

ROTOS

Research in Occupational Therapy
and Occupational Science Foundation



Hosts: Niall Turner and
Alison Laver-Fawcett

Research into Occupational
Therapy and Occupational
Science Foundation
(ROTOS) Board

**Getting Published in Occupational
Therapy Journals:
Tips from the Inside**



@_ROTOS_

Webinar programme

- Welcome: About ROTOS (*Alison*)
- Getting started (*Niall*)
- Things to consider (*Alison*)
- Dealing with editors comments & perseverance (*Niall*)
- Professor Anita Björklund Carlstedt, *Editor in Chief Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy*
- Dr Caroline Hills, *Editor-in-chief, Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy*
- Questions and Final thoughts (*Alison*)

ROTOS Foundation

ROTOS
Research in Occupational Therapy
and Occupational Science Foundation



- ROTOS became a Not For Profit, Charitable Foundation 11th March 2020 under the law in the Netherlands

ROTOS is for all
researchers at all
levels



COTEC
ENOTHE
ROTOS

Occupational Therapy
Europe

ROTOS Foundation Board



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ROTOS

Research in Occupational Therapy
and Occupational Science Foundation



ROTOS' Vision

Improving European citizens' lives through occupation focused research and science by having one strong voice for occupational therapy and occupational science research.

ROTOS

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**Strategic plan
ROTOS 2020-
2023:
Overall
Strategic Aim**

That knowledge from occupational therapy and occupation science research will be appropriately used to inform and shape European policy and practice, through the establishment of a strong European profile of occupational therapy and occupational science researchers, that both strengthens occupation-based knowledge generation and supports access to this knowledge for the benefit for all Europeans.

Don't procrastinate

- Many people can't wait to see the back of their research when they complete it and may decide to put off submitting it for publication.





But.....

- *It becomes out of date*
- *Someone else publishes a very similar paper*
- *Life gets in the way and you never get back to it*
- *You lose your edge as someone who knows every relevant article in the field and have to update your knowledge again in the future*
- *You have time to convince yourself it's not worth publishing!!*



Starting

- Harness the motivation
 - It is important to publish this work because.....
 - I, and others, have invested time in getting this research done to this stage. Is the journey finished without publishing?
- Harness support
 - Who?
 - In what way?
 - To get around what challenges?

