

How to Get the Most Out of Your Conference Paper: From Presentation to Journal Publication

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What is this about?

- How to prepare for the conference
- How to get the most out of the conference
- How to convert your conference paper into a journal article

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How to Prepare for the Conference

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How to Prepare for the Conference

Selecting your conference – what are your goals?

- Academic content
- Networking opportunities
 - At the conference
 - In the locality
- Do you want to present?
- Impact
 - National/international
 - Dissemination
 - Your CV
- What are the views of your co-authors / supervisors?

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How to Prepare for the Conference

Selecting your conference

- Practical issues
 - Where is the conference?
 - Timing
 - Funding
 - Conference costs
 - Travel, accommodation and subsistence
- Submission requirements
- Abstract only or full paper?
- Timeline
 - Yours
 - The conference organisers

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How to Prepare for the Conference

Now you have selected which conference you want to present at...

- Do you want to present or attend?
- Know the deadlines
- (Re)Read the guidelines
- Who will/can support you in writing the conference submission?
- Reviewing opportunities?

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How to Prepare for the Conference

Your submission has been accepted – *congratulations!*

- Know the presentation guidance – oral, posters
 - Make sure you include your contact details and your academic social media handles
- Look at other presentations - from the same conference and more broadly
- Practice!
- Be ready for questions – you may wish to ask some of the audience

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How to Prepare for the Conference

Your submission has been accepted – *congratulations!*

- Set your conference objectives
- Prepare an elevator pitch – and be ready to share your contact details
- Think about what your conference style is – it may not be the same as your supervisors!
- Networking
 - Online conferences are more challenging – may need to arrange to meet people ahead of the conference
- Is there an PhD/ECR programme?

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How to Get the Most Out of the Conference

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How to Get the Most Out of the Conference

Conferences are key to academic life offering great opportunities to:

- Present your research
- Meet other researchers in your field
- Discover new ideas

Here are some tips to help you get the most out of a conference has to offer.

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How to Get the Most Out of the Conference

Choose an appropriate conference

- Large conferences cover a lot of topics and highlight major developments
- A smaller conference about your specific research topic may make it easier to connect with other researchers in your field

Identify your goals

You looking for:

- Connecting with new people
- Communicating your work
- Learning about new developments in your field

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How to Get the Most Out of the Conference

Plan your time budget

Conferences offers different sessions.

- Review conference program and choose, which sessions you do not want to miss
- Plan the rest of your time for socialising and recharging

Talk to your colleagues about their schedules

- See what they have included in their schedules
- There may be something that interests you

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How to Get the Most Out of the Conference

Networking

Conferences a great way to connect with people in your field.
The top reason!

- You as a PhD student may not know many people outside of your university, however, your supervisor will. Stick with them they will introduce you to the people in their network
- If you are attending yourself, start a conversation with another solo conference goer like asking what the best paper they have seen (icebreaker)
- Utilize the coffee breaks and dinners for networking

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How to Get the Most Out of the Conference

- Twitter: join the conversation by using the event hashtag
- Searching the conference hashtag is a great way to find out who else is at the conference and learn about panels or sessions
- Attend any virtual networking events
- Use the chat functionality of the event platform to connect with other attendees
- If you are looking for a postdoc position, talk to people you are interested in working with

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How to Get the Most Out of the Conference

Take Your Notes

- Things you learned during the conference sessions
- Who you met
- And any thing requiring further action

Take a moment at the end of each day to summarise the key takeaways.

Follow Up

- Send a quick follow up email to the new people you met
- Then, keep in touch!

From Conference Paper to Journal Article

From Conference Paper to Journal Article

- Conversion – why bother?
- Conference paper versus journal article – what’s the difference?
- What makes a good journal article?
- How do I get started – and keep going?

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Conversion – Why Bother?

Why are we researchers?

- To stimulate debate
- To increase understanding
- To solve problems

Why disseminate our work?

- To extend understanding and knowledge in the area
- Provide accessible solutions to practitioners
- Accountability to funding body
- Public accountability

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Conversion – Why Bother?

Why disseminate via journals?

- Credibility: Independently deemed trustworthy
- Permanency: Permanent and accessible to others
- Contributes to the body of knowledge
- Impact factor: Can influence subsequent research
- Brownie points: Substantiates research skills and aids employment seeking

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Conference Paper Versus Journal Article

Conference Papers	Journal Articles
Briefer	Detailed (theory , methodology, future research)
More accepting of conceptual contributions	More accepting of primary research
Less specific guide for structure and layout	Specific guide for structure and layout
Less formalised writing style	More formalised writing style
Refereeing may be less detailed	Rigorous refereeing (citation check) often by multiple reviewers
Shorter lead times	Longer lead times

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What Makes a Good Journal Article?

