



Evaluating the Significance of One's Findings and Strategy for Selecting the Appropriate International Journals

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Basic Principles (1)



- Novelty is required in articles published in reputable journals because journals are published to contribute to the body of knowledge or science.
- Knowledge or science is expected to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life. It can do so if it can help human beings predict or control events.
- Events can be predicted or controlled if research can lead to the establishment of theory defined as statements of relationship between or among factors or variables.

Basic Principles (2)

- Theories can be generated and then verified by research through different research methods.
- Articles can contribute to the body of knowledge or science if it contains novelty in the field being investigated through theory generation or theory verification.
- Novelty can be claimed by the researcher if the present progress in the field as a result of reviewing previous research findings published in reputable journals is described in the background of the study.



Until today, the function of scholarly journal has not changed much:



- **REGISTRATION:** to register new findings as theirs and made by them on certain date, so that they can assert ownership
- **DISSEMINATION:** to let their peers know what they have done or achieved, so that they receive recognition and probably collaboration
- **ARCHIVE:** to have a permanent and widely known record of their research
- **CERTIFICATION:** to get their research quality (and by implication also themselves) stamped by their peers through the reputation of the journals

By comparison elsewhere, in the past decades it has continued to become customary to publish scientific papers in reputable scholarly journals because their contents are

- evaluated and judged by relevant peer groups prior to their publication
- widely distributed, accessed, and assessed
- particularly read or perused by fellow specialists





In order to be accepted by the journal chosen—
—in other words considered worthy to be
published by their peers—it is imperative
therefore that Indonesian researchers should
assess or evaluate objectively the scientific
significance of one's findings before submitting
the paper being prepared for publication

It follows that before preparing the draft of the paper to be submitted for international publication, it is not a bad idea to study carefully once again the steps that have been taken during the execution of the study or research:

- (1) has the map of the-state-of-the-art of the problems faced being kept up-to-date?
- (2) is the formulation of the problems unique enough to make the results of the study or research interesting and challenging to fellow researchers?
- (3) is the approach or methodology which has been used considered adequate?





- 4) has all available means that support the research efforts been utilized fully so that the whole undertaking is maximum?
- 5) has the minimum requirement been met to achieve the precision and the sophistication of the modern equipment utilized?
- 6) has the suitability of all informants been verified? the apparatuses periodically standardized? the appropriateness of research questionnaire sanctioned? all data and information accumulated validated?
- 7) have all related published research results been consulted and incorporated in making broad generalization, conclusion, and new theory advanced?

Positive answers to all these queries will enhance the quality of the scientific contribution to be published, because they ensure that any generalization made, conclusion drawn, and theory advanced will not be controversial.





The evaluations on the scientific merit of one's findings for international journals can also be easily undertaken by comparing closely the overall results obtained with those already achieved and most recently published by known fellow researchers.

Such comparison will enable one to judge the strength and weakness, as well as the significance and merit of the contributions which is going to be made.



After becoming satisfied with one's own evaluation, efforts should be made to obtain objective opinions from fellow researchers. Informal discussions with close associates from the same laboratory, formal presentation in a small regular meeting, as well as appraisal from one's research supervisors should be arranged. If opportunity becomes available to read the draft to a wider audience do not hesitate to utilize it. Needless to say that all inputs, criticism, suggestions received should be utilized fully as appropriate.



Therefore if one feels that the results of the self-evaluation reveal the merit of the research findings for international consumption, it is a duty to publish them as soon as possible.



For this purpose an effort should be made to identify the most suitable journal to publish it, a periodical with the highest qualification that can be reached. In making the choice once again it is necessary to be very certain about the uniqueness of the content of the article to be contributed, especially in ascertaining the field of specialization being addressed to.

As an active researcher in any particular field of specialization, one should be fully aware on the identity of prominent experts in the field concerned, and the ranking of the journal in advancing the related science and technology.



To be considered having an international merit, a journal should

- accomodate articles written in one of the UN languages.
- contain high quality original articles which contribute significantly to the advancement of the discipline being much sought after by specialists all the world over
- be managed openly by a team of editors from all over the world, and the mechanisms of blind review by the peer group system is used in screening, selecting, and evaluating articles to be accepted for inclusion
- have contributors that come from notable institutes in many countries having experts specializing in discipline covered.



After a journal has been chosen



- study two or three latest issues or editions
- read carefully its instructions to contributing authors
- ensure that the instructions and all requirements are fully understood to their minutest details
- read carefully four or five sample articles (preferably ones closely related to topics being dealt with) and compare them closely with the instructions to authors



When the style and format of the journal have been completely understood and mastered, then one may start preparing the draft article to be submitted. In doing so, ensure that every item (title, byline, abstract, punctuations, list of references etc.) are executed wholly in line with the instructions to authors issued by the journal.



It cannot be overemphasized that in preparing the manuscript to be submitted, it is compulsory to follow the instruction to the authors very closely if one really wishes that the article be accepted by the journal.



After completing and revising the first draft, it is not a bad idea to hand it over—together with a copy of the instruction to authors—to one or two close associates to read and comment on it. Based on criticisms and suggestions received, revise the draft accordingly to prepare the final draft to be sent to the editor of the journal chosen.



After sending the draft to the appropriate address, take a rest, and wait patiently for the answer and respond from the editor(s) . . . and pray.

Upon receiving an answer, promptly respond to it accordingly.

THANK YOU

