



**Liberty University**

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**From the Selected Works of Barbara Potts**

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October, 2020

# Academic Publishing Tips

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Available at: [https://works.bepress.com/barbara\\_potts/14/](https://works.bepress.com/barbara_potts/14/)

# Publishing Tips

## Finding Reputable Journals

How can I publish a paper or book I am interested in publishing? The JFL has books on publishing. Scholarly Communications can also assist with finding publications to publish and discuss author agreements.

Resources available to find a reputable journal to publish your article:

- [Jerry Falwell Library Databases](#)

Within our databases are journals. Any journal that we subscribe would be a an option.

- [UlrichsWeb](#)

This resource shows journals that are peer-reviewed. The journals listed would be a good source.

- [DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals](#)

DOAJ is an online directory provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals.

- [Scopus](#)

Abstracts and citations of peer-reviewed scholarly literature from journals, books, and conference proceedings in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, technology, health and medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities.

- [NCBI: National Center for Biotechnology Information](#)

Includes resources such as PubMed, Nucleotide, Genome, SNP, and PubChem.

- [JournalGuide](#)

A growing journal database  
across all academic fields  
Search, filter, sort, and compare journals from more than 46,000 titles

- [SciRev](#)

Share your experience with the scientific review process and select an efficient journal for submitting your manuscripts.

## Evaluating Publishers & Publications

Not all publishers are the same. Whether traditional subscription, open access, hybrid, or monographic, it's important to evaluate a publisher before agreeing to publish anything with them.

### Not Sure of the Journal or Publisher?

Use the [Think-Check-Submit checklist](#). Review it before submitting work or agreeing to serve as a reviewer. A few minutes can save your research reputation! Identify predatory or low-quality journals.



Choose the right journal for your research

For Journals:

- **Who is on the editorial board?** Are the editors clearly identified? Are their email addresses and/or phone numbers provided directly on the publisher's site?
- **Can you confirm that the editors really are serving in that role?** Do the editors have this position listed on their online CV? Can you confirm with the editor-in-chief via email?
- **What is the acceptance rate of the journal?** (Note: Some legitimate megajournals, such as *PLOS ONE*, accept any methodologically sound study that passes the scrutiny of peer-reviewers. This is a new model that attempts to share good research regardless of trends in popularity or research interests, but megajournals should be closely evaluated for quality leadership, editors, reviewers, etc. Not all megajournals are of the same quality.)
- **Who founded the journal? Who owns it/runs it now?** Do they have an academic background?
- **Can you retain your copyright, or any subset of copyrights you want to keep, to your work?** For example, can you use the publication in presentations, in course readers, in future publications if revised and expanded? Can you add it to your own site, or archive a copy in an online archive/repository?
- **Are there clear guidelines for authors, including when and if fees to authors may be assessed?** Legitimate publishers will be upfront with their publication practices. For authors, there should be no surprises or uncertainty about a publisher's procedures.

For Monographs:

- **Who is on the editorial board?** Are the editors clearly identified? Are their email addresses and/or phone numbers provided directly on the publisher's site?
- **Can you confirm that the editor really is serving in that role?** Does the editor have this position listed on their online CV? Can you confirm with the editor via email?
- **Who founded the publishing house? Who owns it/runs it now?** Do they have an academic background?
- **Are there clear guidelines for authors?** Legitimate publishers will be upfront with their publication practices. For authors, there should be no surprises or uncertainty about a publisher's procedures.

## How to negotiate a contract to keep your copyright

- [SPARC Author Addendum \(Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition\)](#)

The SPARC Author Addendum is a legal instrument that modifies the publisher's agreement and allows you to keep key rights to your articles. The Author Addendum is a free resource developed by SPARC in partnership with Creative Commons and Science Commons, established non-profit organizations that offer a range of copyright options for many different creative endeavors.

- [MIT Framework for Publishers Contracts](#)

We endorse this framework through our consortium VIVA (Virtual Library of Virginia)

## Avoid Publishing Contract Mistakes

- Own the rights to your book. Do not give up ownership.
- Do not give your rights to a publisher with them paying you a percentage.
- Publishers can sell your book to other companies and make changes to your book without permission
- Non-Compete Clause
  - is meant to make sure that you do not directly compete with their book by putting out another book with a competing publisher. They could claim it damaged their book sales.
  - this clause can keep you from writing future books
- Liability Clause
  - This can keep you from releasing another book for 1-2 years.
- Define the publisher and author rights
  - Ambiguity is your enemy
  - "reasonable and customary expenses" clearly define what that means
- Non-Negotiable Contracts
  - Means "take it as it is or walk away"
  - Does the publisher value the relationship with the author?
    - Set up a payment schedule with penalties for late payments.
- Right of First Refusal Clause
  - The publisher states that your next book or subsequent books must be submitted to the publisher before you can submit them anywhere else.
  - If it is included, there needs to be a term stated such as 60 or 90 days for the publisher to accept or reject the book.
- Early Termination Clause/Termination & Reversion Rights
  - Decide to leave publisher, there may be an early termination fee. Could be hundreds to thousands of dollars.
  - Create goals for sales of books per month. If goals are not met then the book becomes "out of print" and rights transfer back to you. (eg. 20 books/month for a three-month window. If the publisher does not sell that many copies, the book becomes out of print and rights to revert back to you. Do not allow amortization of books sales over time.
  - The time frame for a publisher to publish a book, usually 18 months after signing the contract. If the publisher does not publish it within 18 months, reverts back to you.

## How to Turn your Thesis or Dissertation into a Journal Articles

I was frequently asked by graduate students, how could they use their research from their thesis or dissertation to publish an article? These are resources I discovered to assist students in this process.

- [Adapting a Dissertation or Thesis Into a Journal Article](#)

2019 American Psychological Association (APA)

- [How to Turn Your Thesis into an Article](#)

Elsevier - Researcher Academy

- [How to Turn Your Thesis into a Journal Article](#)

Enago Academy, an international resource for researchers, publishers, editors, and students.

Disclaimer: The information contained on this document is not to be considered legal advice.