

Reporting & Publishing Research Findings

Spring 2006

The process doesn't stop with data analysis!

- Informal discussions
- Poster presentations
- Conference talks (10 - 15 minutes)
- Lectures and seminars (50 minutes)
- Symposia, workshops & discussion panels (3 - 6 hours)
- Peer-reviews publications
- Grants

Oral Presentations

- Identify audience knowledge & interests
- Convey your information clearly
- Make it interesting!
- State the questions you'll be presenting
- ANSWER those questions in the talk!
- Interpret your findings in a way that's relevant to your audience
- Stay within your time limit

Written reports

- Select an appropriate journal
 - Survey articles from different journals
 - Where have authors who work on similar topics publish? Look at your reference list to find out ...
 - If the information is relevant to different disciplines, you may need to publish several reports in different journals - each different but having it's own slant on the topic

Written reports

- **Look at back issues of the journal**
 - Aim & scope of the journal
 - Professional readership
 - Topics covered
 - Review process
- **Guide to Authors section**
 - Instructions for contact, format, process
 - Usually in 1st or last issue each year
 - May be available on-line

Once upon a time . . .

- **Journal availability was a major factor**
 - With electronic indexing, now is less of a factor
- **Factors that remain considerations:**
 - Journal prestige
 - Composition of editorial board
 - Turn-around time
 - Format issues (color photographs, # pages)
 - Publication costs

As you write . . .

- **Use specified format (APA style?)**
- **State the problem early, and clearly**
- **Why is it of interest?**
- **What is the hypothesis or framework?**
- **How will your study address this larger picture?**

- **Be concise, and use accurate phrases!**

Writing the paper

- **Follow guidelines:**
 - Appendix A of Cozby textbook
 - From APA manual
 - Journal guidelines
- **Seek editorial feedback**
 - From peers
 - Then from authors having experience with this journal

- **Act on all feedback you receive!**

Cozby text, Appendix A

- Writing style
- Organization of the report
- Headings
- Citations & References
- Abbreviations
- Grammar considerations
- Reporting numbers & statistics
- Example of a student report.

Writing style

- **Clarity**
- **Plagiarism**
- **Voice**
- **Biased language**
- **Grammar & spelling!**

The toughest part

- **After months or years of researching ...**
- **After the rigors of data analysis ...**
- **After sweating the writing of the paper...**
- **Now it's time for the**

ABSTRACT!

The Abstract

- **Summary of the entire project in only 150 - 250 words**
- **Must state hypothesis, subjects, tests, findings, implications**
- **Must be readable and clear**
- **It is wise to try to include terms others would use in electronic searches**
- **Consider - someone will decide if your paper is worth reading carefully!**

Other details

- **Keywords**
- **Funding sources**
- **Other acknowledgements** (“Thanks to...”)
- **Conflict of interest**
- **‘In partial fulfillment of ...’**

Submission process

- ***Read & Follow*** the journal guidelines!
- **Original plus correct number of copies**
- **Cover letter to editor**
 - Include title of mss. and your contact information
 - You may be allowed to request that specific individuals NOT be asked to review the manuscript....
- **Signed copyright agreement**
- **Editor should confirm receipt of mss.**
- **A reference number will be assigned**

Review process

- **Details vary, but expect it to take at least several months**
- **Reviewers comment anonymously and suggest options for publication**
- **Editor sends summary of action and comments to author**
- **Once submitted to one journal, the manuscript may not be submitted to another until the review process ends**

Review process

- **Accepted as submitted** - unusual!
- **Accepted with revisions** - typical
- **Rejected** - all too common!
- **What next?**
 - Respond to feedback & revise mss., then resubmit
 - Withdraw mss. from consideration
- **Expect mss. to go back & forth a few times**

Suggestions

- **Develop a thick skin!**
 - ‘acceptable with revision’ means the editor considers the research worthwhile, but needing to be tweaked
- **Allow yourself several days to recover**
- **Set a deadline by which to respond**
 - 2 - 3 weeks?
 - You are not obligated to make all suggested changes, but you must support your position
- **Avoid sarcasm, etc. at all costs!**

Once accepted . . .

- **You will be notified of acceptance, and asked to sign a copyright agreement**
- **You will be given a projected publication date and volume number**
- **Eventually the galley proofs will arrive**
 - Read carefully! This is your last chance to correct errors made by you or introduced by others. You may not make substantive changes at this stage.
- **Wait for it to appear.**

Stages of publication

- **Peer-review is the gold standard**
- ‘submitted’
- ‘in review’
- ‘accepted’
- ‘in press’

Other types of publications

- **Review** (may be peer-reviewed)
- **Report from conference proceedings**
- **Abstracts from meetings**
 - May or may not be peer-reviewed
- **Invited review or book chapter**
- **Position paper or monograph**
- **Point/Counterpoint**
- **Thesis as a special publication**
 - A scholarly endeavor different from regular research reports!

Grants, etc.?

- **Federal grants**
 - NIH, NASA, NSF, DOD, Dept. Ed
 - Research settings; big \$, indirect costs ~50%
- **Foundations**
 - March of Dimes, interest groups, often no indirects...
- **In-house & local groups**
 - Specific goals, short timelines, smaller funds
- **Fellowships**
 - To students to support research training

Deadlines?

- **Set by agency, often the same each year**
 - NIH = February, June, October
- **Types of applications**
 - R-01, R-21
 - Training grants (K-series grants)
 - Clinical trials
 - Request for proposals (RFPs)
- **In-house schedules may be variable**
- **Lead time to deadline is important!**

How to begin?

- **Start with clear, simple, small studies**
- **Develop a plan to pursue related studies**
- **Present findings regularly**
- **Seek input from mentors**
- **Gradually enlarge scope of studies**
- **Obtain funding**
- **You don't necessarily need an advanced degree! Collaborate.**

