

# How to Write Quality Journal Paper & Getting it Published?



## Presented By

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# What is 'Quality' (Journal)?

- The term 'Quality' is often relative
  - For example:
    - **Muslim:** Who states shahadah by heart and mouth, and does the minimum Islamic duties (in short: all the Fard duties)
    - **Mu'min:** A Muslim with eemaan. This person does some extra things like tahajjud, nawafil prayers, nawafil fasting etc.
    - **Muhsin:** A Mu'min with Ihsan. This is the highest level when the person has a constant consciousness of Allah for each of his actions (elite group)
- Almost same rule applies in case of Journals!!



# How to Measure Quality?

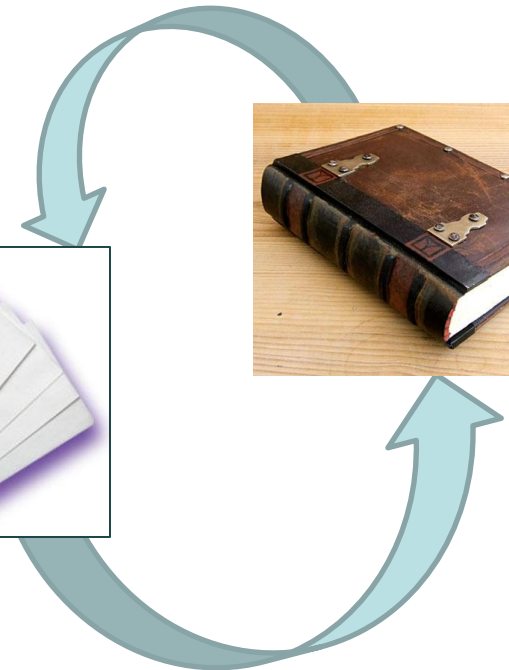
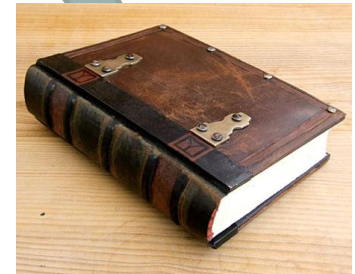
- So, we see the quality varies and the categories come out from that
- What about overall quality of Muslims over other people who are not Muslims? Quality good? How? When? How do you define or measure?
  - We have a standard: ‘Qur’an and Sunnah’!
  - Anybody fulfilling the criteria of good quality Muslim becomes a ‘good-quality Muslim’, possibly higher ...
- Same rule applies here even for journals! We need a standard body/agent/institution/authority



# Quality Measuring Angles

- Let's go into the original topic ...
- Two ways to see the quality of a journal paper:
  - From Paper's Angle?
    - Good quality paper
      - In a GOOD journal
      - In a BAD journal
    - Bad quality paper
      - In a GOOD journal
      - In a BAD journal
  - From Journal's Angle?
    - Good journal publishes bad quality paper
    - Bad journal publishes good quality paper

**Confusing?**





# More Questions on Quality

- Can quality vary?
- Who decides what is quality journal?
- What is the standard for paper?
- What is the standard for journal?
  
- For journal case: Quality may be ..
  - audience dependent
  - time dependent
  - place dependant ...
  - **The standard body may even shift its stance on a journal or publication !**



# The Quality of a Journal

- Currently we consider '**Thomson Reuters**' as the most reliable STANDARD Body .. Others are also available however may not be credible ...
- For **Science Citation Index (SCI)** journals:
  - <http://science.thomsonreuters.com/cgi-bin/jrnlst/jloptions.cgi?PC=K>
- For **Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCIE)** journals:
  - <http://science.thomsonreuters.com/cgi-bin/jrnlst/jloptions.cgi?PC=D>
- What is the difference between SCI and SCIE?



# Thomson's JCR?

- Journal Citation Reports® (JCR®) offers a systematic, objective means to critically evaluate the world's leading journals, with quantifiable, statistical information based on citation data
  - Peer-reviewed journals
- By compiling articles' cited references, JCR helps to measure research influence and impact at the journal and category levels, and shows the relationship between citing and cited journals
  - Impact? Is there any Impact factor? How to measure it?

[ Source: [http://wokinfo.com/products\\_tools/analytical/jcr/](http://wokinfo.com/products_tools/analytical/jcr/) ]



# Impact Factor (IF)

- The Impact Factor (IF), often abbreviated IF, is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to articles published in science and social science journals
  - *The impact factor was devised by Eugene Garfield, the founder of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), now part of Thomson Reuters*
- Journals with higher impact factors deemed to be more important than those with lower ones
- Impact factors are calculated yearly for those journals that are indexed in Thomson Reuter's *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) .. Well !, two-year IF, five-year IF ....





