Publishing in Non-Library Journals for Promoting Scientific Information Literacy

By

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Information Literacy (IL)

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) has defined IL as:

“a set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information.”

Librarians Provide IL

- Workshops
- Classes
- Librarian in the laboratory
- Communicating via technology
- Consultations
- Online Tutorials
In 1989, Moffett stated:

“What we write is seen by almost nobody, but other librarians. For all our meetings, conferences, and preconferences, for all our committees and task forces, our journals and yearbooks, are we any better understood by our clients in whose behalf we labor?”

In 1990, Kornegay stated:

“The ideas which we present in our journals are often interesting to other librarians, but consider how useful and effective much of our writing could be if it were read by another academic audience - the college teaching faculty.”

Publishing in Non-Library Journals

- Importance
- Visibility
- Ideas
- Communication (Outreach)
History Background

- Kenney, 1983, 1994 (Social Sciences and Humanities)
- Weimer, 1993 (included Sciences)
- Still, 1998 (Pedagogical Journals)
- Stevens, 2007 (Pedagogical Journals)

Content contained little information about libraries and that few articles were actually written by librarians!
Information Literacy Publications from SciFinder Scholar

![Graph showing the number of article & review documents over time](image-url)
Journal Selection Criteria

- Quality Indicators
- Peer-review
- Review Time
- Scope and Audience
- Acceptance Rate
- Publishing Body and Hoster
- Publication Frequency
- Indexing
Methodology

1. Selected databases:
   - Web of Science *(8000 journals)*
   - Proquest Educational Journals *(1020 journals)*
   - ERIC from EBSCOhost *(1108 journals)*

2. Looked at the Scope and Audience

3. Editors were emailed (twice)
   for journal’s acceptance rates and review times
Results Data

- 84 Journals identified
- 70 responses (83%)
- 62 Positive responses (74%)
- 8 Negative responses (10%). Questioned librarian to journal suitability?

“…is NOT a particularly good place for academic librarians to submit articles”

“…highly unlikely that an academic librarian would submit a manuscript to a journal written for, by, and about…”

“…this is not a journal suitable for librarians to publish”
Sample Table of Non-Library Journals in the Sciences for Librarians to Publish

### Science Subject Areas (12):
E.g., Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Hosted</th>
<th>Start Year of Print Journal</th>
<th>Publication Frequency</th>
<th>Review Time</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
<th>Impact Factor (2010)</th>
<th>EF (AF) (2010)</th>
<th>SJR Score &amp; h-index</th>
<th>Indexed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Advances in Physiology Education</td>
<td>American Physiological Society</td>
<td>American Physiological Society</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>4/yr</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ERIC</td>
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<td>PEJ WoS</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Biology Teacher (The)</td>
<td>University of California Press</td>
<td>National Association of Biology Teachers</td>
<td></td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>9/yr</td>
<td>3-6 months</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>BioScience</td>
<td>University of California Press</td>
<td>American Institute of Biological Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>12/yr</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>PEJ WoS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Biological Education</td>
<td>Routledge</td>
<td>Society of Biology</td>
<td></td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>4/yr</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>WoS</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Journal Results

- All Peer-reviewed
- Acceptance Rate (7 - 75%)
- Review Time (2 weeks - 18 months)
- Start Time (1880 to 2003)
- Publication Frequency (1/week - 18/year)
- Quality Indicators - varied
- Indexing - at least in one database
Conclusions

• One way librarians can outreach to the science disciplines is by publishing in journals read by the scientific community.

• Future work will focus on identifying non-library journals in other disciplines.
Citations


Thank You