Choosing the right journal

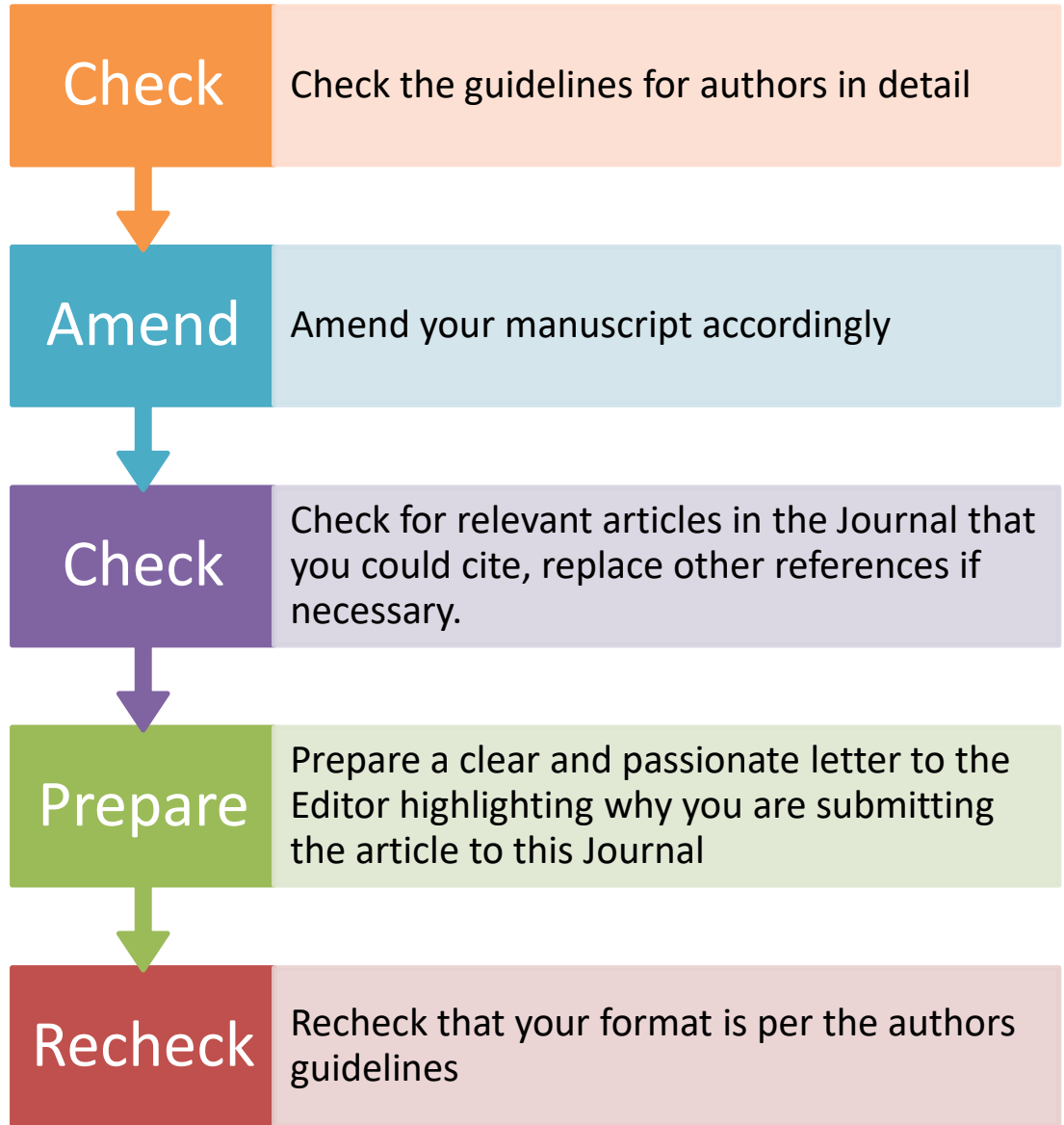
- ZETOC is useful for locating lists of journals in your subject area of interest
- Where were the key papers from your literature review published?
- Look at the journal scope: You can usually locate this in the 'About', 'Aims' or 'Scope' sections of the journal website
- Its important to check the content of journals for similar articles to your research area, both method and topic.
- Avoid journals where your research would not fit in.
- Always look at examples of papers recently published by the journal
- Consider what audience would be most interested in this study – fellow Occupational therapists, professionals working in a specific speciality, occupational scientists educators etc.
- Consider who is unlikely to come across it if it were to be accepted by the Journal
- What's their word count? Does the journal have an Impact factor? Is it open access?



Open Access

- Discoverability is key to citations
- Barriers to discoverability
 - Poor keywords
 - Journal not indexed
 - Cost to gain access to full article
- Open Access of findings is now a requirement of many funding bodies
- Open Access ensures availability to non academic audiences including affected populations and clinicians
- Ensure you include at least “occupational therapy” or “occupational science” in your key words !
- Check if there is an Author processing charge

Once
you've
picked
the
Journal



Research process

Section of Paper

What did I do in a nutshell?

Abstract

What is the problem?

Introduction

How did I solve the problem?

Methods

What did I find out?

Results

What does it mean?

Discussion

Who helped me out?

