



Writing for scholarly journals: how to 'get published'

Jane Sims, Vasi Naganathan, Yvonne Wells
Australasian Journal on Ageing Editorial Team



Workshop Program

9.00- 9.20	Introductions
9.20 -10.30	Tools for writing Writing for publication: getting started Components of an article
10.30-11.00	Break
11.00-11.45	Knowledge translation: group work
11.45-12.15	Working with reviewers & editors - responding to reviewers - presentation skills
12.15-12.30	Where to from here

Writing tools

Yvonne Wells
AAG
November, 2014

Two good tools to achieve coherence

The main message

The mind map

The working abstract

The main message: A very good place to start

Should be 20 words or fewer

Women report more caregiving burden than men because they are more honest not because they take on more tasks.

The mind map

Mind mapping is one of the more common types of information processing

It can be used to counter writers' block or when the writer is having trouble organizing thoughts or ideas

Mind mapping is often to gather thoughts and ideas before starting to write

A mind map should be a web-like structure of words and ideas that are loosely tied to one another

Start with a large sheet of paper

Write your main message in the middle

Now write around the main message all the other things that you can think of

The mind map

Use free association to start the ideas flowing. Record what comes to mind. As you generate thoughts, draw branches from the main topic.

Be concise with the choice of words for your map. Write single words or simple phrases.

Continue branching. Make more branches off of your main topic. Try to extend your thoughts from one idea to the next. Draw lines between thoughts to create lateral thinking.

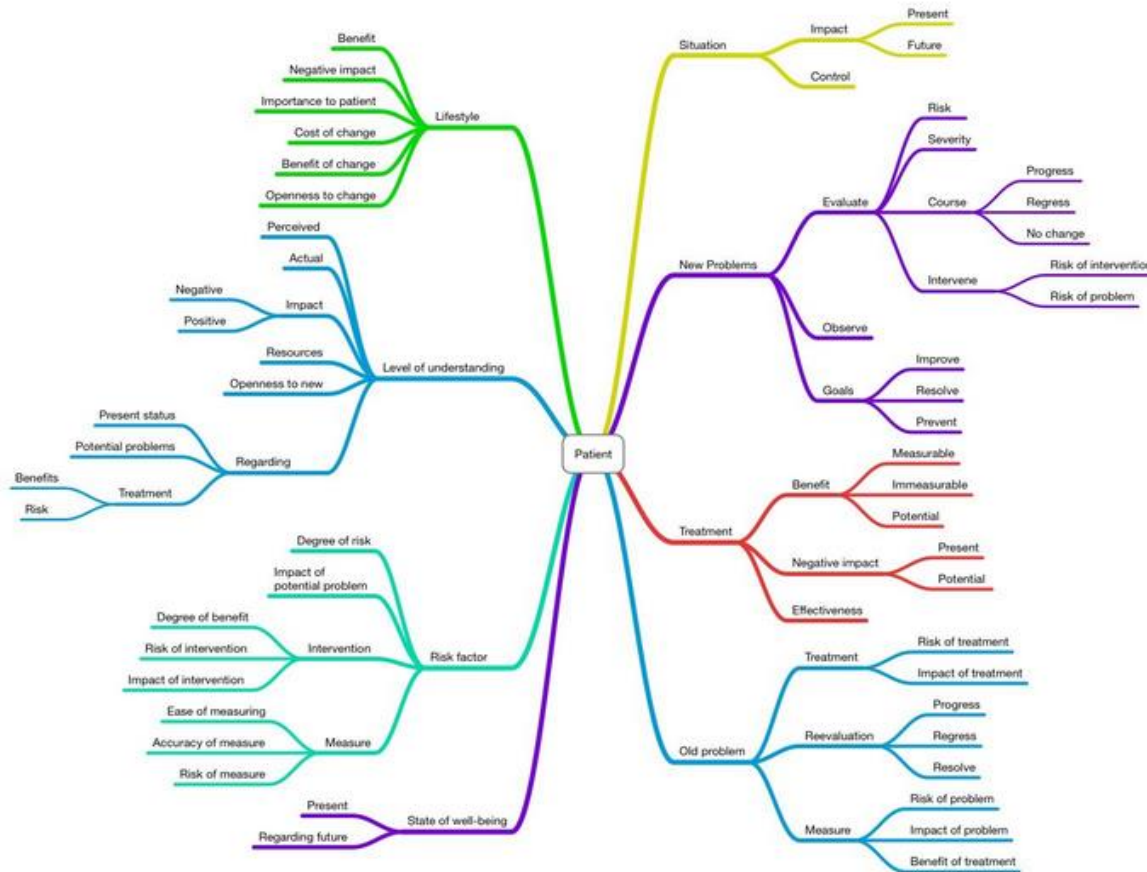
As new ideas come forth, draw additional branches from your topic. Expand as necessary.

Repeat branching until all your ideas appear on the map.

When you are finished mapping, carefully study the connections that you have made and try to refine the relationships. What larger patterns have you uncovered?

