



Editorial

Manuscript submission: expectations and constraints

Badhu BP
Professor of Ophthalmology
BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences
Dharan, Nepal

Today, writing a scientific paper for publication in a biomedical journal is considered a requirement. It is no longer simply a skill, talent or an art. Faculty members working at academic universities must complete a certain number of research projects and publish them in scientific journals in order to promote their careers. This focuses their attention on honing their skills in research methodology, carrying out research projects, and submitting them for publication.

Qualifications and experience of ophthalmologists are evaluated according to the scientific merit of their research works and publications. Among the ophthalmologists of Nepal, there is an increasing trend in number of submissions per annum.

In our experience, the most common cause for rejection of an article is, what appears to be, a lack of awareness of how to properly write and submit a manuscript. This could be addressed by periodically organizing seminars and symposia that would help researchers develop writing skills, producing more polished manuscripts. When preparing an article for submission, authors must be familiar with the individual requirements of each journal, which may vary (Markowitz, 2008).

Duplicate submission or publication is inconvenient to both readers and editors, reflects badly on the authors themselves, and results in wasted time and materials. I wish to emphasize that it is the primary responsibility of the authors to ascertain that the manuscript is submitted to one journal at a time with transfer of copyright to the same journal.

In the academic community, the intellectual theft of others' work is unacceptable. Journal reviewers spend a considerable amount of time detecting plagiarism. This process can be expedited with the use of plagiarism-detecting software.

It has been our experience that, upon submitting articles for publication, authors want a publication decision to be made quickly. The main constraints of the editors are identifying reviewers and obtaining their comments. It may take longer to obtain their comments because the reviewers are not paid for their academic contribution and time they spend reviewing the articles. We are fully aware that the editorial board should make every effort to meet the expectations of the authors.

In order to efficiently produce a high quality journal, authors, peer reviewers, and the editorial board must work as a team and account for the abovementioned constraints and expectations during the submission and approval process.



Reference

Markowitz R (2008). How to write a manuscript for submission to a biomedical journal.
<http://www.georgiahealth.edu/research/documents/WritingforClinicalJrevsd908.pdf> (Accessed on 01.12.2012).

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