Publishing In Academic Journals

Presented by: Cyrus Mutuku

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Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS)
What is an Academic Journal

- An academic journal is a peer-reviewed periodical in which scholarly work relating to a particular academic discipline is published
- Academic journals serve as forums for the introduction and presentation for scrutiny of new research, and the critique of existing research
- Publication content takes the form of articles presenting original research, review articles, and book reviews
Important features of academic journals

1. Are written by experts/scholars in particular fields of study
2. They are peer reviewed by at least 3-4 qualified peers for quality checks
3. They are formal in writing style and format, aimed at a specialized, academic audience and use specialized language
Important features of academic journals:

4. Each article has a list of references at the end.

5. The articles are usually more structured and may include; Abstract, Literature review, Methodology, research findings and conclusions.

6. They communicate research findings and the targeted audience consists of scholars/experts.
Choosing the right Journal

1. Scope and coverage must be relevant for your discipline or paper
2. Is it peer reviewed journal or not
3. Frequency of publication-annually, quarterly or semiannually.
4. Quality of papers published in that journal- rigor/citations/authors profiles
5. Expertise/composition of the Editorial Board
Choosing the right Journal.....

6. Journal Level metrics;

- **Impact factor;** It is the average number of citations of an article, a proceeding, or a review published in a journal in the last two years. It is annually published in Journal Citation Reports (JCR) or websites of the journals.

- See top economic journals in impact factor ranking below

https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.journals.simple.html
Journal Level metrics…

- Eigen factor; gives higher weightage citations from influential journals and does not consider self-citations. It is based on the average citations in a JCR year to papers published in the last 5 years.

- h5 Index: This metric counts the number of articles (h) published in the past five years that have a minimum of h citations. It is available through Google Scholar.

- Immediacy Index: It is the average number of article citations in the first year of publication. It helps to assess how quickly these papers are cited.

- List of predatory journals can also be useful: https://predatoryjournals.com/journals/
Quality of a good article

- The article should be well written with good flow, language and style
  - **Title** – of reasonable length, clear and interesting and relate to what is inside the article
  - **Abstract** - reasonable length, accurately reflect findings
  - **Introduction** – Introduce the background adequately
  - **Literature review** – relevant and adequate
  - **Methodology** – appropriate for the study
  - **Findings** - Clear, accurate and adequate, compare and contrast with the results of appropriate previous study
  - **References** – relevant, up to date and adequate
Quality of a good article…

- Should have a logical flow and linkage between sections
- Be original - new idea, new methods of analysis or experimentation/significant contribution to the body of knowledge
- Rigor in analysis- Have you used the best approach
- Editorial issues-format/structure/referencing style should be as per editorial instruction
- Robustness of results should be well illustrated
Why are research papers rejected?

- Manuscript does not fall within the journal’s aim and scope
- Paper is under review at another journal
- Writing is incomprehensible-poor English
- Doesn’t conform to the writing style of the journal-style, font, font size, margin, space and other such details
- Research doesn’t add value to the journal
- Poor research methodology or analysis
- Violation of research ethics or conflicting interests
Dealing with feedback

- Reviewers may accept the article for publication, suggest for minor or major collections or reject it.
- If rejected, seek reasons for rejection and focus on improving on the article.
- Various reviewers may give different opinions concerning your article, it is appropriate to respond to reviewers comments calmly and appropriately.
- It is acceptable to challenge reviewers, with good justification.
Submission of your article

- Read the aims and scope and author guidelines carefully
- Ensure you meet submission criteria – format of article/template, references, illustrations and charts, length of article, type setting, etc.
- Follow proper submission procedures-by creating an account in the journal website or through the editor
- Submit your article within the expected time lines- periodic Issue release
All is Not Lost!

-Prominent economists/Nobel price winners at some point also had their papers rejected.

For early career researchers, publishing can be the most difficult part of research.

Publishing is a process, be patient and hopeful.

It is advisable to begin with less competitive journals.
Reading list


Q & A Session