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The Right Type: Scholarly Literature

Megan Sheffield

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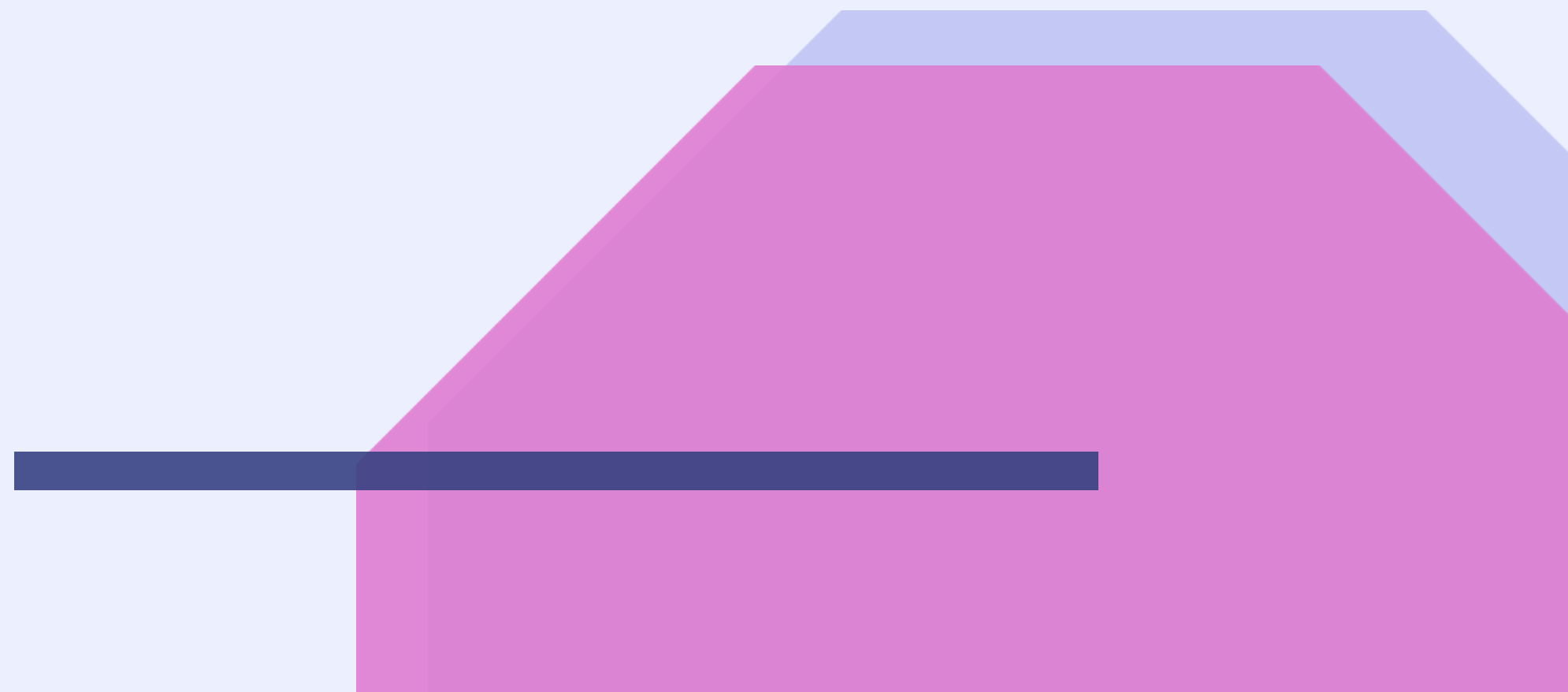
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SUMMER WORKSHOP SERIES

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?



WORDS TO PONDER

*Every first draft is perfect
because all a first draft has to
do is exist.*

JANE SMILEY



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).

