

A Step-by-Step Guide to Publishing Journal Article and Its Strategies

Panduan Menerbitkan Artikel di Jurnal Beserta Strateginya

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Abstract

Early researchers often struggle in writing scientific papers due to deficient writing skills and adapting to academic settings. In response, the Doctoral Program in Public Policy at the Faculty of Economics and Business at Universitas Trisakti organized a webinar with the intention of providing students with effective writing techniques. The webinar addressed important areas such as publishing in Scopus-indexed journals, composing successful manuscripts, maintaining writing consistency, and selecting appropriate venues for publication. The outcomes demonstrated that this webinar greatly enhanced the participants' confidence in scientific writing, with 85% strongly agreeing and 15% agreeing. Overall feedback from participants was positive, with 95% strongly agreeing and 5% agreeing that the activity was beneficial. Moreover, 90% expressed a strong willingness to participate in future training, while 10% agreed. This paper's importance and benefits make it a valuable resource for widespread use, especially by new researchers aiming to enhance their scientific writing skills and strategies.

Keywords: *Early researchers, Scientific papers, Scopus-indexed journals, Writing strategies, Writing skills*

Abstrak

Peneliti pemula sering menghadapi tantangan dalam menulis artikel untuk dipublikasikan pada jurnal ilmiah bereputasi, akibat kurangnya keterampilan menulis dan beradaptasi dengan konteks akademik. Untuk mengatasi hal ini, Program Doktor Kebijakan Publik di Fakultas Ekonomi dan Bisnis Universitas Trisakti menyelenggarakan kuliah umum melalui webinar, guna membekali mahasiswa strategi penulisan artikel ilmiah yang efektif. Materi mencakup cara menerbitkan artikel di jurnal terindeks Scopus, menyusun naskah yang menarik, konsistensi menulis, dan memilih publikasi yang sesuai. Kegiatan ini secara signifikan meningkatkan rasa percaya diri peserta; 85% menyatakan sangat setuju dan 15% setuju. Kegiatan ini dinilai memiliki dampak positif, dimana 95% peserta menyatakan sangat setuju dan 5% setuju bahwa materi yang diberikan sangat bermanfaat. Selain itu, 90% berkeinginan kuat, dan 10% setuju, untuk mengikuti pelatihan lanjutan. Artikel ini dapat menjadi panduan bagi peneliti pemula dan memiliki potensi untuk dibagikan secara luas karena penting dan besarnya manfaat yang dihasilkan.

Kata kunci: *peneliti pemula, artikel ilmiah, jurnal terindeks Scopus, strategi menulis artikel ilmiah, keterampilan menulis artikel ilmiah*

1. INTRODUCTION

Scientific journals play a crucial role in disseminating academic research outcomes to policymakers, practitioners, and scholars. To achieve effective dissemination, innovative strategies like modernizing peer review processes and enhancing open data accessibility are vital, as highlighted by Shobha et al., (2020). Vicherková et al., (2015) emphasizes a more comprehensive approach involves a combination of modernizing the peer review process, utilizing various dissemination channels, engaging with intended audiences, and adapting to the changing of research dissemination trends. As articulated by Cuschieri, (2022), achieving the successful publication of a scientific paper demands authors to navigate a series of foundational considerations and decisions, establishing a strong groundwork for a victorious outcome. Consequently, adherence to journal requirements is essential for successful publication (Shobha

et al., 2020), while widespread dissemination in the digital age is crucial for impactful research metrics based on citations (Nathan & Shawkataly, 2019). Hence, the ability to arrange the ideas and structure a research paper effectively is important for getting approval from reviewers.

It's widely known that graduate students are struggled with academic writing, including well-documented phenomenon, encompassing not only deficiencies in essential writing competencies but also hurdles in effectively translating general writing skills into the context of specific academic disciplines (Lathif et al., 2021; Walter & Jordan, 2020). This struggle has far-reaching implications, with its potential impact extending to both higher dropout rates and prolonged study durations, as highlighted in research conducted by Tremblay-Wragg et al., (2021).

Moreover, there exists an inherent expectation for early researchers not only to introduce novel concepts and perspectives to their respective fields but also to fulfill the responsibilities intrinsic to being a researcher, which includes the dissemination of their findings through publication in reputable journals. However, this effort is not without challenges, particularly given that the prestige journals are often directly proportional to the intensity of the competition (Ferasso, 2021). As a result, the well-known dilemma of "publish or perish" casts a weighty burden upon early researchers, a phenomenon exacerbated by the fact that many academic positions place significant emphasis on an individual's capacity to secure publication in top-tier journals relevant to their domain. Recognizing the pressing need to tackle this concern, academic institutions have initiated efforts to equip their students with the necessary writing skills and ethical practices. They offer specialized guidance and resources, to cultivate a supportive environment that fosters the development of proficient academic writers.

