

How To: Professional Publications Panel

Panel speakers: Dr. Lisa Hussey, Dr. Colin Rhinesmith, Dr. Rong Tang, and Dr. Kathy Wisser

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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Below, there are several questions that were asked of the panelists and summaries of their answers.

How do you get started?

- **START SMALL.** Don't feel like you have to enter the publishing world with an ambitious, original research paper. Start small with letters to the editor or opinion columns to start getting published. Consider online publications as well as print.
- **BUILD YOUR NETWORK.** After graduation, the best place to network with people who would be interested in supporting your research is at your place of work or at conferences. Establish a network of people who have the same research interests. Ask people about their own research.

What are some opportunities for current students?

- **INDEPENDENT STUDY.** If there is a topic you are passionate about, think about doing an independent study. Talk to the professors featured on this panel for more guidance!
- **JOIN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.** Students are eligible for significant membership fee discounts. This helps you build your professional network.

Which journal should you submit articles to?

- **TOPIC DEPENDENT.** You can seek out certain journals and write to match the kind of subject matter that they publish. Or, you can match your existing paper to calls for submissions, abstracts, and conference proposals. Ultimately, think about what you want to get answers to and what your interests are.
- **AUDIENCE.** Think about the audience that you want to write for when you think about where you would like to submit your research. Think of the stakeholders who would be interested in the issue. Is your work more theoretical or practical? Who will benefit from your work?
- **JOURNAL PAPERS VS. CONFERENCE PAPERS.** Though it may seem like academic and/or professional journals are more important to be published in, conference papers and conference journals are just as important. Plus, conference papers tend to have a faster review process as opposed to journals.

- **QUANTITATIVE STUDIES.** With experimental research, you will need to use a larger sample size to get accepted to publications because of the nature of the research.

What is the best part of being published?

- **IMPACT.** The chance to make an impact on the academic field as well as in the profession.
- **PRIDE.** Lisa Hussey recounted how happy she was the first time that she was in a conference presentation and her own work was cited.

What is particularly frustrating about the publishing process?

- **TIME SPAN.** The submission, review, and publication process can take a very long time and the waiting can be hard.
- **REVIEWER COMMENTS.** Reviewer comments can be difficult to understand, and some can even be out of line. Kathy Wisser experienced this and would encourage you to reach out to the editor and bring this to their attention. Rong Tang received a comment that wasn't even related to the topic of her paper. So, just be aware that it can happen.

A few prominent LIS journal publications:

- *Journal of Information Science*
- *Journal of Community Informatics*
- *Library Quarterly*
- *Library Journal*
- *Society of American Archivists*