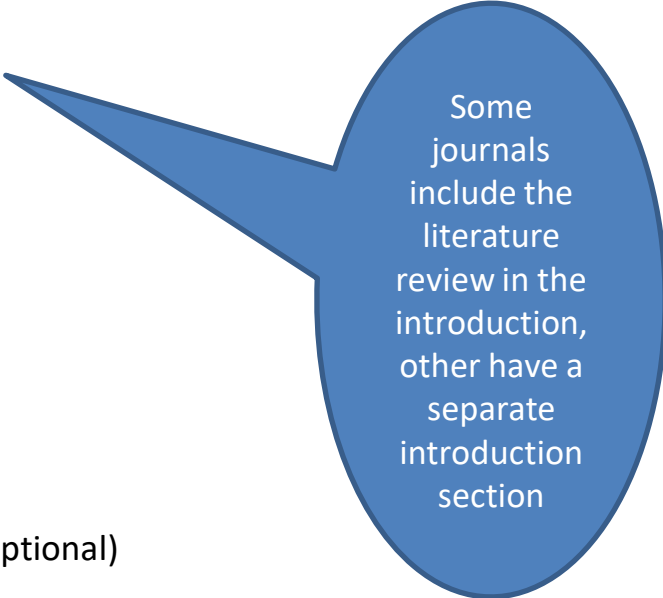
Acknowledgments (optional)

Whose work did I refer to?

Reference list

Extra Information

Appendices(optional)



Some journals include the literature review in the introduction, other have a separate introduction section

Our top 16 tips for reducing your word count



Keep to the
word count!

- Edit out words not content:
- Bashir, N. (2020) *16 Tips on How to Reduce Word Counts and Write Concisely*. Inpression Edit. [online] Available from: <https://www.inpressionedit.com/2016/10/02/16-tips-on-how-to-reduce-word-counts-and-write-concisely/> [accessed 22.6.2021]

Patter: Useful blog on writing by Pat Thomson

- <https://patthomson.net/>

Posts on journal articles:

[article](#) | [Search Results](#) | [patter \(patthomson.net\)](#)

Posts on reviewing and editing:

- <https://patthomson.net/2014/02/24/good-academic-writing-its-about-revision-not-editing/>
- <https://patthomson.net/2015/04/16/revision-its-not-just-about-cutting-words-out/>
- <https://patthomson.net/2018/10/29/revising-with-a-reader-in-mind-ten-questions/>

[all accessed 22.06.2020]





Grammar



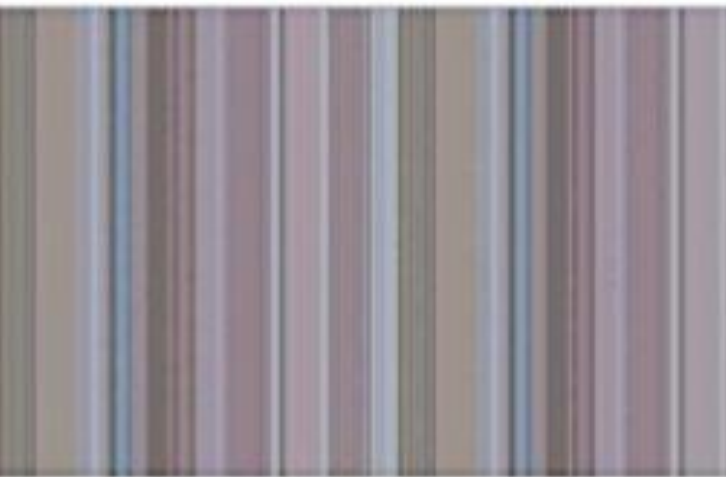
Proof read!

