Effective Publication Strategies: 12 Tips for Selecting the Right Journal for Your Research and Scholarship
Introduction to the Speakers and the MESRE Annotated Bibliography

Andrea Berry, University of Central Florida College of Medicine, MESRE Professional Development Committee Chair

Judy M. Spak, MLS, Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale School of Medicine

Pamela Herring, MLIS, D-AHIP, Harriet F. Ginsburg Health Sciences Library, University of Central Florida College of Medicine

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  - Addition of over 20 new journals since 2018
AAMC-Regional Groups on Educational Affairs (GEA)
Medical Education Scholarship, Research and Evaluation Section
(MESRE - Former RIME Section)

Annotated Bibliography of Journals for Educational Scholarship

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Compiled by:
Maria Blanco, EdD and Nicole Love, BA Tufts University School of Medicine

Compiling Authors:
Lisa Coplit, MD
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Alice Fornari, EdD, RD
Hofstra North Shore-LIJ University School of Medicine

Larrie Greenberg, MD
George Washington University School of Medicine

Keith Metzger, PhD
Hofstra North Shore-LIJ University School of Medicine

Susan Pasquale, PhD, MT-BC, NMT University of Massachusetts Medical School

Janine Shapiro, MD
University of Rochester Medical Center

Laura Willett, MD, FACP
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Nagashwami Vasan, PhD
UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

DR-ED E-list

For questions/suggestions contact Maria Blanco at Maria.Blanco@tufts.edu.
Understand Your Audience

- Identify who would be most interested in your research.
- Example: If your research has an international slant, consider international journals with a broader audience who may find the findings useful.
- Resources: Attend conferences and seminars in your field to understand your audience's interests and focus areas. MESRE Annotated Bibliography lists a journal's audience.
Align with Journal Scope

- Ensure your paper aligns with the journal’s scope and objectives. Research the aims and scope sections of journals to see if your paper fits.
- Example: A study on innovative family medicine clerkship curriculum, that might fit well in Family Medicine (the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine journal).
- Tools: Aims and Scope section on journal website; MESRE Annotated Bibliography lists this information in the description and topics; Search through journal to see how often it publishes your topic.
Consider Frequency of Publication

- Check the journal’s website for the number of monthly/weekly articles and how many articles there are per issue.
- Example: Many open access and online only journals publish on a rolling basis which could result in your paper being published faster.
- Tool: The MESRE Annotated Bibliography highlights the frequency of publication for each journal listed.
Check the Types of Articles Accepted

- Different journals accept different types of research. Verify whether your manuscript type is accepted by the journal.
- Example: Some journals may focus exclusively on full-length articles while others accept brief reports. As a new researcher, you may consider letters or innovation reports as a good place to start.
- Resource: The MESRE Annotated Bibliography provides a list of the types of manuscripts accepted by each journal. Check the journal’s author submission section.
Assess Open Access Options

- Consider whether you want your work to be freely available. If so, look for journals with open access options and understand their fee structures.
- Example: If your research is applicable to a broader audience, publishing through an open access option will make it easier for them to access.
- Tool: The MESRE Annotated Bibliography notates journals that are open access and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) lists journals and whether they charge publication fees. Check with your medical library to see if your institution has agreements with certain publishers for discounted or free article processing charges (APC).
Review Time and Acceptance Rates

- Research the average time to publication and acceptance rates of journals to manage your expectations and timelines.
- Example: Some journals provide average review times and acceptance rates on their site to help authors gauge the publication timeline.
- Resource: Email the journal’s editorial office for these stats if they’re not publicly available.
Read Recently Published Articles

- Review articles recently published by the journal to get a sense of the quality and style of work they publish.
- Example: Analyzing recent publications can give insights into the complexity and depth of research typically accepted.
- Tool: Browse recent issues online to familiarize yourself with content and style.
Ask your Medical Librarians or Colleagues for Recommendations

- Experienced librarians and colleagues can offer insights into journals with good reputations and efficient editorial processes.
- Example: Librarians can help identify potential publishing options using various tools and strategies.
- Resource: Networking! Discuss with mentors, those in your academic circles, email listservs, or during conferences.
Consider the Journal’s Indexing

- Check whether the journal is indexed in major databases relevant to your field, as this affects the visibility and accessibility of your work.
- Example: Being indexed in PubMed, ERIC, or CINAHL may be important in health professions education for wider visibility.
- Tool: Check journal websites and the MESRE annotated bibliography to verify indexing.

*Medical Teacher* is included in the following abstracting and indexing services:

- Australian Education Index (AEI); CINAHL; Current Contents/Clinical Medicine; ERIC; EMBASE/Excerpta Medica; e-psyche; Euro-Factor Database; Human Resources Abstracts; ISI Social Sciences Citation Index (SCI); National Database for Research into International Education (NDRI); PsycINFO; Research Alert; SciSearch; Scopus; Sociological Abstracts; Violence and Abuse Abstracts; Index Medicus/MEDLINE.
Use Journal Finder Tools

- Use tools like Elsevier's Journal Finder, Springer's Journal Suggester, or JANE to identify target journals.
- Example: Enter your abstract into JANE to see where similar articles were published.
- Tool: Tools like the MESRE annotated bibliography, JANE, or publisher-specific tools can help match your manuscript to suitable journals.
Prepare for Rejection and Resubmission

- Be prepared for rejection or requests for major revisions. Select a few potential journals so you can re-submit quickly if your paper is not accepted on the first try.
- Example: If your paper is rejected from a top-tier journal, consider alternate options recommended by the first journal’s reviewers.
- Resource: Keep a list of target journals ready, ranked by preference and fit, to speed up resubmission if necessary. Check journal websites for formatting citations, etc.
Investigate Multiple Options for Scholarly Dissemination

- Disseminate your scholarship as widely as possible for greatest impact.
- Example: There may be opportunities to submit your work to a conference (as a poster or oral presentation), preprint server, organizational self-archives, in addition to for publication.
- Resource: Carefully read publisher guidelines for dissemination of your work in other venues. In general, it’s ok to present preliminary findings before submitting your manuscript.

https://www.aamc.org/about-us/mission-areas/medical-education/scholarship-submissions#active
Questions?

andrea.berry@ucf.edu  pamela.herring@ucf.edu  judy.spak@yale.edu