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The Right Type: Scholarly Literature

Megan Sheffield

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The Right Type: Scholarly Literature

Megan Sheffield
TODAY'S DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION OUTLINE

Why should I publish?
What should I write about?
Where should I submit?
What kind of article should I write?
Should I write alone? Should I have a coauthor?
What should I expect?
What are my rights as an author?
Every first draft is perfect because all a first draft has to do is exist.
WHY SHOULD I PUBLISH?

REASONS FOR STAFF TO PUBLISH

Scholarly publications are written by experts other experts in a given field.

This applies to practitioners as well as researchers!
BENEFITS

MORE AUTHORITATIVE
People assign more value to things they read from professional or scholarly sources than from blogs.

BETTER REPUTATION
For experts, by experts - publication signals that you are a “thought leader” and show that you are engaged with advances in your field.

SHARING IS CARING
Puts the knowledge in the permanent, searchable public record
WHAT SHOULD I WRITE ABOUT?

Simple: Write what you know about!
WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT?

LOOK FOR CFPs

Many publications and conferences will put out calls for proposals (CFPs), which are often announced via newsletters.

TARGET A JOURNAL

Pick a relevant LIS journal and see if you can write something that fits their scope. Many professional organizations have their own journals.

TARGET YOUR AUDIENCE

Writing for other practitioners? Choose a journal (or conference) that they're likely to read (or attend).

EMAIL SCAMS?

Just say no to predatory publishers! As flattering as it may be, try to ignore email solicitations.
What kind of article should I write?

There are many types of articles. Consider what you feel comfortable with, which publication venue is the best match, and what your audience will read.
HIERARCHY OF EVIDENCE
Hierarchy of Journal Publications

Refereed/Peer-Reviewed
Scholarly articles that have been screened by an author’s peers (experts who work in the same field as the author).
Example: Harvard International Review.

Scholarly/Academic
Presents in-depth, original research authored by an academic for a limited (scholarly) audience, usually documented with footnotes and/or a bibliography.
Examples: Journal of Archaeological Science, Harvard International Review.

Trade
Covers industry trends, practices, and opinions for a specific trade or business sector.
Examples: Logistics Today, Commercial Carrier Journal.

Popular
Contain short, general interest articles (usually unsigned and without references or bibliography).
Examples: People, Time, Newsweek.
What does that look like in library lit?

**BOOK/PRODUCT REVIEWS**

Look into CHOICE or another professional journal and volunteer to review new books or products.

**CASE STUDIES**

Describe a new service, workflow, or other project so that others can benefit from your knowledge. These can sometimes be “how we did it good” articles.

**RESEARCH ARTICLES**

If you collected any sort of data (including a survey or interviews), you’re well-positioned to write a research article.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Posters and presentations are often a low-stakes way to get started, if you have the means to travel.
SHOULD I WRITE SOLO?
THE CASE FOR COAUTHORS

ACCOUNTABILITY
The group follows a strict timeline. Knowing that you have a “due date” to the group keeps you motivated.

COAUTHOR CREDITS
You’ll be editing and sharing expertise and credit will be assigned accordingly.

FEWER MISTAKES
Coauthors help reduce the frequency of mistakes, from smaller typos up through methodological problems or identifying unconscious biases.

LESS WORK
Many hands make light work! Choose your partners to complement your own strengths and weaknesses.
## Proposed Group Model:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mtg. 1 Methods or Specific case</th>
<th>Megan review for</th>
<th>Maggie review for</th>
<th>Anne review for</th>
<th>Renna review for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maggie &amp; Anne</td>
<td>Anne &amp; Renna</td>
<td>Renna &amp; Megan</td>
<td>Maggie &amp; Megan</td>
<td>Renna &amp; Megan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Mtg. 2 Results or Outcome       | Anne & Renna     | Renna & Megan     | Megan & Maggie | Maggie & Anne   |

| Mtg. 3 Intro or Context         | Renna & Maggie   | Megan & Anne      | Renna & Maggie | Megan & Anne    |

| Mtg. 4 Discussion or Lessons Learned | Maggie & Anne | Anne & Renna | Renna & Megan | Maggie & Megan |

| Mtg. 5 Full paper               | Anne & Renna    | Renna & Megan   | Megan & Maggie | Maggie & Anne   |

*Intro/Context – Specific case/what you did – Outcome – Lessons Learned/Conclusions*
<table>
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<tr>
<th>WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBMISSION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is usually done online. You'll probably have to fill out a form and upload figures separately.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PEER REVIEW</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your editor will anonymize your article and send it to other experts for review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVISIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You'll get a chance to make changes based on reviewer feedback.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROOFS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You'll have to proofread the final version VERY carefully.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLICATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final publication can be anywhere from several months to a year (or more) after you write &amp; submit!</td>
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WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

WHO OWNS YOUR ARTICLE?

As library faculty and staff, it should be a priority to publish in Open Access (OA) journals. You can check the journal's website for their policy, or look it up on SHERPA/RoMEO.

GOLD OA = Article is available to all upon publication
GREEN OA = You need to upload to TigerPrints
QUESTIONS?

THANKS!