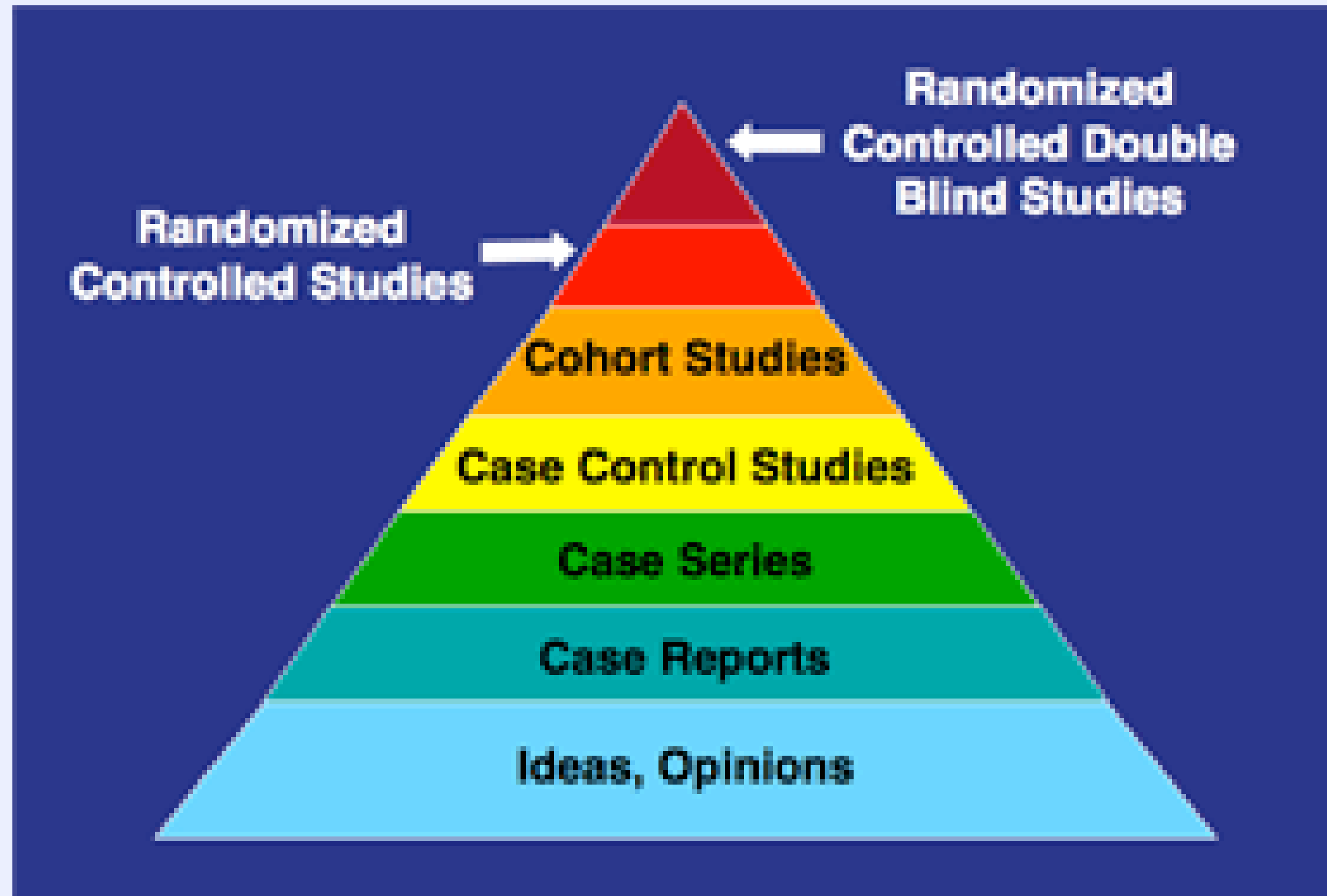
EMAIL SCAMS?

Just say no to predatory publishers! As flattering as it may be, try to ignore email solicitations.

