

8. Writing Scholarly Research Paper

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Abstract

Publication of research papers in reputed and referred journals has become mandatory for teachers, professors and research scholars. Paper must be plagiarism free and scholarly written with scientific validity and reasonable conclusion. Most of the researchers does not differentiate among research paper, article and essay. Researchers are not aware what they are aiming at. The present paper guides researchers about writing a scholarly research paper. There is a specified stepwise procedure of writing scholarly research paper. All researchers must follow that pattern. It is a 7-point strategy. The steps suggested by the author are sole experience of the author. Author is chief editor of Journal of Commerce and Trade.

Keywords: Research Paper; Article; Essay; Plagiarism; Citation; Referencing; Abstract; Journal.

1. Introduction

Research and writing research papers are becoming scientific day by day. Ph. D. students, teachers or professors are being recognized through their published research works. In the recent past in India, it has been made mandatory for every teacher or professor and for every Ph.D. student to get their research papers published in UGC-CARE listed journals or Scopus registered journals. This need is aroused for taking promotions in colleges or universities or for the award of Ph.D. Degrees. Apart from this, government initiated to curb copying of other researchers' work to ban 'literature theft'. It has also made writing of paper very scientific in nature. The research paper must ensure an acceptable level of plagiarism. Moreover, ResearchGate, google scholar, zenodo and other such platforms have emerged to evaluate and to judge the work of researchers. These portals have a public viewing that gives rating to the registered researchers on their platforms.

Before knowing the writing scholarly research paper, one has to understand clearly what the research paper is. Most of the researches fail because they are not 'research papers'. Largely,

research paper, article and essay are taken as one and the same thing. But there is a big difference among them as enumerated below:

a. Research Paper

Research paper is a piece of writing wherein the writer evaluates and compiles research data using various research tools. The information is thus, restructured to provide a unique viewpoint with supporting evidence and back up analysis.

b. Article

Article is a written composition to inform the readers about a certain topic. The aim of article is to describe a topic not to persuade the readers towards accepting his views.

c. Essay

Essay is a short writing with detail in viewpoint and less information. It does not necessarily require a comprehensive understanding of a particular topic.

This way, researcher must be well aware about what he/she is aiming at. Researches are rejected by journals because they are not aimed as per journal's guidelines. Most of the journals need research papers and most of the researchers write article or essay in spite of research paper. There is a universal research writing procedure to write a scholarly research paper for any journal, conference or invited lecture. The present paper is a thorough step-wise guide for writing scholarly research paper. This procedure starts from initial beginning to rigorous end.

2. Objectives

The objective of this paper is to make researcher aware that no journal is a wrong journal. Any journal can publish any research because journals are meant for publishing researches. The main reason of rejecting a paper is simple that the structure of the paper does not match with the vision and mission of that journal. Therefore, the author of this paper made a gentle and honest effort to guide researchers writing a scholarly research paper. Fairly stating, there is no gimmick but planning and controlling technique to write a scholarly research paper. Different journals have different submission patterns and paper styling. A researcher has to follow carefully their suggested pattern and style.

3. Step wise Procedure of Writing Scholarly Research Paper

Researcher should not afraid of rejection of his/her research paper. It is not necessary that your idea may bring electricity to everyone's bulb. Your idea is your idea. A researcher only

needs that language that audience wants to listen or to read. Here, all new and existing researchers are being given a talisman in the following points-

A. Pre-Writing Activity

The first and foremost activity for publishing a scholarly paper is to locate your typical area of interest. Your topic of Ph. D. may be your area of interest. It makes no difference to anyone. The main thing is that you should have carried out enough studies on the basics and specifics of your area of interest. When you are assured about your basic and specific knowledge of your area of interest, you have to start updating yourself with every happening in your chosen area of interest. Even a single movement in your area of interest can make a big difference. The google can help you collecting latest information about your area of interest. You can attend the seminars, talks and conferences aimed at your area of interest. These two exercises- googling and attending seminar will bring good results as you will become well aware about the area of interest and well off with the multiple thoughts presented by the other researchers. Here, you will perform two activities-Reading and Listening. Both the activities are effective enough to get your idea or topic mature and developed.

B. Kick Start the Writing Work and Pen it Down

When your topic is mature and developed, you can start working on it. This area of interest is your topic in broad sense. The first step in starting writing a scholarly research paper is making notes. You should not start writing a paper at once. Make proper notes or reviews from the material you have. Secondly, decide that your study needs primary data or it will be based on secondary data. If your study needs primary data then you have to manage to collect relevant data through questionnaire-that may be dichotomous, five point or seven-point scale based. It is the duty of the researcher to frame relevant questions /responses strictly aiming at his/her area of interest. And, you have to process the primary data collection or secondary data collection. Both types of data need tabulating, collating and correlating to extract the right information that matches with your topic. Some researchers frame questions in accordance with the objectives of the study and hypothesis of the study. Well, making notes with the material available is a cumbersome job. It also includes deleting excess information gathered earlier, noting down interesting problems arising and marking possible and expected solutions. Moreover, if you are catching some random ideas and some references, record all of them also.