“Journal editors, overloaded with quality manuscripts, may make decisions on manuscripts based on formal criteria, like grammar or spelling. Don't get rejected for avoidable mistakes; make sure your manuscript looks perfect”

Thus, both the science and the language need to be sound

Writing in Social Spaces

A SOCIAL PROCESSES APPROACH TO
ACADEMIC WRITING



Rowena Murray

RESEARCH INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

Writing retreats

- Attending and running **writing retreats**
 - Setting and sharing writing goals
 - Writing together in one room or virtual space for the whole of the retreat
 - Structuring retreat time as a series of fixed writing and discussion slots
 - Discussing writing-in-progress

(see article by Murray, 2005)

- **Rowena Murray's** work, e.g. Article: [Writing for an academic journal: 10 tips | Universities | The Guardian](#) [accessed 22.6.2021]

Persevere

- Long road
- Most Journals use a double blind peer review process.
- Articles are reviewed at least twice and sometimes by three peers
- It is very rare to have submission accepted without amendments
- Exceptional result = minor amendments
- Acceptable result = major amendments
- Fair result = resubmit after a rewrite/further analysis
- Reject = prepare for another Journal – there's plenty more fish in the sea!!



Dealing with reviewers comments



Major and minor revisions

Share reviews with co-authors – don't have to do everything yourself. Different perspectives on reviews are helpful.

Draw up to do list – agree who will do what and by when.

When ready complete -

- Letter to reviewers
- Letter to editor
- Answers to queries
- List of amendments made
- Justification for not addressing any suggestions
- Thanks for drawing attention to issues

MAKE IT EASY!

After re-submission

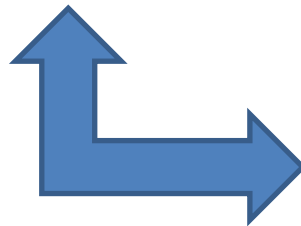
Possibilities

Editor accepts
without
further review

Sends to one
of previous
reviewer's for
comment

Get another
opinion.
Sends to new
reviewers.

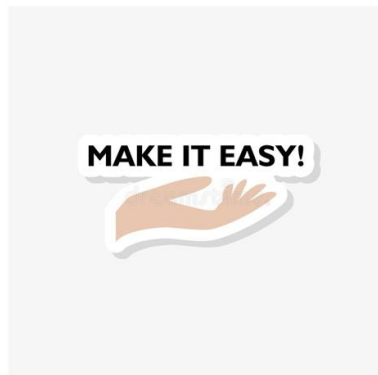
Rejects



Request for further
amendments

Repeat process

Dealing with reviewers comments



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Scandinavian Journal of
Occupational
Therapy

VOLUME 70 Number 1 2011

<http://www.tandfonline.com/TOCC>



Dr Anita Björklund Carlstedt
Editor- in - Chief

How to write and publish a scientific paper?

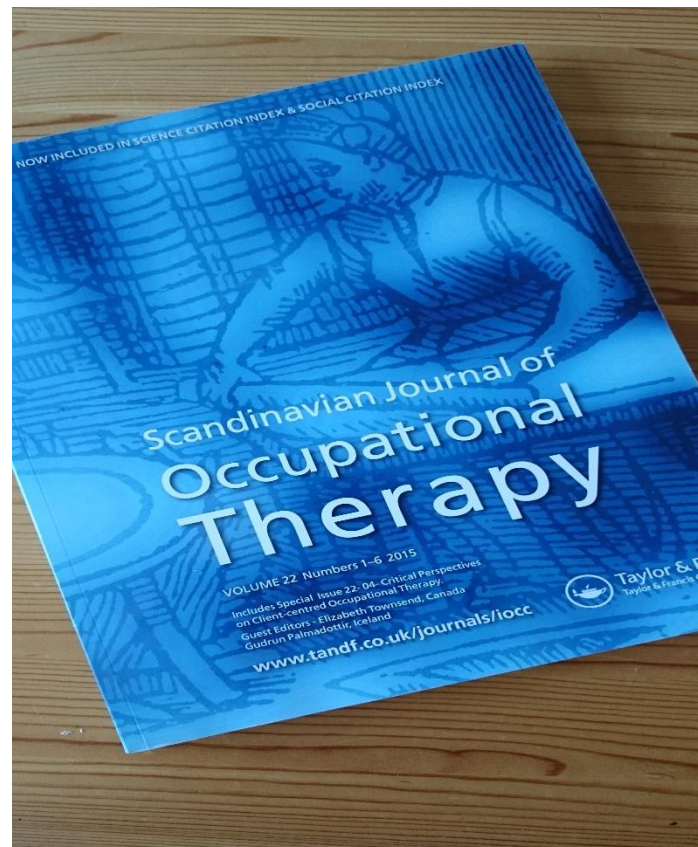
Anita Björklund Carlstedt

Professor in Occupational Therapy &

Editor in Chief *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational
Therapy*

