

Novelty: Nursing scholars' guide for successful publication

Joko Gunawan^{1,2*} , Yupin Aunguroch^{1*} , Mary L Fisher^{3,4}, and Colleen Marzilli⁵ 

¹ Faculty of Nursing, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

² Belitung Raya Foundation, Manggar, East Belitung, Bangka Belitung, Indonesia

³ Indiana University School of Nursing, Indianapolis, IN, USA

⁴ College of Nursing, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

⁵ The University of Texas at Tyler, School of Nursing, 3900 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75799, USA



*Corresponding author:

Joko Gunawan, S.Kep. Ners, PhD;

Yupin Aunguroch, PhD, RN

Faculty of Nursing, Chulalongkorn University,

Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand


Email: jokogunawan@belitungraya.org; yaunguroch@gmail.com

Article info:

Received: 13 October 2022

Revised: 18 October 2022

Accepted: 21 October 2022

 This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially as long as the original work is properly cited. The new creations are not necessarily licensed under the identical terms.

E-ISSN: 2477-4073 | P-ISSN: 2528-181X

Abstract

The “pressure” or “passion” to publish is a common reality in academia. All faculty are required to demonstrate that they are engaged in research and that their work is disseminated in reputable journals. However, writing manuscripts is quite challenging; some papers for publication may take days, weeks, months, and even years. This editorial aims to provide the editors' points of view to assist authors in successful acceptance and publication in an international nursing journal.

Keywords

novelty; authorship; peer review; editorial policy

Dear authors,

You may wonder why publishing your article in *Belitung Nursing Journal (BNJ)* is difficult. It may seem like a mysterious process in which some papers are accepted while others are rejected. Some articles are even declined before the peer review process. From January 2020 to October 2022, *BNJ* only accepted 24% of articles (187 of 808 submissions).

In this article, a brief discussion of the editors' perspectives on papers that are considered worthy of peer review and publication in the journal is provided. Secondly, the editorial review steps are briefly described, and this includes an emphasis on the critical elements.

Novelty

Editors have standards and a vision for their work in the journal, just like researchers have their own standards. A significant component of the vision is the ability to be cutting-edge and add to the collective body of knowledge of nursing and healthcare. This concept is known as novelty. Novelty is the first characteristic for a paper to receive excellent ratings.

Articles that provide a significant and essential resource for the communities they serve are necessary. Further, articles that provide rich and new content that improves outcomes, is relevant, contributes to quality, have a significant research impact, and add to nursing knowledge are needed for research dissemination. Additionally, journal metrics and readership are important, and editors know that favorable journal metrics and readership makes journals relevant. Therefore, novel journal content attracts readers, improves journal metrics, and is extremely important for editors. Basically, novelty can be seen from the aspects of ontology, epistemology, and axiology, described as follows.

Ontology, or the “study of being,” is concerned with what genuinely exists in the world and is knowable to people (Al-Ababneh, 2020). Ontology help researchers ascertain how confident they are about the nature of reality and the existence of the study objects. Essentially, researchers recognize the study phenomena and its gap, which should be presented in the background of the paper. When ontology is applied to the review process, editors will consider, “What is the nature of the phenomenon?” “What is the gap of phenomena of the research?” “What is the current context?” “What is the research problem?” “Is it a nursing problem?” “How big is the problem?” Authors provide the gap based on realism, or one reality, versus relativism, or multiple realities. These two points of view are acceptable as long as the philosophical underpinning is implicitly or explicitly presented and logically explained.

Epistemology, or the “study of knowledge,” is concerned with what it is, its scope, validity, acquiring methods, and its limitations (Al-Ababneh, 2020). Epistemology helps researchers frame their studies in their attempts to discover knowledge in terms of different research methodologies, including qualitative, quantitative, or mixed method techniques. Plainly described, authors need to present the gap of literature to provide the current knowledge. This is related to either concept and topic of interest or the design and method of the existing studies. Authors should primarily present literature review results and describe the state of the current level of knowledge and science in the paper. This serves as a foundation for the manuscript and supports the research question and hypothesis, and it also helps avoid duplication. Editors mainly ask, “What is the new knowledge from this study?” “What are the benefits of this paper to

science, particularly nursing science?" "How strong is the internal and external validity of this study?" "How sound is the methodology?" Editors are open to objectivist, constructionist, and subjectivist perspectives as long as logical reasoning is clearly described. Clarity from a philosophical and critical point of view is essential, because not only does it reveal the assumptions the researchers make about their research, it leads to decisions that affect research objectives, design, and methods. This further undergirds data analysis and interpretation. In addition, positive and negative results are also welcomed, but only if the design is robust and the methodology is sound, combined with an appropriate sample and effect size.

Axiology, or the "study of value," includes questions about the nature of value, its judgment, and how it impacts society (Farrow et al., 2020). Editors will ask, "Why did the authors do this study?" "What are the implications of this study, particularly to nursing practice, policy, management, discipline, and society?" "How big an impact is this manuscript for national and global issues?" "Do the implications reflect the study methods?" The authors should be able to answer these questions to present the axiological aspect of the study in the paper.