C. Read Back, Think and Re-Write

Making of the notes and data evaluations alone are not enough to start writing a scholarly research paper. You have to convert your notes and data evaluations in a unique and worthwhile form. You will have to add up contemporary and real-life examples in it. One should not forget that any theoretical idea that you generated, will be applied in a real-life situation. Therefore, you should read and review the notes and data evaluations thoroughly as many times till your mind starts in-breeding new ideas. Think over it; discuss the subject matter honestly to anyone whom you come across whether it is a shopkeeper, a teacher, a friend, a driver, street vendor that comes to your door or your fellow traveler. Write down their assertions and submissions. Correlate them with your notes. Accept or reject them as per the context and content. This way, you will be clear about the structure of your paper. It is to note here that every research paper is an argument of one's vision or idea. It needs to be highly practical, must be the voice of public and must be purely structured and conclusive.

D. Enrich your Writing

After having enough background material, evaluated data and full pack of supportive ideas, you should not wait to start writing. You should follow a strategy to maintain quality writing:

- i. **Significance:** Significance of a research study is par necessary. A brilliant author must report the significance of the topic or idea being established in the research paper. Significance is the reason why this work is being done. A research study is significant if it gives solution to an important problem,
- ii. **Originality:** Your idea should be original within the limits of plagiarism acceptance. Your writings are original, if your idea is new, unique, pure and you have you need to developed new tools either analytical or physical,
- iii. **Completeness:** The study, you are conducting, should not be just a proof of concept. It must be complete in all sense. Completeness means that you have considered all known theories and practices. You have come to the real gap in the study area,
- iv. **Correctness:** Mere completeness in the study does not lead your study to a marvelous and eye-catching study. There should be correctness in the subject

matter of your paper of your paper. The concept should not be against general laws of society, culture, economics and science.

E. Ensure the Correct Structure

It must be well understood that there is a big difference between a research paper and scholarly research paper. A scholarly research paper should have a specified structure as enumerated below:

- i. **Abstract:** abstract must include concept, short methodology, location and expected outcome of the research paper. It is to say that abstract should depict what your research is all about. It is a brief summary of your work. Some journals have limits in words for abstract.
- ii. **Keywords and JEL-Classifications:** There is a big misconception that keywords mean the key concept or topics you are going to discuss. But it is not so. Keywords and JEL-Classifications help your research to be located faster by the search engines. Keywords mean those popular topics or concepts that are also the indicators of your research. JEL-Classification is also a categorization and it classifies your research. You should include this in every paper.
- iii. **Introduction:** Introduction consists of numerous topics in it. Primarily, it is the opening of your topic and your idea. It tells about the significance of the topic. It depicts the selection of the topic. It discusses the research gap and the statement of the problem.
- iv. **Methodology:** It gives an outlook about how, when, where of the research paper. Methodology includes objectives, sampling techniques, hypothesis, period of study, data type, survey tool. Albeit, the most important part of methodology is the location. You do not know who will read and consider your research paper. In this way, you should give socio-economic aspects of your research location. It creates an environmental recreation in the brain of the reader and he/she can grasp your idea more quickly.
- v. **Review of Literature:** It is another necessary part of the research paper structure. It gives the gist from existing works of the same area of research. The purpose of giving review of literature is show the gap within the research.

F. Your Contribution

Your contribution should be a broad section of your paper. Your contribution means your input, your idea, your analysis and your vision indeed about the subject matter of your paper.

Following points must be kept in mind while writing your contribution-

- i. Clear description of the problem or gap you are concentrating upon.
- ii. Mention your vision and analysis in the shape of contribution.
- iii. The significance and interesting point of problem, you are pointing to.
- iv. Big talk about the achievements that your solutions may bring.
- v. How your solution is different from other known solutions.

G. Referencing and Citation

Referencing and citation are of prime significance now a days. Papers lacking referencing and citation are not scholarly research papers. It is the primary duty of the researcher to give proper referencing or citation of the quoted work. Referencing and citation acknowledges the contribution of external writers. Referencing & Citation are in-matter acknowledgement of works of others, you quote. It also proves that your work is a well-developed, thoroughly researched and analytically explained.

F. Common Mistakes

Now your paper is ready and you have to submit that paper to a journal. The journal will send your paper for a blind review/peer-review. Peer review/Double blind review / Referred / Scholarly Publishing is one and the same thing. It is the evaluation of a study by one or more experts having the similar competency as the writer has. Peer review is done in order to maintain standards of quality (Scientific Validity and reasonable conclusion); ethical behaviour; improve performance and suitability of manuscript for publication.

If any comment comes from the reviews like rejection or resubmission then you have to make necessary changes as per their report. A researcher should avoid some common mistakes that come unknowingly as stated below:

- i. Wrong sequence in Figure and Table Numbering and unclear tables & figures;
- ii. General contradictions, confusion or doubling in the matter that hamper continuity of the thought;
- iii. Plagiarism in the matter; and
- iv. Obsolete or old data and matter.

G. Conclusion

Edward Denier-the editor of APA's Journal of Personality and Social Psychology says "Remember to get a lot of publications, your also will need to get lots of rejection". Rejections never say that you are a failure. If you practice more and more, you will be master of the writing. Criticisms of the content of the paper may require more substantial revisions rethinking your ideas, running more tests and redoing an analysis. Ask, discuss and interact but don't argue with the editorial team of the journal. The above steps for writing a scholarly research paper is based on author's experience. The author is chief editor of Journal of Commerce and Trade.

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