# Calculating IF

- In a given year, the impact factor of a journal is the average number of citations received per paper published in that journal during the two preceding years
- For example, if a journal has an impact factor of 3 in 2010, then its papers published in 2008 and 2009 received 3 citations each on average
  - **Manipulation, misuse .. POSSIBLE ?**
  - **Is it actually right? Or, reflecting the 'True Quality'?**

[ Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact\\_factor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_factor) ]



# Is that it? .. Finished?

- Have we reached a decision to measure quality journal?
  - **NOPE!**
- A journal may be a new one .. Newly launched!
- A journal may not have completed the period of time so that its impact could be measured by checking the number of citations of its published papers!
- A journal may not have been recommended for Thomson's indexing .. **Yes, someone needs to put it forward for consideration!! (Well! In most of the cases ..)**



# Does Quality Depend on Choice?

- So, your paper still could be a quality paper but you may choose a below standard journal to publish it
  - by mistake or
  - may be you want to publish it quickly that an SCI/SCIE indexed journal may not be able to do ...
- Other factors ..
  - Supervisor's choice
  - Hidden agenda
  - Less courageous / failing to measure the level of your own work
  - Add more ...
- Yes, it has happened that many good works got rejected but later became something revolutionary



# Einstein's Story

- Einstein's indignant reply to the editor is amusing to modern scientific sensibilities, and suggests someone quite unfamiliar with peer review:
- 

*Dear Sir,*

*We (Mr. Rosen and I) had sent you our manuscript for publication and had not authorized you to show it to specialists before it is printed. I see no reason to address the in any case erroneous comments of your anonymous expert. On the basis of this incident I prefer to publish the paper elsewhere.*

*Respectfully,*

*P.S. Mr. Rosen, who has left for the Soviet Union, has authorized me to represent him in this matter.*



# Types of Works/Writings

- 1. Get something, find flaw, correct it, and then go for enhancement
  - Incremental research
- 2. Get idea from paper A, another from paper B, ... combine them, make a paper!
- 3. Come up with a solution to a problem that nobody thought of ... some revolutionary way
- **Which one is the easiest?**
  - Easiest is not the best for being a Quality Journal Paper!



# The Questions You Must Answer

- What is the topic?
- Do you have any problem formulation?
- Is it worthy of stirring the intelligent minds?
- Have anybody touched on this issue?
- How is your work contributing something to the research community?
- Do you have any proof? Or, Just claim?
  - Claim based papers are also available!
    - Prove it 'NOT RIGHT'!!



# Writing Style for a Journal

- Writing style
  - There is no alternative to good English handling skill .... Umm ... natural? May be! Or, get help from others, if possible ...
  - Spoken English doesn't help your writing, .. Writing skill is different ...
- You want the reviewer to control your thinking?
- You want to control the thinking of the reviewer?



# Common Structure of Writing

- Introduction
- Related Works
- Your Proposal
- Proof of Efficiency/Performance Analysis/Experimental Evaluation/Logical Proof/Mathematical Proof/Arguments and Discussions
- Comparison with Similar Alternatives
- Conclusion and Future Works
  
- There is no alternative to good presentation style!





# A+, A-, A+ Style!

- **A+**
  - Well, you know this is a serious issue ...
  - We got the solution !!
- **A-**
  - Actually there are more things to think ...
  - This is what we thought ...
  - You know all things you can't solve from human perspective ..
  - We are short of knowledge ... **reality!!**
- **A+**
  - We have done so far and thinking about FUTURE(!)
  - Why not take '*this and that*' as the OPEN issue?



# The Things You Must Know

- Use the most recent works, if possible
- Use the references of famous works, if possible
- If there is a conference version and a journal version of a paper, in usual case: take JOURNAL version
  - Well, if the journal is of low quality, take the conference version!
  - There is a list of commonly agreed high visibility conferences
- Emphasize on what you have accomplished
- Why do you think this one is a novel contribution? If not novel, if there are other alternatives, have you really compared with the best or near-best one?
- Try to take idea from other field and show how it fits



# Paper From Conference

- Same version
  - If it is a ground-breaking work!
  - Greater visibility ... higher dissemination ...
- Extended and revised version
  - Usual case: at least 30% enhancement in the content
  - Some journals do not accept, especially the communications, letters, or magazine style journals(← *what is that?*)

**Conference publications greatly help Journal publications**



# Replying to the Reviewers

- Be polite in replying the comments
- Never lose your own ground in replying, accept the comment but work on reviewer's mind
- Put arguments why or why not an issue raised by the reviewer is worthy of mentioning within the work or not
- If the comment tells about something outside the scope of the work, simply mention that the issue needs a separate publication
- If you feel there is any misunderstanding, try to clarify that not insulting the reviewer's comments



# Things That you Must AVOID

- Do not put an issue that you have no knowledge on
- Never try to prove your proposal as the best unless you have valid data to support the claim, but rather be critical of your own work in some aspects
  - Without diminishing your success stories
- Do not leave any portion that needs citation, **'Not-cited' !!**
- Never show off to the reviewers once you get conditional acceptance



# Know Your Rights as an Author

- Decision is not always final
- Your strong position could also motivate the Editor-in-Chief in some cases
- Use E-publishing or give prior information on your website ...
- Accept-Reject incident (*an incident*)
  - One acceptance, one rejection ... either one of the reviewers is wrong in decision, so how can the Editor/EiC make a decision on the negative one?
    - Yes, he can .. If the topic is not directly related to the journal and the +ve reviewer could not understand it as he is not related directly with the journal
    - Journal policy is like that .. All reviewers must be positive!



# Bona fide Experts Say, We Do ..

- Do not reinvent the Wheel!



- Oh, such and such said that? Take that as FINAL ...



# Psychological Issues and Reality

- Be bold in your claim
- Rejection doesn't mean your work has no good quality!
  - Take this approach that the JOURNAL is wrong! You are right..
  - Well! You need to be patient and really you need to be inherently RIGHT about your claim!
- **Try, Try, and Try again ...**





# Final Words

This is EARTH, and here even if something is flawed, it can be regarded as a 'Quality' material !!



THANK YOU



# Questions and Answers

Any query should be directed to  
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For More Information:  
<http://staff.iium.edu.my/sakib/>