant
- ◆ Proof generally Emailed as PDF or offered for download to corresponding author

Correcting “dead tree” proofs

Proofreaders' Marks

OPERATIONAL SIGNS



Delete



Close up; delete space



Delete and close up (use only when deleting letters *within* a word)



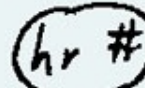
Let it stand



Insert space



Make space between words equal; make space between lines equal



Insert hair space



Letterspace



Begin new paragraph



Indent type one em from left or right

TYPOGRAPHICAL SIGNS



Set in italic type



Set in roman type



Set in boldface type



Set in lowercase



Set in capital letters



Set in small capitals



Wrong font; set in correct type



Check type image; remove blemish



Insert here *or* make superscript



Insert here *or* make subscript

Correcting “dead tree” proofs (2)

] Move right

[Move left

] [Center

⌒ Move up

⌒ Move down

(fl) Flush left

(fr) Flush right

== Straigten type; align horizontally

|| Align vertically

(t) Transpose

(sp) Spell out

PUNCTUATION MARKS

↵ Insert comma

‘ ’ Insert apostrophe or single quotation mark

“ ” Insert quotation marks

⊙ Insert period

(set) ? Insert question mark

; | Insert semicolon

↕ or : | Insert colon

= Insert hyphen

— Insert em dash

- Insert en dash

{ | } or (|) Insert parentheses

Correcting PDF proofs

- ◆ Journal publishers beginning to start supporting PDF annotation for proof correction
 - ◆ Technology not quite ready for prime time
 - ◆ Requires paid license of full Adobe Acrobat product (not just freeware reader)
- ◆ Most common nowadays: line numbering in margins, and Email forms for submitting corrections. Examples:
 - ◆ Line 923, “kumurshul” should read “commercial”
 - ◆ Line 647: “in vitro” should be italicized
 - ◆ Line 747: “a-helix” should read “alpha-helix” (Greek letter alpha)
 - ◆ Table 3, 5th entry (beginning with “C₂H₆”), column 4: “8.43” should read “8.34”

Some words of wisdom on proof correction

- ◆ The cleaner your final MS, the less headaches at proof stage
- ◆ Be as specific as possible in specifying corrections. Murphy's Law of Reading Comprehension: "Anything that can be misunderstood *will* be misunderstood in the most annoying way possible."
- ◆ Spell out all special characters, formatting: assume corrections have to be sent as plain text
- ◆ Pick your battles: incorrect data, garbled tables, or "corrections" that twist your words are essentials, while spelling or formatting changes to conform to journal "house style" are particulars, and usually not particularly negotiable
- ◆ In theory, author changes at proof stage incur fees; in practice, all journals tolerate minor changes (which are inevitable in any case)
- ◆ If there are things that happened since the paper got accepted (additional data, very relevant papers that came out,...) that you feel you should share with the readership:
 - ◆ That's what a "Note added in proof" is for
- ◆ If changes extensive, request a 2nd proof, and turn it around on the spot

EarlyView, ACS ASAP, etc.

- ◆ Manuscript with proof corrections typically online in 48-72 hours or less
- ◆ Usually only difference with “final” published version are volume and page numbers
 - ◆ EarlyView and ASAP (As Soon As Publishable [sic]) dates almost universally accepted as “first publication dates” in priority disputes where “Just Accepted Manuscript Online” is not
 - ◆ No further corrections possible without erratum
- ◆ Increasingly, public science funding organizations insist that any paper reporting research funded by taxpayer money must be publicly accessible to all
 - ◆ Most major publishers comply by making accepted manuscript available via PubMed within 12 months of publication

Repository mandates

- ◆ Increasingly, public science funding organizations insist that any paper reporting research funded by taxpayer money must be publicly accessible to all
 - ◆ Most major publishers comply by making accepted manuscript available via PubMed within 12 months of publication
 - ◆ ERC (European Research Council) has even more stringent mandate (6 months)
- ◆ Options for compliance if PubMed after 12 months not sufficient:
 - ◆ deposit on public preprint server such as [arXiv.org](https://arxiv.org) (if journal is RoMEO Green)
 - ◆ publish in open access journal (cost, reputation)
 - ◆ publish in conventional journal with "Author Select Open Access" option, pay fee (\$1,500-\$3,000, no reputation issue)

Predatory Open Access Publishers

- ◆ Jeffrey Beall's list: <http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>
- ◆ Criteria for inclusion: <http://scholarlyoa.com/2012/11/30/criteria-for-determining-predatory-open-access-publishers-2nd-edition/>
- ◆ Some typical behaviors:
 - ◆ Aggressively soliciting articles and/or service on editorial boards by spam emails
 - ◆ Listing academics as editorial board members without permission or even knowledge. At other extreme, listing nonexistent academics as editors
 - ◆ Little or no quality control, up to and including accepting computer-generated nonsense articles
 - ◆ Informing authors of OA publishing fees only after acceptance
 - ◆ Publisher impossible to locate: may list dummy address in New York but operate from 3rd World countries
 - ◆ Imitate name and style of genuine, established journals ("reputation hijacking")
 - ◆ Bogus impact factors
 - ◆ Caveat author/Caveat scriptor [author/writer beware!!]

Bogus Journal Accepts Profanity-Laced Anti-Spam Paper

International Journal of Advanced Computer Technology
(IJACT)

ISSN:2319-7900
Home

Paper Submission

The *International Journal of Advanced Computer Technology* has accepted for publication a manuscript that was first written in 2005 to protest spam conference invitations. The paper contains the F-word throughout the manuscript²

International Journal of Advanced Computer Technology (Online)



<http://www.ijact.org>

Email: editor@ijact.org, submit_ijact@yahoo.in

...

TITLE: Get me off Your F ... ing Mailing List

International Journal of Advanced Computer Technology (Online)



<http://www.ijact.org>

Email: editor@ijact.org, submit_ijact@yahoo.in

REVIEW FORM

Paper ID	IJ0350030
Paper Title	Get me off Your F ... ing Mailing List

NOTE: 1. Excellent 2. Very Good 3. Good 4. Fair 5. Very Poor

1. Appropriateness to
publish in IJACT

Option: