“Low hanging fruit” – Increase your publication productivity

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Pressure to publish

- Affects HDR students and academics of all levels
- Reasons to publish more quality papers
  - Communicate for others to use
  - Make up your thesis chapters
  - To get a job
  - To keep a job (e.g., to reach performance targets)
  - Build track record for research grant success/promotion
  - Collaborate more with other people you want to work with/build relationships
A ‘typical’ research paper

1. Project design
2. Maybe a pilot study/ reconnaissance survey, etc.
3. Data collection (field, surveys, models, permissions)
4. Data analysis
5. Paper writing
6. Paper submission, revisions, resubmission?, acceptance

- Process typically takes 1-3 years (or more)
- Can cost lots of $
- Takes lots of time and energy
- Limited capacity to produce research papers, especially when you are early in your career and largely producing lead-author papers
Low hanging fruit – “the most easily achieved of a set of tasks, measures, goals”
There are lots of paper formats

workshops
proceedings
Case
Perspective
Comments
exercises
paper
Discussion
Issues
Mini
Reports
Student
Research
Issues
Datasets
Student
Exercises
Reports
Research
Issues
Datasets

Opinions
Book
Editor
Conferences

Short
Letters
communications
Special
Letter vs. article

- **Letter** = typically short (~2000 words) reporting an important research study of immediate interest
- **Article** = substantial, in-depth research study (~3000-20,000 words)
- Many journals have this distinction

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature17179

Revised stratigraphy and chronology for *Homo floresiensis* at Liang Bua in Indonesia

*Homo floresiensis*, a primitive hominin species discovered in Late Pleistocene sediments at Liang Bua (Flores, Indonesia)\(^1\)–\(^3\), has generated wide interest and scientific debate. A major reason this taxon is controversial is because the *H. floresiensis*-bearing deposits, which include associated stone artefacts\(^2\)–\(^4\) and remains of other extinct endemic fauna\(^5\)–\(^6\), were dated to between about 95 and 12 thousand calendar years (kyr) ago\(^2\)–\(^3\)\(^,\)\(^7\). These ages suggested that *H. floresiensis* evolved in island Southeast Asia by the late Middle Pleistocene and its appearance in Flores could have been caused by a number of factors, including adaptive radiation, long-distance dispersal, or hybridization with *H. sapiens*. The likelihood of population turnover at Liang Bua in Indonesia raises important questions about the relationship between *H. floresiensis* and *H. sapiens* in the Middle Pleistocene and the nature of early hominin dispersals across the region.

Extended Data Fig. 3 and Supplementary Information section 1), separated by elasic sediments and flowstones (Fig. 2). This stratigraphic sequence forms a large pedestal that extends ~12 m laterally from the eastern wall to the cave centre, and is at least 6 m long from north to south. The pedestal is thickest (~4 m) in the middle rear of the cave, where it extends to within ~2 m of the present surface of the cave floor.

Extended Data Table 1 provides key stratigraphic information for the *Homo floresiensis* deposits at Liang Bua.

e.g., *Nature* Letter with Kira Westaway
Commentary/ Opinion

- Opinionated pieces focused on a topical issue. Might call for action with proposed solutions
- E.g., *Nature journals, AGU journals, Climatic Change, Frontiers in Marine Science*

Allergen aerosol from pollen-nucleated precipitation: A novel thunderstorm asthma trigger

Thunderstorm asthma is the term used to describe epidemics of asthma exacerbation associated with thunderstorms. Most published reports of thunderstorm asthma have come from the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia, although several studies have been published on the phenomenon in the USA and Europe (partic.

1994; Thames Regions Accident and Emergency Trainees Association et al., 1996; Wark et al., 2002). Pollen from other plants has also been found to be associated with thunderstorm asthma events, such as *Parietaria* pollen in Naples, Italy (D'Amato et al., 2002), and *Olmo worman* (oliu) pollen in Burgos, Italy (Loserio et al.,

e.g., *Atmospheric Environment* article by Paul Beggs
Perspective

• Discuss models and ideas from a personal viewpoint, may be speculative/opinionated but balanced

• Generally short (1000-3000 words)

• E.g., Nature Climate Change, Global Environmental Change, Environmental Research Letters, Frontiers in Marine Science

Challenges in transferring knowledge between scales in coastal sediment dynamics

Shari Gallop, Michael Collins, Chanitha B. Pattararacha, Matthew J. Elston, Cyprin Rossere, Marco Ghiaiberti, Lindsay B. Collins, Ian Elliot, Paul L. A. Erfemeijer, Piers Larcombe, Jonan Marigomez, Tanya Stui and David J. White

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Perspective lead: Shari Gallop
Communications

- Generally short (3000-5000 words) articles, may contain original and highly significant work whose novelty warrants rapid publication
- E.g., Energy and Environmental Management, Environmental Health Perspectives
Reviews

• Overview/synthesis of a field (balanced survey of recent developments), comprehensive literature review, often include implications/ suggestions for future research

• Some journals also offer Mini Reviews


Developing and using geomorphic condition assessments for river rehabilitation planning, implementation and monitoring

Kirstie A. Fryirs

Frameworks for assessing geomorphic river condition constitute a core part of the river management process, providing a critical platform for environmental decision making and packaged policies. The evolution of geomorphology frameworks...
Datasets

- New journals focused on publishing papers about datasets – development and description of the dataset
- *Scientific Data* (under *Nature* publishing group)

*Scientific Data* paper involving Shari Gallop
Columns/ news/ views, etc…

- Some journals offer columns/ news which may be peer reviewed (check)
- E.g., Nature Careers

https://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/articles?type=article_type

- First person, personal-viewpoints
- Conversational language (not academic)
- Ideas can be pitched just by sending an email
- Nature impact factor is 40.137! And one of these columns counts as a peer-reviewed Nature contribution
Conference proceedings

- Peer-reviewed conference papers also build your publication record
- Many conferences publish a proceedings of full papers
- Generally not as well regarded as a normal journal paper but can still be valuable
- Proceeding paper formats:
  - Are sometimes peer-reviewed, sometimes not (find out)
  - Some conferences publish in a Special Issue of a peer-reviewed journal and are peer-reviewed paper
Conference proceedings pitfalls

• Before you publish in a proceedings, plan ahead and talk to your supervisors/ mentors

• If you are planning to publish the conference paper/ later version in a peer-reviewed journal:
  1. Many journals are very strict with requiring original research only – publishing in a conference proceedings could prevent you publishing in your journal of choice
  2. Conference proceedings are often now readily available/ searchable online so probably they will find out!
  3. Non peer-reviewed conference proceedings could be a waste of time (maybe)
Science for kids

Science for kids, edited by kids

An open-access scientific journal written by scientists and reviewed by a board of kids and teens.

Recent Articles

- CORE CONCEPT
  - April 20, 2018
- NEW DISCOVERY
  - April 20, 2018
- CORE CONCEPT
  - March 22, 2018
- NEW DISCOVERY
  - March 20, 2018
How to get started?

• Learn to be looking for gaps and opportunities to publish:
  • Has it been a long time since a Review was done on a subject? Has one ever been done?
  • Are you involved in something appropriate for a Nature Careers Column/ have an interesting story?
  • Can you explain a key concept well (e.g., Frontiers for Young Minds)?
  • Topical issues: E.g., natural disasters, disease outbreaks. Opinion/ comment/ perspective?
• Get familiar with types of articles in journals in your field AND broader science journals
  • Always talk to your supervisor about your ideas.
  • Don’t get distracted from your core PhD/ Mres
  • Use what you are already doing in a smart way and maybe integrate into your thesis (e.g., review article)