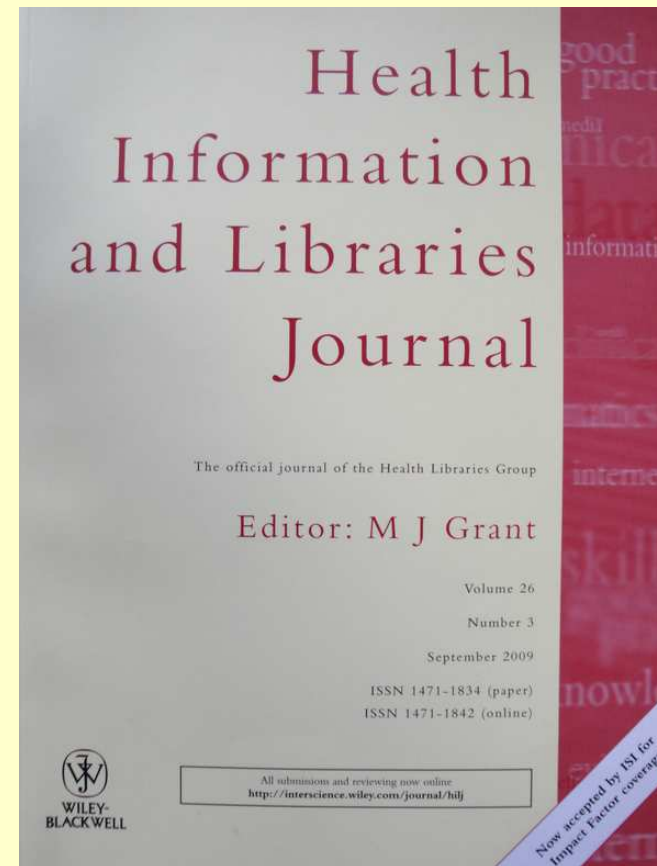


# Writing for Publication

Maria J Grant, Editor

Andrew Booth, Regular  
Feature Editor



# Librarians want to write!

- 97% of newly qualified librarians indicated that they intended to write for journals, newsletters and peer-review publications (Bradley 2008)

# Librarians don't write?

- Projects frequently take place without being published (Murray and Newton 2008)
- Reasons publications are not written may include
  - Lack of confidence\*
  - Lack of momentum\*
  - Lack of motivation\*
  - Lack of a support system\*
  - Lack of time (Murray 2005)

\* McGrail et al 2006

**Writing for publication perceived to be  
different from other forms of writing**  
*(Grant et al in press)*



# **Writers Group Agenda**

## **First Thursday of the Month**

### **12.00-1.30**

- Update on writing progress (20 minutes)
- Feedback session: an opportunity to receive feedback on writing circulated prior to the meeting (20 minutes)
- Open item: discussion or activity facilitated by a group member (20 minutes)
- Action planning: members identify their writing plans for the next month (15 minutes)
- Agree agenda and chair of next meeting (5 minutes)

# **Writers Group Agenda**

## **HLG Conference 2010**

### **1.45-3.15**

- Introduction (10 minutes)
- Update on writing progress (15 minutes)
- Writing for HILJ (10 minutes)
- Open Item (30 minutes)
- Action Planning (15 minutes)

# **Update on Writing Progress**

***(15 minutes)***

- What is your writing project?
- What stage is the project at?
- What is your next writing task?
- What is your immediate writing task/topic for today's meeting?

# Writing for *Health Information and Libraries Journal*

1. Think of **Audience**
2. Think of **What is Known, What this Adds**
3. Look through **Recent Contents Pages**
4. Read (and Follow!) **Instructions to Authors**
5. **Illustrative Literature Review** (including *HILJ* Refs!)
6. Use **Existing Article as Template** (Outlines/Skeletons etc)
7. Identify **Mentor; “Critical Friend”; Collaborators**
8. Look for **Generalisable Lessons** (What’s in it for me?)
9. Identify **Tools/ Checklists/Figures**
10. **Contact Editorial Team**

# Start with Acorns...

- 1987 - Faulty Libraries (Meeting Report) *Medical Library Bulletin of the Thames Regions [Prehistory!]*
- 1989 - The questionnaire - a quality control tool for online searching (Correspondence). *Health Libraries Review*
- 1990 - How consistent is MEDLINE indexing? - a few reservations. (First Article) *Health Libraries Review*
- 1993 - Information Audit: whose line is it anyway? (First Collaborative Article) *Health Libraries Review*
- 2000 - Principles for a successful research proposal (First Column/Feature) *Health Libraries Review*
- 2003 – Guest Editor – EBL Special Issue *Health Information & Libraries Journal*
- 2009 – Guest Editor – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue *Health Information & Libraries Journal*
- 2009 – Four articles as co-author (incl. two as Mentor) and four Regular Features *Health Information & Libraries Journal*

# APProPRIATE

- Audience
- Purpose
- Profile
- Prestige
- Rigour
- Impact
- Access
- Time
- Effort

**STUDY**

**PUBLICATION ROUTE**

**Impact Factor: 1.521!**

**YOU**

# Open Item

## *(30 minutes)*

- Think about a current writing project
  - Peer reviewed paper
  - Item for the HLG newsletter
- 8 Questions/Nutshelling
  - Doing the activity
  - Be ready to summarise
    - A short description of the activity
    - What you learnt from using the resource
    - What you learnt about writing

# Action Planning

## *(15 minutes)*

- What writing are you going to undertake?
- Be specific
  - What project?
  - Which audience?
  - When/Timescale?



# Useful Resources

- Health Information and Libraries Journal
  - <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=1471-1834&site=1>
- University of Salford Writers' Group
  - <http://www.edu.salford.ac.uk/her/ltrn/writers>

# References

- Bradley, F. Writing for the profession: the experience of new professionals. *Library Management* 2008, **29**(8/9), 729-745.
- Grant, M.J., Munro, W., McIsaac, J., & Hill, S. Cross-disciplinary writers group stimulates fresh approaches to scholarly communication: a reflective case study within a higher education institution in the north west of England *New Review of Academic Librarianship* in press.
- McGrail, M.R., Rickard, C.M. & Jones, R. Publish or perish: a systematic review of interventions to increase academic publication rates *Higher Education Research & Development* 2006, **25**(1), 19-35
- Murray, R. *Writing for academic journals*. Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2005.

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