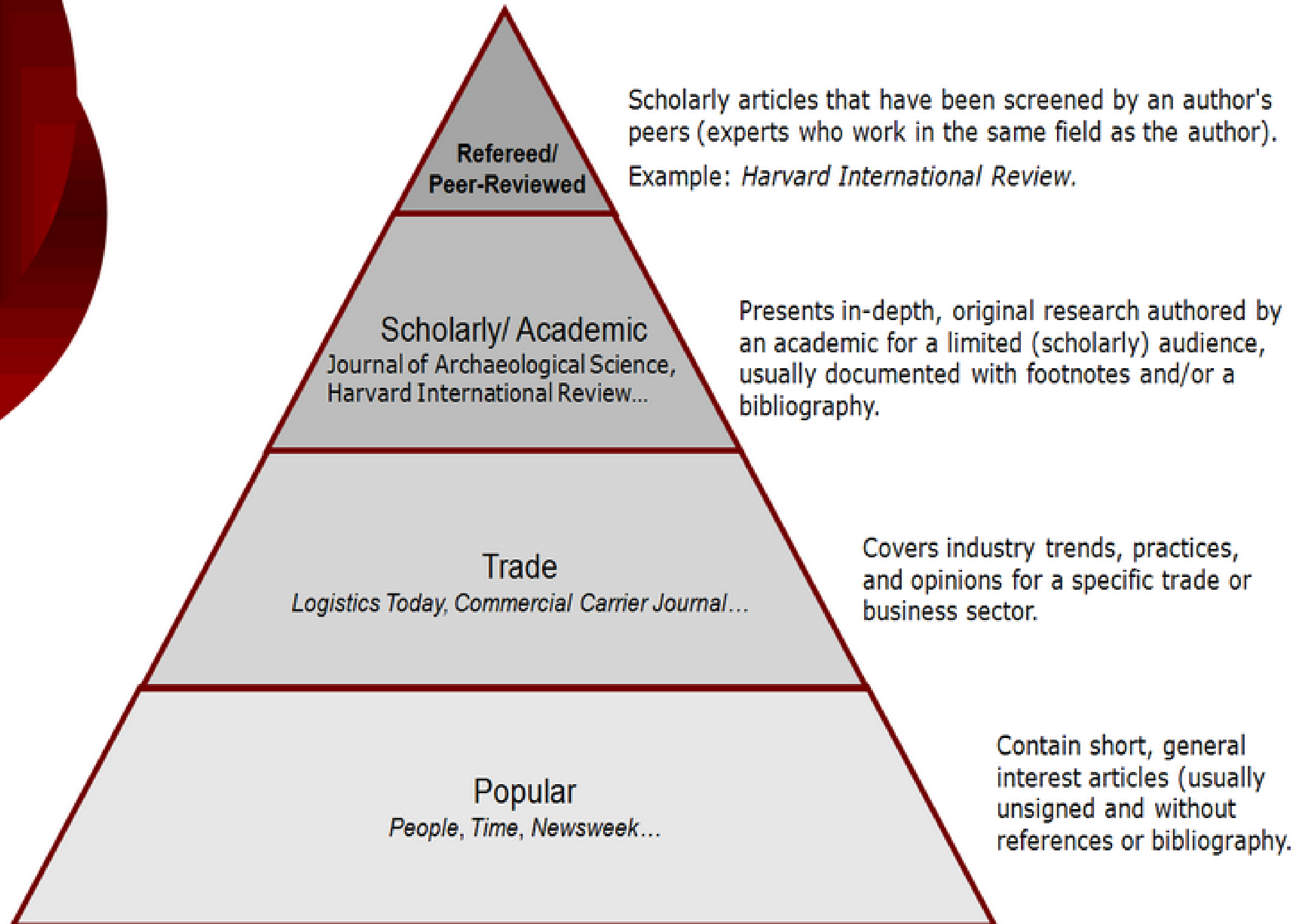
WHAT KIND OF ARTICLE SHOULD I WRITE?

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



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.

WRITING CIRCLE

Proposed Group Model:

	Megan review for	Maggie review for	Anne review for	Renna review for
Mtg. 1 Methods or Specific case	Maggie & Anne	Anne & Renna	Renna & Megan	Maggie & Megan
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

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

SUBMISSION

This is usually done online. You'll probably have to fill out a form and upload figures separately.

PEER REVIEW

Your editor will anonymize your article and send it to other experts for review.

REVISIONS

You'll get a chance to make changes based on reviewer feedback.

PROOFS

You'll have to proofread the final version VERY carefully.

PUBLICATION

Final publication can be anywhere from several months to a year (or more) after you write & submit!



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!