Editorial Process

There are three publishing stages utilized by the *Belitung Nursing Journal*, from submission to acceptance. First, assistant editors review each manuscript to check the aim and scope, originality (plagiarism), academic writing (spelling and grammar), and article formats including this like the correct file type (doc. or docx.) and layout format (citation and reference formats, word counts, font size, headings, tables, and figures). Authors are encouraged to provide reporting guidelines from EQUATOR networks (UK EQUATOR Centre, n.d.) or NLM's Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives (National Library of Medicine, 2020) prior to submission for the completeness of the study and clarity. This stage only takes one to seven days for a rejection or return if those criteria are not met. Editors do not want to waste the author's time waiting for a decision regarding a manuscript that does not meet the formatting and technical aspects of the journal.

Second, the editors will evaluate the manuscript by placing a high emphasis on novelty, the significance of a paper against the expectations of the readership, and ethical standards. This process takes one to two weeks for the first editorial decision. After the first editorial decision, the manuscript is transferred to the peer review process, or the article is rejected. Papers that utilize a poor instrument or have limited questionnaire validation are frequently rejected, particularly for quantitative studies. The instrument development, adaptation, adoption, and translation are carefully reviewed in this journal to ensure validity and reliability (Gunawan et al., 2021). BNJ also no longer accepts pilot, preliminary, and pre-experimental studies unless samples are rarely found.

Importantly, narrative review manuscripts are also no longer considered. Instead, reviews that employ a systematic and reproducible method with clear identification, selection, and evaluation of the studies and appropriate data analysis may be accepted for publication.

Articles that are suitable and appropriate for publication in the journal are then sent to at least two peer reviewers to check the paper's quality and internal and external validity. Every single reviewer's comment is considered for the final decision. If two reviewers have substantially different comments, another reviewer will review the article. However, if one reviewer identifies a fatal error in a conceptual design, methods, and ethical standard, another invitation is unnecessary, and the article will be rejected. The majority of the feedback from reviewers is within four to six weeks. *BNJ* editors always try to find the most competent and expedient reviewers for your papers.

Conclusion

The critical components related to novelty and submission preparation described in this article are expected to guide authors in publishing their pieces of work in an international journal. One goal of *BNJ* Editors is to critically select and publish original, high-quality articles that address nursing issues relevant to the journal's readership and have a substantial impact on society. There are two audiences to please when submitting a manuscript to a scholarly journal: (i) the editor and external reviewers and (ii) the journal's readers. Prioritizing the first group provides a better chance of reaching the second group. If your article is accepted for publication, congratulations on your hard work! Otherwise, if your manuscript is rejected, don't get disappointed. Take your time to read and answer all the comments from the editors and reviewers. After the revision process is complete, it is necessary to try to submit your hard work again, either to the same journal or another appropriate journal. The acceptance process is difficult, but remembering the importance of novelty and the steps of the review process may prepare the researcher to obtain status as an internationally published author that improves health and healthcare outcomes through research and dissemination.

Declaration of Conflicting Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest in this study.

Funding

Second Century Fund (C2F), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Recipient: Joko Gunawan.

Acknowledgment

None.

Authors' Contributions

All authors contributed equally in this article.

Authors' Biographies

Joko Gunawan, S.Kep.Ners, PhD is Managing Editor of *Belitung Nursing Journal*. He is also Postdoctoral Researcher at the Faculty of Nursing, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Yupin Aunguroch, PhD, RN is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Nursing, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. She is also an Editor-in-Chief of *Belitung Nursing Journal*.

Mary L. Fisher, PhD, RN is Professor Emeritus, Indiana University School of Nursing, Indianapolis, IN USA. She is also Clinical Professor at the College of Nursing, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA. In addition, she is International Editorial Advisory Board of *Belitung Nursing Journal*.

Colleen Marzilli, PhD, DNP, MBA, RN-BC, CCM, PHNA-BC, CNE, NEA-BC, FNAP is Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Tyler, USA. She is also on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Belitung Nursing Journal*.

Data Availability

Not applicable.

Ethical Consideration

Not applicable.

References

- Al-Ababneh, M. M. (2020). Linking ontology, epistemology and research methodology. *Science & Philosophy*, 8(1), 75-91.
- Farrow, R., Iniesto, F., Weller, M., & Pitt, R. (2020). *The GO-GN Research Methods Handbook*. UK: Open Education Research Hub. The Open University.

Gunawan, J., Marzilli, C., & Aunguroch, Y. (2021). Establishing appropriate sample size for developing and validating a questionnaire in nursing research. *Belitung Nursing Journal*, 7(5), 356-360. <https://doi.org/10.33546/bnj.1927>

National Library of Medicine. (2020). *Research reporting guidelines and initiatives: By organization*. https://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/research_report_guide.html

UK EQUATOR Centre. (n.d.). *Reporting guidelines - Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research*. <https://www.equator-network.org>

Cite this article as: Gunawan, J., Aunguroch, Y., Fisher, M. L., & Marzilli, C. (2022). Novelty: Nursing scholars' guide for successful publication. *Belitung Nursing Journal*, 8(5), 378-380. <https://doi.org/10.33546/bnj.2367>