- **Readable:** Has a logical flow and is grammatically correct
- **Engaging:** Is not presumptuous
- **Original:** Adds to, rather than duplicates, extant literature – this includes conference papers; avoid the ‘Eveready Battery Bunny article’

What Makes a Good Journal Article?

- **Credible:** All claims are substantiated – by literature or valid research findings
- **Relevant:** Is important to the target audience(s)
- **Clear:** Has a take-home-message

How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

Which conference paper can / should be converted?

- Have you been invited to submit to a Special Issue based on the conference?
- What will it add to extant literature?
- How will it expand on the conference paper?

Which journals should I target?

- Is there an appropriate home for the paper?
- Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) Initiative journal rankings
- If unsure, write to the journal editor attaching a draft abstract

How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

Should it be co-authored?

- Advantages
 - Decreased workload
 - More enjoyable, collegial activity
 - Increased likelihood of acceptance (better quality)
 - Increased representation of multiple disciplines
- Disadvantages
 - Increased workload
 - Increased timeframe
 - Increased strain on collegial relationships

How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

Who should be an author?

- Individuals who made or could make a significant contribution
 - Conceptual / theoretical development
 - Data collection (depends on discipline)
 - Interpretation of findings
 - Writing the paper
- Normally not individuals who have reviewed the paper

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How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

What should be the role of individual co-authors?

- Needs to be clear from the outset

How should authors be ordered?

- Depends on degree of contribution
- If contribution is equal, order can be:
 - Reversed by track record to support junior staff
 - Alphabetical?
 - Shared (in a series of papers)

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How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

Develop timeframe

- Identify milestones and a feasible timeframe for each, e.g.
 - Identify journals and peer reviewers
 - Prepare first draft
 - Submit to peer reviewers
 - Revise first draft
 - Submit to peer reviewers
 - Revise second draft
 - Submit to journal
 - Schedule writing time into your diary
- } May not be feasible/necessary

How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

Create a shortlist of potential journals

- Which journals:
 - Appear on my reference lists?
 - Do my research supervisor recommend?
 - Appear in database searches using my keywords?
 - Are the experts in my field publishing in?
 - Are my colleagues publishing in?

How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

Top 10 questions to evaluate journals

1. Is the journal peer reviewed?
2. What subject matter does this journal publish on?
3. Who reads this journal?
4. Does the journal have high impact metrics?
5. How often does the journal publish?
6. How discoverable is it – does it have an ISSN, and where is it indexed and abstracted?
7. What are the submission guidelines of the journal?
8. How long do the review process and the online publication process take?
9. What are the publication costs?
10. Is the journal Open Access?

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How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

How should the paper be structured?

- See selected journal Author Guidelines
 - Types of papers accepted by journal
 - Suggested article structure
 - Required abstract structure
 - Template
 - Referencing and citation style
 - Requirements for tables, figures, and/or audio-visual material

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How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

- Title
 - Descriptive
 - Appeal to prospective readers
- Abstract
 - Clearly summarises the paper
 - Often follows the same structure as the paper (but note Structured Abstract requirements)
 - Make every word count
- Keywords
 - Appropriate and relevant
 - Sometimes provided by the journal

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How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

- Introduction
 - Introduction
 - The problem
 - Why the problem is important
 - How the paper addresses the problem (the aim)
 - How the aim is achieved
 - Key terms defined
 - What to expect
 - Take-home-message

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How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

- Literature review
 - Previous research
 - Conceptual / theoretical framework
- Methodology
 - Participants
 - Method(s) / techniques
 - Ethics
 - Analysis
- Results
 - Link all tables and figures to text

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How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

- Discussion
 - Remind the reader:
 - What the paper was about
 - Why it is important
 - How the aim was achieved
 - Interpret findings
 - Limitations
 - Implications (e.g., for practice, for research, for policy)
 - Directions for future research

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How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

How to handle writer's block

- Create an outline
- Use bullet points
- Partner-up
- Find (helpful) reviewers

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How Do I Get Started – and Keep Going?

How to handle rejection

- Put the letter aside for a while (don't respond in anger!)
- Think about it
- Talk about it
- THEN respond to it
 - Request clarification
 - Address each point by:
 - Modifying the paper accordingly
 - Diplomatically disagreeing with the comment and substantiating the difference

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Free
Membership

Networking
Opportunities



Webinars

Panel
Discussions

Health Management and Organisation Special Interest Group

<https://www.anzam.org/research/special-interest-groups-sigs/health-management-and-organisation>

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