

Implications of Scientific Documentation

Nandini Chatterjee

Keywords: Authorship, National Medical Commission Criteria, Scientific Publications.

Bengal Physician Journal (2024): 10.5005/jp-journals-10070-8032

Publications in scientific journals have manifold implications. Medical science is expanding its frontiers at lightning speed and documentation of new information is essential for the knowledge of a vast population. Peer-reviewed journals have an important role in authentic data sharing and dissemination is more wholesome and widespread if they are Open Access journals.

Also to be emphasized is the fact that information once shared can be reused for further experimentation as well as, be preserved for posterity to compare and improved upon by the new generation.

On a personal front, there are many advantages to embarking upon the journey of scientific publication.

The act of preparing the manuscript and comparison with other's research aids in the review and interpretation of ones' own data.

Added to it is the insight and feedback given by peer review on the accuracy and quality of your research methodology which paves the way to further improvement on subsequent work.

Publications give recognition among peers and lead the way to further acquisition of research opportunities and funding.

A practical aspect of the publication is career advancement as they have become mandatory for promotions in Medical Education services.

It is our responsibility to be aware of the criteria for publications that are considered acceptable for the purpose of promotions in Medical Colleges in India.

The National Medical Commission Criteria for Publications issued a circular in February 2022 which categorically laid down in detail the quality and quantity of publications to be considered for promotions.

The following types of papers are acceptable:

- Original research paper.
- Meta-analysis.
- Systematic review.
- Case series.

A case series includes a conglomeration of 4–10 cases which have a common thread of discussion.

Narrative review articles, case reports or correspondence are not counted as papers to be considered for promotions.

The journal where these papers are published must be indexed in any of the following indexing services:

- Medline.
- PubMed central.
- Central citation index.
- Science citation index.

Department of Medicine, Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Corresponding Author: Nandini Chatterjee, Department of Medicine, Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, Phone: +91 8145005804, e-mail: nandinibpj21@gmail.com

How to cite this article: Chatterjee N. Implications of Scientific Documentation. *Bengal Physician Journal* 2024;11(1):1–2.

Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None

- Expanded Embase.
- Scopus.
- Directory of open access journals (DOAJ).

It is not necessary to have a print copy of the journal-online journals are also valid, provided that they fulfill the criteria of indexing.

Also Specific Journal publication is not mandatory as long as the article is published in the above-mentioned indexing services.

Earlier Index Copernicus Indexed Journals were also valid but that has been discarded in 2022.

Unlike popular belief, the impact factor of a journal has not been included as a criterion in the selection for promotions.

The number of authors who can get the benefit of a paper according to NMC, has been changing over the years. The latest regulation Gazette does not mention the authorship order which previously used to be the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and corresponding authors. So authorship in a valid publication is probably considered acceptable provided the article ticks the other boxes.

To summarize, publications are essential and unavoidable in today's academic world.

Whether it is for recognition among peers career advancement, or simply the pursuit of knowledge—whatever one's goal, one needs a lot of patience and practice to master the art of scientific writing. Not only that—one needs to be aware of choosing the right journal, submission procedures, and how to give artful responses to reviewer queries. There is no shortcut in this field as the performance of a researcher is evaluated on the body of work he or she produces over a period of time and not on the basis of a single study in a high-impact journal.

FURTHER READING

1. Abbott A, Cyranoski D, Jones N, et al. Metrics: Do metrics matter? *Nature* 2010;465(7300):860–862. DOI: 10.1038/465860a.

2. Björk B, Roos A, Lauri M. Scientific journal publishing: Yearly volume and open access availability. Information Research 2009. Available from: <http://www.informationr.net/ir/14-1/paper391.html>.
3. Bauerlein M, Gad-el-Hak M, Grody W, et al. We must stop the avalanche of low-quality research. The Chronicle of Higher Education. 2010. Available from: <http://www.chronicle.com/article/We-Must-Stop-the-Avalanche-of/65890>.
4. Reuters T. Journal self-citation in the journal citation reports. 2011. Available from: http://www.thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/free/essays/journal_self_citation_jcr.