Anggraini & Putri (2023), posit that writing abilities of each individual vary depending on the experience and competencies they possess. Numerous studies have explored the impact of academic writing training and related topics on improving the ability to write scientific papers (Fidhyallah et al., 2023; Nurlina et al., 2022; Shinta et al., 2022; Kusumadewi & Satispi, 2022; Soehardi et al., 2021). The findings of such studies often indicate positive outcomes, showing that well-designed academic writing training programs can indeed lead to improvements in researchers' ability to write high-quality scientific papers. These improvements can have cascading effects, including increased acceptance rates of papers in reputable journals, better communication of research findings, and enhanced academic career prospects. In line with the findings of Kusumadewi and Satispi (2022), improving scientific paper writing skills goes beyond just formal education and training. Hence, developing good writing abilities requires different methods, including specialized instruction such as academic writing training.

Recognizing this concern, the Doctoral Program in Public Policy at the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Trisakti, has taken proactive steps to empower its students with essential writing skills and ethical standards. This initiative involves hosting comprehensive general lectures, such as the one titled "A Step-by-Step Guide to Publishing Journal Article and Its Strategies". This session intends to delivers various strategies to assist post-graduate students and early researchers in structuring their mindset during the process of writing scientific papers. The "Structure and Components of a Scientific Paper" serves as a guide, outlining the essential stages and key components of an academic paper. It is expected to provide many benefits, particularly for early-stage researchers.

2. METHOD

The event was held on August 5, 2023. It was attended by faculty members and Doctoral Program students. The guest speaker was from UiTM Cawangan Melaka, Malaysia, who has authored several articles in reputable journals and serves as a reviewer for various esteemed academic journals. The activity was conducted through a webinar using zoom meeting platform. Webinar was chosen due to their numerous advantages compared to in-person presentations.

These include the ability to reach participants across a wide geographical area and the potential for reduced financial and time costs for the organizers, speakers, and attendees as highlighted by Topor & Budson, (2020). Furthermore, they have gained popularity as a mean of disseminating various information, as emphasized by Priatmoko et al., (2022).



Figure 1. Webinar Flyer

The stages of this activity can be seen in the image below: (Figure 2).



Figure 2. The flow of activity implementation

The sequence of stages for the activity is as follows:

1. In the first stage, the team holds an initial meeting to prepare everything related to the activity, including coordination with the guest lecturer and material preparation.
2. In the next stage, after the preparations have been completed, the activity begins with an opening session, followed by the presentation on academic writing papers, Q&A and concludes with a closing session.
3. In the final stage, the team evaluates the implementation of the activity by having participants fill out a questionnaire. Subsequently, an analysis of the questionnaire results is conducted.

The presented materials cover several topics summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. The presented material

Materials	
<i>Topic 1</i>	: How to Publish in a Scopus Indexed Journal
<i>Goals</i>	: To guide participants in understanding the steps and strategies for publishing research article in a Scopus indexed journal.
<i>Learning Summary</i>	: Participants will grasp the significance of such journals, learn about the submission process, and explore crucial acceptance factors.
<i>Topic 2</i>	: Winning Manuscript for a Scopus Journal
<i>Goals</i>	: To lead participants in crafting a strong manuscript for submission to a Scopus indexed journal.
<i>Learning Summary</i>	: They'll discover effective paper structure, compelling research presentation, and adherence to guidelines for better acceptance chances.
<i>Topic 3</i>	: Tips to Write Consistently
<i>Goals</i>	: To help participants conquer writer's block, manage time well, and establish a routine that aids steady progress in scientific paper writing.
<i>Learning Summary</i>	: Practical tips for participants to maintain consistent writing habits.
<i>Topic 4</i>	: Where to Publish
<i>Goals</i>	: To helps participants, decide where to publish their research.
<i>Learning Summary</i>	: Covers factors like impact, scope, audience, and visibility, aiding them in choosing the right journal for their topic and goals.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 General Lecture Session

The speaker begins by highlighting that the initial steps of crafting a scientific paper entail in-depth reading to grasp the field, pinpoint the research gap, and commence writing. This process isn't linear; it includes continuous reading to refine arguments and incorporate new insights while simultaneously refining the writing. This iterative cycle ensures a well-informed and substantiated paper.