ROTOS Webinar 2021-06-24

Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy



Impact factor 1.347

What decides if a paper has potential for publication in a scientific journal?

No 1. Ultimate claims:

- A topic within the “Aims and scope” of the journal as stated at the journal’s webpage
- The language should be reviewed by a certified language reviewer
- The manuscript should follow the instructions in Author’s guide
- Approval of the study from Ethical committee or board

What decides if a paper has potential for publication in a scientific journal?

No 2: Stringent documentation of the research process:

- The problem
- The introduction
- The aim
- The methodological design
- The results
- The discussion
- Methodological considerations
- Practical implications

What decides if a paper has potential for publication in a scientific journal?

No 3: Stringent documentation of the research process:

- Logical precision
- Communicative precision



The problem should be of scientific and societal value

- Well grounded in scientific literature and identified as a knowledge gap
- Formulated as a statement, i. e. how something turns out to be. For example:
“Some patients with RA do not use their technical devices”
- Be of common interest; generates information useful to the investigation group, the society and profession

The introduction should "guide" the way to the aim of study

- Introduction of the problem area and stating the problem
- Resumé of what is already known about the problem from scientific literature
- Description of how the current study relate to what is already known
- Definitions of central concepts and theories
- Arguments for the value of study and for whom

The aim should "signal" the current methodological design

- Verb in Qualitative design:
 - Explore
 - Identify
 - Describe
 - Characterize
 - Understand
- Verb in Quantitative design:
 - Investigate
 - Describe
 - Confirm
 - Compare
 - Evaluate

The methodological design should address the research problem and aim of study

Qualitative design

Grounded theory

Ethnography

Life history

Phenomenology

Quantitative design

Experimental

Quasi-experimental

Pre-experimental

Non-experimental

Mixed research design

Completely or partly integrated

Triangulation

The results should address the problem and aim of study

Qualitative design

Taxonomy of What- and How-aspects of a phenomenon or occurrence

Themes or categories, emanating from data

Quantitative design

Tables and Figures showing numerical data from analysis

Structure, emanating from research questions

The discussion should deal with all parts of the results and relate to the introduction

- Structure according to:
 - Taxonomy (qualitative study)
 - Research questions (quantitative study)

- Discussion of all parts of results in relation to:
 - Earlier studies
 - Theoretical framework
 - Further research
 - Significance or practical implications

- Conclusions in relation to aim

Methodological considerations in relation to research design

- Qualitative design:
 - Trustworthiness
 - Credibility
 - Transferability
 - Confirmability
 - Dependability

- Quantitative design:
 - Reliability
 - Validity
 - Generalization

Practical implications of the results – “What’s in it” for:

- Persons belonging to the investigation group
- The society
- The profession

The most important things for you to consider as "researcher"

- Be honest and scrupolous
- Pay respect to the integrity of study participants
- Be creative and have fun





JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY

School of Health and Welfare

Dr Caroline Hills

- Editor-in-chief
- Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy



10 Tips on getting published



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Association of Occupational
Therapists of Ireland

Dr Caroline Hills, Editor in Chief of the Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy

Tip One: Know your article

- What is the manuscript type?
 - Opinion? (Must be topical and relevant to the profession)
 - Practice report? (Must have ethical issues covered if evaluations capture participants views)
 - Systematic or scoping review? (Must use robust methodologies)
 - Research? (Must have ethics approval)
- Be prepared for a long process!