Now you can decide what to keep for your article and what you don't need

Mind map example



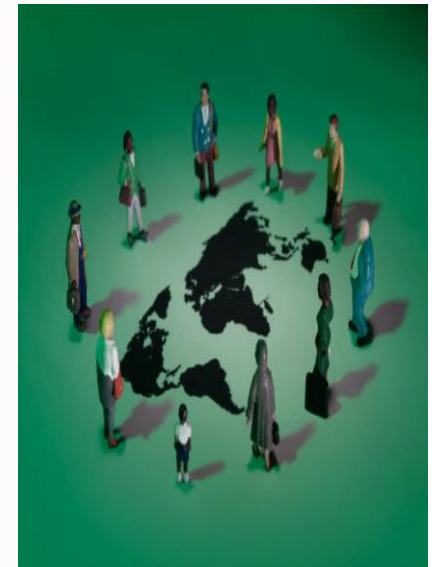
The working abstract

1. Write your main message
2. Write a title that encapsulates the main message
3. Write an abstract that covers 5 things (5 sentences)
 1. What you did
 2. Why you did it
 3. What you found
 4. Implications for theory
 5. Implications for practice



Why publish?

- Build your career
- Feedback from peers
- Connect with other researchers
- Knowledge translation





“Seeing your name in print is such an amazing concept: you get so much attention without having to actually show up somewhere.... There are many obvious advantages to this . You don’t have to dress up, for instance , and you can't hear them boo you straight away” -Anne Lamott 1994



Getting Started

- Uniform requirements (ICMJE) www.icmje.org
- Instructions for many journals via Central Medical College of Ohio website www.mco.edu/lib/instr/libinsta.html

Lots of literature on “How to write papers”

- Scientific Writing - easy when you know how. BMJ Books,. Peat J et al, 2002. ISBN 0-7279-1625-4
- Authors submission toolkit. Chipperfield et al. Current Medical Research and Opinion Vol 26, 8 Aug 2010, 1967-1982



Best Practice Guidelines

- www.equator-network.org
- CONSORT for RCTs and cluster RCTs
- STARD for diagnosis studies
- STROBE for observational studies
- PRISMA for systematic reviews
- COREQ for qualitative interviews, focus groups
- Consider appropriate theoretical framework for qualitative projects





Authorship

- Author order
- Formal policy
 - “the money, fame and happiness document”



Choosing a journal

- Impact Factor: be aspirational-always aim higher
- Audience
- Scope of journal: consider instructions for authors, previous issues and whether your manuscript is similar in content, methodology and importance
- Potential acceptance: will you cite this journal?
 - Check your reference list
- Speed of response and publication
 - mode of publication
- Copyright



AJA: Author Guidelines:

Please read and follow the guidelines!

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1741-6612/homepage/ForAuthors.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1741-6612/homepage/ForAuthors.html)



Scope of journal

- *Australasian Journal on Ageing* is the official English language journal of the Australian Association of [Gerontology](#), Aged and Community Services [Australia](#), Australian Council on the [Ageing](#), and the Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric [Medicine](#), and publishes original research articles dealing with any area of gerontology and geriatric medicine



Types of papers: 1

- **Reviews** up to 4000 words (50 refs)
- **Original research papers** up to 3000 words (30 refs).
- **Innovation and translation** up to 3000 words (20 refs)
 - about innovative policy and practice initiatives in any setting related to ageing, from government to individual level (e.g. new treatments, community and residential care programs, professional training courses, social policies) .
 - emphasise the importance of the innovation or translation in addressing ageing issues
 - critically examine existing policy and practice across ageing and aged care
 - examine policy and practice issues that can critically impact on ageing and aged care
 - evidence based.
 - priority given to **brief reports** up to 1500 words (one table/ figure, 20 refs)



Types of papers: 2

- **Invited Editorials** on policy or practice up to 1500 words (10 refs)
- **Letters to the Editor** up to 400 words (10 refs). May be edited and subject to reply
- **Invited Commentaries** up to 1000 words (5 refs) which provide commentary on accepted manuscripts which have particular relevance to our readership
- **Reflections** on an aspect of ageing in the form of a poem (30 lines) or 1000 words.



Editorial process

- Acceptance criteria: quality and originality of research and significance to our readership
- Manuscripts double-blind peer reviewed by two anonymous reviewers and the Editor
- Final decision rests with Editorial Committee
- Manuscripts should be written so are intelligible to a professional reader (not specialist in particular field)
- Write in a clear, concise, direct style
- Manuscript may be edited



Ethics

- Research must be approved by a suitably constituted Ethics Committee of the institution where the work undertaken
 - <http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>
- All investigations with people must include a statement that informed consent was obtained
- Participant anonymity should be preserved
- Photographs should be cropped sufficiently to prevent human participants being recognised
 - unless written permission has been obtained



Manuscript Style

- Vancouver reference style (See: <http://www.ICMJE.org/>)
- Use Australian spelling (see latest Macquarie Dictionary)
- All measurements SI or SI-derived units
- Abbreviations should be used sparingly
- Trade names: Drugs should be referred to by their generic names



Abstract/Key words

- **Research articles and Reviews.** 150 word abstract: Objective(s), Method, Results, Conclusion(s)
- **Innovation and translation.** 150 words abstract: As above, where relevant
- **Key Points** : 3-4 dot points of essential take-home messages
- **Editorials** and **Commentaries** do not need an abstract.
- **Key Words.** Three to five needed. Must be from MeSH <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>



Writing the manuscript

- The process of writing and submitting your article
- What an editor asks
- What the AJA requires
- Getting some feedback on your article