Continuing the presentation, the speaker delves into an extensive explanation of "The Structure and Components of a Scientific Paper" as a guiding framework, outlining the essential stages and key components of an academic paper. The following are brief explanations of the main topics.

Title. It's a good idea to finalize the title of scientific paper at the end. As the author go through the sections, the author will understand the main theme and key findings. This will help to create a title that accurately reflects the content and importance of the paper. A well-crafted title should be brief but impactful, capturing the essence of the research and its goals. Use interesting language to spark curiosity. A strong title is like an entrance to the paper, inviting readers to explore more. By treating the title as the last step, author can ensure it sums up entire research journey and effectively represents the whole paper.

Authors' Details. It's important to follow the format for authors' details exactly. This can be achieved by following the journal's instructions carefully. These instructions usually tell how to write authors' names, affiliations, and contact info in the paper. Read these guidelines carefully to get the formatting right. Also, looking at how authors' details are shown in past issues of the journal can help understand the preferred format.

Abstract. An important part of scientific papers is the abstract. It's the first thing reviewers see and affects how interested they are. Making a good abstract is vital to prevent rejection. This short summary follows a set structure, starting with the research goal and its

importance. It briefly talks about the method, main findings, policy impact, and future studies. Sticking to the journal's word limit (usually 150-300 words) shows authors' ability to summarize well.

Keywords. Select keywords that are closely related to the research, showing its main ideas. Use terms by researchers in the field when searching for similar studies. Strive to strike a balance between general and specific keywords, enhancing the discoverability and accessibility of the paper.

Introduction. The "Introduction" section starts the research journey by explaining the study's context and reasons. It uses recent data to show why the topic is important and links it to previous research to show how it adds something new. The clear goals guide the study, and explaining why the research matters makes it unique. In essence, the "Introduction" covers the study's purpose, content, and approach, making it interesting for readers and preparing them for what comes next.

Literature Review. When crafting a literature review, it's important to prioritize impactful articles from reputable sources like Scopus or Web of Science. This ensures that the work contributes significantly to the field. Articles chosen should have a direct relevance to the research. It's good to include both recent and foundational papers to build a solid theoretical base. Rather than merely summarizing, it's important to critically analyze trends, gaps, and patterns. Drawing inspiration from well-crafted journal articles, expertly incorporating and explaining sources, is beneficial. Instead of only presenting research, aim to offer insights and make connections. Observing where researchers agree or disagree can help engage in scholarly discussions and deepen understanding of the field.

Method. Serves as the blueprint for the research. It explains the chosen framework, where it came from, and how it might work. It goes into detail about the method chosen, explaining why it's good and why other options weren't picked. It highlights how the method meets the research goals and talks about tests that make sure it's trustworthy. It defines terms, lays out the steps clearly for others to copy, and shows that the results are strong through being clear, valid, and tested. This approach makes sure the "Method" section is open, repeatable, and gives trustworthy results.

Results and Discussion. The results are connected smoothly to the topics mentioned in the introduction, showing how the research matches its goals. A careful comparison with earlier studies is done, discussing what matches, what's different, and how disagreements could be solved. The findings are shown professionally, not just copying software outputs. The results are made strong through checks using different ways of estimating, different group sizes, time periods, and extra factors. This detailed approach makes sure the findings are strong and important in their context.

Conclusion. This section serves as the closing statement. The conclusion wraps up the key aspects of the study and offers a concise synthesis of the findings. This section does not necessitate citations; it represents a culmination of the findings, providing a high-level overview without delving into extensive details. The conclusion summarizes major aspects, restates objectives, addresses gaps, and succinctly outlines the methodology, data sources, and sampling techniques. Core findings are highlighted, and limitations are acknowledged for transparency. The discussion encompasses implications for academia, policy, governance, investments, and society, showcasing their practical significance. Additionally, recommendations for future research are provided, emphasizing the forward-looking perspective of the research and its understanding of evolving field trends.

Acknowledgment. The acknowledgment section in a paper expresses gratitude to individuals, institutions, and funding sources for their contributions to the research process, including financial support, guidance, collaboration, technical assistance, and participation. It acknowledges the collective effort that supports the research's success.

References. Adhere to journal guidelines for accurate referencing, and consider using tools like Mendeley or EndNote to streamline citation formatting and enhance the precision of your reference section.