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Tip Two: Know your audience

- Cohesive well cited argument for how the content is relevant to the profession. What gap does it fill?
- What is the research question?
- Who will this manuscript benefit/inform?
- Then look for an appropriate journal
- Who has a relevant readership? What types of articles does the journal publish

Tip Three: Choosing the Journal

- Consider impact factor. The impact factor is a index calculated through the yearly average number of citations of articles published in the last two years. Journals with higher impact factor values are often deemed to be more important, or carry more intrinsic prestige in their respective fields, than those with lower values.
- Check description of the journal
- Read the last journal or two, look for size and robustness of studies: does it match your study size and robustness?
- If qualitative research, is this of interest to the journals some focus on high impact evidence based/systematic reviews/RCTS
- Check for special issues
- Check for open access – can give more citations as more accessible
- Check no charge- some open access journals have a fee



Tip Four: Reading the author Guidelines

- ✓ Use the headings given
- ✓ Check the word count
- ✓ Check referencing style
- ✓ Check the number of references
- ✓ Check the number of tables
- ✓ Check the number of figures
- ✓ Check all other author guidelines
- ✓ May need to redact identifying information
- ✓ Can be refused by editor if does not meet the requirements



Tip Five: Get another eye on the final draft

- ✓ Poor spelling, grammar or over abbreviations should be checked
- ✓ Sentences should be short and succinct
- ✓ Should be logical and not repetitive
- ✓ Limit long quotations
- ✓ Page number if quotations
- ✓ Logical argument in background
- ✓ Aim is clear and fits the methods etc
- ✓ Methods with good citations of best practice
- ✓ Results clearly presented
- ✓ Discussion compares results with other publications or opinion but informs practice



Tip Six: Submit but often can suggest reviewers

- ✓ No friends
- ✓ No colleagues
- ✓ If looks close the editor will ignore
- ✓ Needs to have knowledge of methodology or subject area



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Tip Seven: Patience, Patience, Patience

- ✓ What happens in the background
- ✓ Finding reviewers
- ✓ Being ignored
- ✓ Promises not kept
- ✓ Conflicting opinions: reject, major revision, minor revision



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Tip Eight: Listen to the reviewers comments, meant to be supportive not adversarial

- ✓ Might sting but this is opinion
- ✓ Reviewers may differ: so you can argue changes based on one rather than the other
- ✓ Reflect, most reviewers have some valuable comments although it may hurt
- ✓ Be positive, amend and resubmit
- ✓ If you are not rejected you are still in the possible publication zone



Tip Nine: Might be more than once

- ✓ Submitting again is refinement not rejection
- ✓ Making it better for the reader
- Keep to author guidelines for word count in revision, revising is not permission to extend word count and references



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Tip Ten: Celebrate publication

- ✓ Your work is shared
- ✓ You have contributed to the profession
- ✓ You may change or influence practice
- ✓ Be proud, wave the occupational therapy flag!!
- ✓ You will be cited by others
- ✓ You are a published author!!!!
- ✓ Meet and connect with like minded colleagues



CLOSING REMARKS



Questions for the
Editors?



How to get involved with ROTOS

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- Join the ROTOS network
- Contribute to a ROTOS webinar
- Support writing documents (evidence base summary, call to maximising the impact of occupational therapy and occupational science research, translating research knowledge into practice).
- Mentor occupational therapy and occupational science researchers in Europe
- Help identify priorities for occupational therapy and occupational science research and pedagogical research in Europe
- Contribute to leadership for occupational therapy and occupational science research
- Engage in fundraising activities to support ROTOS projects and actions

How to get involved

ROTOS
Research in Occupational Therapy
and Occupational Science Foundation



- ROTOS website:
<https://www.rotosfoundation.eu/>
- Contact us using the form:
<https://www.rotosfoundation.eu/contact-us/>
- Email: alison.laver-fawcett@rotos.eu



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Useful references

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