

## **Book Review: Transitions and Tools that Support Scholars' Success by Mary Renck Jalongo and Olivia N. Saracho**

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The prime duty of an academic is to contribute to the economy of knowledge. Academics find new knowledge through research and they disseminate it through lectures and scholarly works. Researchers face a real challenge when they want to publish their work. A scholars' success solely depends on impactful publications. In accordance with this argument, the book titled '*Writing for Publication*' discusses the transitions and tools that support a scholars' success.

Chapter one of this book commence by defining who is an author. An author is anyone who is the originator of something, and it is a daunting task. Getting trapped and feeling vulnerable, lack of control and confusion, awkwardness and fear are some of the identified challenges of scholarly writing as identified by the authors of this book. Non-native speakers usually have additional concerns when writing scholarly works and authors of this book provide guidelines for them in a successfully manner.

Chapter two is titled 'From Unpublishable to Publishable'. The chapter begins by a saying of Nobellaureate physicist, Werner Heisenberg: "*an expert is a person who knows the worst mistakes that can be made in a field, and how to avoid them.*" The authors of this book have discussed many of these types of errors in scholarly writings and publications as a way to prevent future researchers from committing the same mistakes. Not only a singers' voice but also an

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academics' voice should also attract the audience. Thus, the reviewer is in the view that an academics' voice is the scholarly works and it should be credible as well as attractive to the audience. There are many websites and blogs mentioned on how to avoid getting an article or a scholarly work rejected.

Chapter three of this book discusses about 'coping with rejection'. Among the few strategies that can help academics to cope with rejection is, the strategy called 'repurpose the work' which is very interesting. A conference presentation, a guest lecture in a class, an electronic publication, and an association publication are the other identified opportunities. The authors of the book further mention that in the case the academic cannot use the entire work rip it apart and put it to another use. These are some of the eye openers for the disappointed writers whose work has been rejected already.

Nowadays there are many international professional conferences. Even Covid 19 could not stop these conferences because the organizers shifted to on-line conferences. Chapter four is all about the conference participation which is a network building and knowledge sharing platform for the researchers. Five steps of transforming a conference presentation into a published article by Rowley (2012) are discussed under this chapter. Reviewers/Authors agree with the author of the article, that the conference is an ideal platform where the researcher gets a second chance to improve the articles that get rejected by the peer review process. The reason is they can improve their scholarly work with the comments from the academics that they meet in the conference.

At some point during the university career, academics probably asked to write a position paper. In many respects, it is similar to a debate because it presents different perspectives on an issue and makes the author's stance on the topic clear. Since the prime duty of an academic is to create new knowledge through research and disseminate that new knowledge through scholarly works and lectures, position papers play a considerable role in this process. Chapter five discusses about writing position papers.

Chapter six talks about the practical article which makes a claim, endorse a change in practice/policy, and then substantiate that claim with evidence. When writing a practical article, the authors of this book recommend adhering to 'STAR criteria'. STAR stands for, S- Sufficiency of grounds, T —Typicality, A — Accuracy and R —Relevance.

Research studies can be either quantitative, qualitative or mix-method. Converting these researches into articles are discussed under Chapter seven, Chapter eight and Chapter nine. Success in publishing a quantitative research article requires attention to three interrelated elements: (1) the complete concept, (2) the achievement of the study, and (3) the description of the study. The authors of this book citing the work of Clissett in 2008 state that in writing qualitative research reports, it is important to consider five features: (1) emergent design, (2) literature review, (3) sampling strategies, (4) data collection, and (5) data analysis which are discussed under Chapter eight. Under Chapter nine the authors of this book have explained how to write an article under mix-methodology. Here, writing the abstract, research questions and data analysis sections are explained to the reader in a clear manner. Comparison of research questions with three methods, i.e. quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods provides a clear idea about formulating research questions in the three methods even to a novice of the research world.

Chapter ten is about writing books, under the title 'From Consumer to Producer of the Literature'. The authors of the book have highlighted the fact that most of the novices to the academic world think that writing a book is a hectic work. Therefore, the authors of this book state that one way of start writing a book is reviewing books written by other scholars. Thus, a novice to the academic world gets an idea and exposure to write a book. This is also made easy nowadays as most of the book sales representatives will invite writers to review books. Another endeavor into book publishing is to generate at least one book chapter. It is evident that many authors and editors look for authors or co-authors for chapters in books. Therefore, the writers can get the advantage of it. In spite of a large measure of trouble/frustration, publishing a book chapter, editing, or writing a book ultimately can become a satisfying experience.

Conducting a research project is costly. Research grants provide an ease to the researcher. Grabbing a grant funding can be thorny because the process is controlled/ monopolized by the requirements of the funding agency and the discipline. To illustrate a funder's expectations, Chapter eleven has presented guidelines of how to get a grant. It is explained through several activities. All the scholarly works goes under a reviewer process before it gets published. This is a blind review process. The authors of the book state the review process as a 'gate keeper function'. Reader can get a clear idea of how to work as a reviewer through this chapter. How to respond to a peer review after receiving the reviewer's comments is also explained because the author of the book has clearly highlighted

the fact that some scholars respond the reviewers' comments with ego which ultimately leads to a negative result.

The final chapter, chapter thirteen talks about an interesting area i.e. increasing opportunities to publish from the dissertation. It is evident that some universities, doctoral candidates are required to write a monograph. On the other hand, in some doctoral programs, doctoral candidates are required to publish three manuscripts in peer reviewed journals. Authors of this book has clearly identified the risk of rejecting one or more articles from a peer reviewed journals and also doctoral candidates need to work on both types of articles simultaneously. Thus, I can say the 'strategies for publishing during doctoral study' which is presented under this book is a good solution for that. Finally, it is possible to state that this book is a suitable scholarly work for the novice as well as for the experts in the academic world who are willing to do publications.

## **References**

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