

UKSG webinar Q&A

‘Writing articles for Insights and other journals’

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Questions that came during the presentation:

- How can I publish an article in insight journal? Can I publish Tamil article in Tamil language?
*Take a look at our Scope <https://insights.uksg.org/about/> to check your article fits. If it does, please submit your article. It will be reviewed by the editors for fit with Scope and checked for plagiarism. Successful articles are then sent to peer reviewers who check the articles structure is paramount, whether the methods valid, if the data clearly is presented, and are conclusions supported by evidence. They may point out flaws and suggest improvements.
We only publish in English language.*

- How many articles can we refer for writing an article in UKSG journal?
There is no limit to the number of articles you can cite in your article, but please ensure that those you do cite are relevant and support what you are saying.

- What is the turnaround time for articles now you have continuous publication?
That depends on the time of year. Over the Christmas and holiday period, reviewers are often away. It also depends on if the reviewers request revisions to the article. However, generally the process takes around six weeks.

- What are the most popular articles you have published in Insights?
Our top three most read articles ever and over time are:
“Screen Vs. Paper: What Is the Difference for Reading and Learning?”. *Insights* 28 (2): 49–54. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.236>
“A Quiet Culture War in Research Libraries – and What It Means for Librarians, Researchers and Publishers”. *Insights* 28 (2): 21–27. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.230>
“User Experience (UX) in Libraries: Let’s Get Physical (and Digital)”. *Insights* 29 (3): 224–27. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.317>

However, every year we publish articles that are very well used and cited, across a wide range of subjects.

- How to identify the difference between Indian and Britain writing?
I don’t fully understand this question, however, we greatly welcome articles by authors whose first language is not British English. Once past the peer review stage Editorial Associate can help authors with their English if required.
This is an interesting question. I’m taking it that s/he means Indian English and British English. This sometimes come up with Hiberno-English (Irish English) and I’ve been asked to change or clarify things.

- Any suggestions on where to search? What journals, publications?
There is a wide range of journals publishing articles about scholarly communications. A good way to search, is to look for already published articles on the subject you are interested in, and note in which journals they were published. If you want to publish in an open access journals, you can cross check with the Directory of Open Access Journals <https://doaj.org/>.
 Before submitting to any journal, it is worth visiting Think. Check. Submit at <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>
- While writing a scientific paper how many reviews requires?
It depend on the journal policy, but usually at least two reviewers are required for each paper.
- In Opinion Pieces abstract how many words exactly?
For publication in Insights we recommend an abstract of 150-200 words.
- How to find a problem in research work.
When reviewing articles about research work, reviewers will want to see that the article is well structured, a literature review was undertaken, the methodology used in the research was relevant and well explained, the conclusions are supported by data and evidence.
- I think Helen mentioned she runs workshops/courses for writing - can she tell us a bit more about those? I will shortly be running a workshop (June) and I will tweet about it @helenfallon, so please follow me on Twitter.
- What is the role of the journal editor, apart from commissioning content?
This will vary from journal to journal, but generally the editor will promote scholarship field associated with their journal, and promote their journal as the best journal to publish in for that field. Editors are also responsible for offering feedback to reviewers when required, ensure that any feedback to authors is constructive and that all process adhere to the COPE guidelines. Above all a journal editor needs to be passionate about the subject area in the scope of their journal.
- How to access innovative writing? How to develop innovative writing?
 Consider what topics are innovative. This will depend on context. In libraries some of the more innovative topics at the moment are: COVID-19 response, Escape rooms in libraries, 3D Printing – keep abreast of what is being published in the journals you want to write for. Then consider what you can bring to the topic that is innovative.
 If you mean developing a more innovative style, read widely and perhaps read essays (not necessarily in librarianship) to explore style.

- I'm interested in your recommendation that most papers are rejected because of size of scope.

Speaking from the perspective of Insights, this is the most usual reason for rejection. Before submitting, it is really important to read the journals scope and also some of the articles the journal has published.

Length can be a problem – both too long and too short!. We usually recommend around 3000 words, or a bit longer in the case of research articles. For other journals, please check their guidelines for authors.

From my experience, as a member of the editorial board of New Review of Academic Librarianship, it is best to try to hone/define your topic very well before writing and to be as specific as possible. An article on a topic such as “Staff Development in Academic Libraries,” is likely to only touch on the myriad forms of staff development. This topic is better suited to a book. However “New forms of staff development in academic libraries in Ireland,” might work as it is more specific and focused.

- What type of topic is too specialised? Do you expect it to only be experts?

That is quite a tricky question to answer and I don't think it is a question of 'topic' but rather the depth and level of technicality. For example, Insights publishes articles about scholarly communications. A general high-level article on bibliographic data could be a good fit, but if the article is very technical and written for other bibliographic experts, Insights is probably not the best vehicle, there are other journals that specialise in that topic and which would be more appropriate.

- Can you please guide me how to contact and collaborate with my peers in my research area (E.g. Biosorption)?

This is not really my field, but I think one of the ways is through the learned societies publishing in your field, such as the Society of Chemical Industry. Society's not only publish journals, but also run events and networking opportunities. Also, if you have read an article in your field that is particularly relevant to your work – drop the author a friendly email or Twitter message.