

# Why publish???

Associate Professor Margaret Fry  
Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health  
University of Technology

Making our disciplines visible

EMERGENCY



## Why publish

- Everyone knows....
  - Publishing makes Nursing Midwifery and Health visible
  - You can provide evidence for system change and debate
  - Funding schemes and builds credibility for future research grants / scholarships (unknown by clinicians)

## But did you know.....

- Clarifies thought and structure
- Writing and analytical skills grow
- Builds capacity and a program of research for your career
- Change agents
- Builds pride in work practices, colleagues and team members
- Creates a research culture

## Conveying the steps of your work

- What do you have to say!
- Break up your work
- Literature review
- Tool development
- Pilot work
- Evaluations/findings of research
- Gaps in own research

## Who is the audience

- Target group
  - Discipline specific
  - Education Journals
  - Management Journals
  - Scholarly work
- How do you want your work utilised
  - Researchers
  - Managers
  - Policy Makers – Government/Professional bodies

## Where to publish

- The importance to your discipline
- Academic value
  - Performance measure for promotion or job application
- CDNM <http://www.cdnm.edu.au/pdfs/JETFinalRankings.pdf>

### Scoring for quality bands

1 76-100

2 51-75

3 26-50

4 0-25 or unscored

*Aim high and make a difference*

## Impact factor

- Compare rank and evaluate journals
- Cochrane systematic review IF 4.654
- Average times an article from a journal is cited in a particular year
- ISI Science
- Thomson ISI
  
- Challenge for Nursing, Midwifery and Health

## Writing style

The journals will often dictate style

Theoretical framework may guide style

Present tense more exciting to read than past tense

Has the journal published similar papers/themes?

- Copyright

Using tables, validated tools etc – you will need permission - allow time

## Getting started

Germination of an idea

What is the purpose?

Why does your work make a difference

Cluster your work

It is easier to work in teams

Have early discussions about co-authorship

Ethics around contribution by authors

Keep it short, check journal manuscript length

## Encountering writers block

- **Struggling**
  - Stop reading start writing
  - Change the sentence (back is front)
  - If you struggle to finish reading your work so will everyone else (especially examiners)
  - Simple is better
  - Less emotion
- Get someone to read your work (bribery works)
- Everyone has their own style so be prepared for comments

## Research team

- Interests/disciplines/agenda of team members may influence study and subsequent writing style
- Always keep your drafts
- Consider using file pathway in footnotes
- Number drafts (good practice)
- Often difficult to merge track changes

## Why bother to publish

- Opportunity to refine writing skills
- Assists to clarify thought
- Feedback from experts in the field
- Conveys conviction for your research
- Become known in the research area/arena

## A good published paper

- Provides a literature review of current issues and historical interests
- Critically appraised gaps
- A strong argument for your research contribution
- Sections are clustered

## Before sending off your work

- Try to hold on to it for a couple of days or 1 week
- Read it out loud
- Give it to someone you trust
  - Be prepared for feedback
- Check that each paragraph has a single thought, theme, idea etc
- Logical links between paragraphs
- Proof read hard copy – don't forget references tables etc

## Journal feedback

- Rejected
  - Focus and agenda of journal
  - Journals have scripted interests - did your work fit?
- Revision needed minor/major
  - Leave it in a draw
  - Read each review and deal with each reviewer's comments separately
  - Always some useful information / suggestions/comments
  - Be prepared to defend your article
  - Provide a detailed response to reviewers comments

## EndNote

- Use to insert references as you write
- **Have you considered**
  - Use to record own profile for CV
  - Ready for promotional opportunities
  - Retrieval of cluster themes by key words etc
  - Direct entry of citation into Endnote during library database searches
- **Additional resource**
  - Thesaurus

## Resources

Article:

Fahy K 2008 Writing for publication: the basics, Women and Birth 21 pp86-91

Endacott R 2007 Clinical research 6: Writing and research Accident and Emergency nursing (in press)

- Library services
- Student services -support for student learning
- Graduate school offers workshops
- The ELSSA Centre



Enjoy the moment

