Get published and make an impact with your research

The decisions you make about your publications affect their ultimate impact. The journal you choose, the type of article and the way you write about your research all contribute to the result. So where should you start?

When and what to publish

Do you have a story to tell?
Editors and reviewers are looking for original and innovative research that adds to their field of study, sheds new light on previous findings or joins the dots between work in different areas.

Is there an audience for your story?
The more original and innovative your research, the more people will be interested.

How can you tell your story?
Scholarly articles come in a variety of shapes and sizes which include:
- Full articles
- Letters, short communications and micro articles
- Review papers
- Research elements articles

How to write a great research paper

Scholarly articles often follow a standard structure. Here’s how to get the most out of each section.

- **Title:** identify your main topic; make it unambiguous, accurate and specific; keep it short; use keywords; make it interesting.
- **Keywords:** imagine your reader browsing for articles: what would they type in the search box?
- **Abstract:** you have limited words so use them wisely. Summarize the problem or objective of your research, and its methods, results, and conclusions.
- **Introduction:** keep it brief; provide context and background; lead the reader to your hypotheses, research questions, and experimental design or methods.
- **Methods:** include enough detail to enable readers to replicate your research and assess whether the methods justify the conclusions.
- **Results:** present your findings objectively; show how your results contribute to the body of scientific knowledge; include figures and tables where useful.
- **Discussion & conclusions:** explain how your research has moved the body of knowledge forward; make sure your conclusions don’t extend beyond your results.
- **References:** always acknowledge the work you’re building on. Tip: use Mendeley Reference Manager (mendeley.com) to store, search, organize, note, share, and cite.

Language issues can mean the difference between acceptance and rejection. It’s important to ensure the language you use is clear and error-free.

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- **Impact:** several metrics, including CiteScore and Impact Factor
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