On top of that, the speaker underscored a strategic approach for ensuring manuscript approval in Scopus Journals. To succeed in such journals, prioritize addressing novelty and research gaps, employ strategic citations, choose high-impact journals, ensure robust findings, craft an engaging abstract, uphold language quality, maintain concise content, explain methods effectively, welcome constructive feedback, and adhere to ethical norms by submitting to one journal at a time.

3.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

We assess how well the activity was done by giving out a questionnaire at the end of the session. This questionnaire is shared using Google Forms, where statements are rated from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" using a Likert scale. Afterward, we analyze the questionnaire responses.

Table 2. Findings from the questionnaire responses

No.	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Section 1: Relevance and Content					
1.	The training objectives were clearly communicated.	95%	5%	-	-
2.	The training content was relevant to improving scientific paper writing skills.	95%	5%	-	-
Section 2: Instruction and Delivery					
3.	The trainer's presentation style was engaging and easy to understand.	90%	10%	-	-
4.	The training materials (slides, handouts, etc.) were clear and supported learning.	95%	5%	-	-
5.	Interactive activities (discussions) enhanced the learning experience.	90%	10%	-	-
Section 3: Skill Development					
6.	I feel more confident in my ability to write a scientific paper.	85%	15%	-	-
7.	The feedback received during the training activities was constructive and beneficial.	85%	15%	-	-
Section 4: Overall Evaluation					
8.	Overall, I found the training activity on writing scientific papers to be valuable.	95%	5%	-	-
9.	I am willing to participate in similar activities if further training sessions are conducted.	90%	10%	-	-

Source: Questionnaire responses

Section 1: Relevance and Content. Almost all participants, 95% strongly agreeing and an additional 5% agreeing, believe that the training objectives were communicated clearly. This shows that the objectives were well-understood. Likewise, a large majority of participants, with 95% strongly agreeing and 5% agreeing, feel that the training content was relevant for improving scientific paper writing skills. This indicates that the content was seen as valuable for enhancing these skills.

Section 2: Instruction and Delivery. 90% of participants strongly liked the trainer's interesting presentation style, and 10% agreed with that. Additionally, 95% strongly agreed (with

5% agreeing) that the training materials were clear and helpful, showing good preparation. Similarly, when it comes to interactive activities, 90% strongly agreed and 5% agreed that they were helpful for better engagement and practical learning.

Section 3: Skill Development. The fact that 85% strongly agreed and 15% agreed shows that participants felt more confident in their scientific paper writing skills after the training. Similarly, the positive response to feedback, with 85% strongly agreeing and 15% agreeing, shows that participants found the training effective in improving their skills and valued the feedback for their progress.

Section 4: Overall Evaluation. A large majority of participants, 95% strongly agreeing and 5% agreeing, clearly see the training as highly valuable. Also, a significant number, 90% strongly agreeing and 10% agreeing, are eager to participate in similar activities in the future, showing their preparedness for more training sessions.

4. CONCLUSION

The webinar with the title "A Step-by-Step Guide to Publishing Journal Article and Its Strategies", organized by the Doctoral Program in Public Policy, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Trisakti, has been successfully conducted. The results of this activity highlight the positive impact of the training activities conducted. From the gathered data, several conclusions can be drawn:

1. **Improved Competency and Confidence:** The webinar had a substantial impact on the skills of the participants, as well as an enhancement in their level of confidence while preparing scientific papers.
2. **The comprehension of the Publication Process:** The participants have acquired an enhanced comprehension of the publication process, encompassing the selection of appropriate journals for disseminating their research work.
3. **Improved Manuscript Quality:** The webinar has facilitated the participants in formulating a more refined structure for their papers, leading to the creation of high-quality manuscripts.
4. **Significance of Consistency:** The session has enlightened the participants about the importance of consistency in writing, which is crucial in facilitating effective and comprehensible scientific communication.
5. **Invaluable Proposition:** The session has been proven to be highly valuable, with majority of 95% of the participants strongly agreeing and the remaining 5% agreeing that the activity was of immense worth.
6. **Prospects for the Future:** An impressive 90% of the participants have expressed a strong willingness to participate in future training activities, indicating the enduring value of such initiatives.
7. **Guidance for Aspiring Scholars:** This paper serves as a guidance for aspiring scholars, encouraging them to adopt effective scientific writing practices in their research endeavors.
8. **Achievable Success:** The approach delineated in this study is feasible on a larger scale, thereby enabling widespread access to impactful scientific communication strategies.

In summary, the findings of this study demonstrate that webinars have a beneficial impact on scientific writing skills while providing a roadmap for future improvements.

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