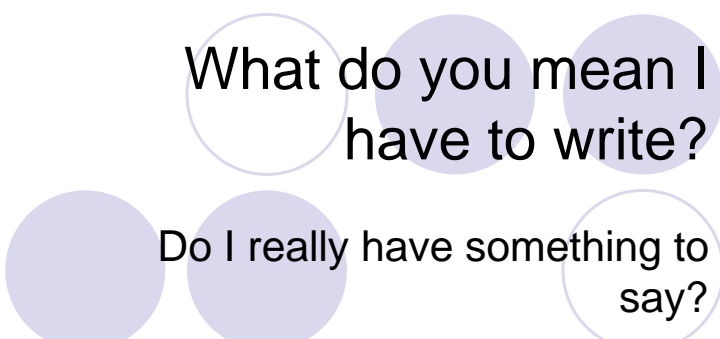


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Getting Published: A Primer for Academic Librarians

Peter L. Kraus, Associate Librarian
J. Willard Marriott Library
University of Utah

The text is centered and surrounded by several light purple circles of varying sizes, some overlapping the text.

What do you mean I
have to write?

Do I really have something to
say?

Why Publish?

- Tenure standards defined by administrators and external forces (legislatures; trustees).
- Librarians' status as faculty is often questioned.
- Compared with other fields, librarians don't publish as much as they should to prove their worth as faculty.
- Your contributions to your field as well as your own career.

The Light Bulb – Where to Get Ideas

- New projects (success or failure)
- New programs/New services
- New collaborations
- Trends affecting your library
- “You have an article there...”

Ride the Idea for All it's Worth

- The rule of three

- A paper
- A poster
- An article

Outreach – Community Groups

- Let them know what you can do for them
- The key – Government information is interdisciplinary
- You know more than you think

A Few Thoughts

- Writing often happens on your own time – get used to it
- The 8:00 a.m. rule – An hour a day
- Professional leave – If you have it

Getting Started

- Read what other's have written: The good, the bad, the ugly
- Be objective – you will learn something every time you write

The Light Goes On

- Start writing ASAP – get those ideas down – no matter how basic they are
- Get your sources lined up early
- Keep list – what's current; what can wait

Writing Style

The Three C's – Concise, Clear and Complete

- Remember the reader
- Begin with main point
- Be concise
- Be unemotional
- Use clear, specific language
- Write in a friendly professional style

Writing Style (Continued)

- Use the active voice whenever possible
- Move from known information to new information – don't bore the reader
- Avoid complicated sentences
- Use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation

So – How to Begin

- Book reviews (journals are always looking for book reviewers)
- Journals that mentor new writers
- Journal clubs/faculty writing groups/Grand Rounds
- Grant reviewers (federal, state, non-profit)



How to Begin (Continued)

- **Writing 6000 Writing for Publication (2)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or Instructor's consent.

Meets with WRTG 4000. Preparation of various forms and styles of academic and professional writing, including abstracts, theses, and journal articles. Intended for graduate students or advanced undergraduates in all disciplines.



How to Begin (Continued)

- **Writing 7060 Scientific Writing (3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing required.

Designed to help graduate students in the sciences develop the skills needed for scientific research and communication. Provides students with the opportunity to write in the variety of forms that they are likely to encounter in their professional lives (i.e. memos, proposals, reports, presentations) in a scientific context.



H-Net: A Dream Resource

- <http://www.h-net.org/>
- Various list-servs by disciplines
- Calls for papers and book reviews



The Age-Old Questions

- Do you focus on one key journal?
- Do you focus on many journals?
- Publish in LIS journals?
- Publish outside the field?

Two Most Important Points to Remember

- Quality is everything
- Write about what interests you – learn to be passionate about your topic

Some Resources to Think About

- University writing labs
 - Great resources
 - Often ignored by faculty

Some Resources to Think About (Cont)

- What else can happen?
 - Invitations to write
 - Invitations to present at conferences

Where to Start Looking

- Journal of Library and Philosophy of Practice

***Library Philosophy and Practice (LPP)* is a peer-reviewed electronic journal that publishes articles exploring the connection between library practice and the philosophy and theory behind it. These include explorations of current, past, and emerging theories of librarianship and library practice, as well as reports of successful, innovative, or experimental library procedures, methods, or projects in all areas of librarianship, set in the context of applied research.**



portal: Libraries and the Academy

Fantastic mentoring program for new writers

http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/portal_libraries_and_the_academy/guidelines.pdf.



Stand by Your Values

- Elsevier = bad – or is it?
- Open access = good
- Institutional repositories = good
- Posting policies in the IR

Copyright

- If a journal does not allow you to retain copyright – move on and find another or negotiate.
- If your Dean is advocating for SPARC – Open Access – follow the example

ACRL Publications

- [College & Research Libraries News](#)
Monthly newsmagazine, featuring articles on the latest trends and practices affecting academic and research libraries and the official news of ACRL. Select articles are available online.
- [College & Research Libraries](#)
Bimonthly journal featuring scholarly research in academic librarianship.



More Examples

- The Journal of Academic Librarianship
- Library Collections, Acquisitions, and Technical Services



Scholarly Society Journals

- Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters
 - Journal of the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters

Sources Used

- Erren TC (2007) The long and thorny road to publication in quality journals. PLoS Computational Biology 3(12)
- Bourne PE (2005) Ten simple rules for getting published. PLoS Computational Biology 1(5)