

Author perspectives on the academic publishing process

Dear researchers,

Everyone knows that getting published is one of the most exhilarating accomplishments researchers can have, but it is also the toughest part of their job. Through this survey, Editage Insights invites researchers around the world to think about the academic publishing system: Are you happy with it? Is there anything you would like to change about the system? What are the main pain points you face in getting published in international journals?

Editage Insights works relentlessly to bridge the gap between authors and publishers. As authors, you are at the heart of the publishing system — you are both producers and consumers of published research. So we believe your opinions will help us shape critical changes in the industry to make the publishing system more author-friendly. The results of the survey will be shared with journal editors and global industry influencers at various international conferences.

The survey should take only about 15 minutes to complete. On completion, you will be eligible to enter a lucky draw:

- 3 Grand Prize winners will be offered a free 1-minute video (created by the Editage Video Team) of their most recent published paper, which they can use to promote their research. Please visit the Editage Video Summaries page on YouTube to view video samples.
- 10 additional winners will each receive an Amazon voucher worth \$50 (USD).

So I urge you to take the time to fill out this survey with your honest responses. I assure you any identifying information will be treated as confidential.

Warm regards,

Clarinda Cerejo

Editor-in-Chief, Editage Insights

(Contact: insights@editage.com)

Click "Next" to begin.

Note: Your responses on each page will be saved when you click “Next”.

Author perspectives on the academic publishing process

1. What country do you currently work in?

2. Which of these primary roles do you identify yourself with as a researcher?

- Author
- Journal editor
- Institutional head/Administrator
- Other (please specify)

3. What is your broad field of study?

- Medicine and Allied Health Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Other (please specify)

4. How long have you been involved in academic research and/or journal publishing?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- More than 5 years

5. What is your written English proficiency?

- English is my first language
- English is not my first language but I'm comfortable writing in English
- English is not my first language and I find it challenging to write in English

6. How many papers have you published in an international English-language journal?

- None
- Trying to publish my first
- 1-5
- More than 5

7. Rate how difficult you find each of the following stages of academic publishing

	Extremely difficult	Very difficult	Moderately difficult	Slightly difficult	Not difficult
Selecting a journal for your manuscript	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preparing your manuscript for submission to an international English-language journal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Submitting your manuscript and tracking your manuscript status in the journal system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responding to peer reviewer comments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring that you comply with all ethical guidelines for academic publishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. If you face difficulties during any of the above stages, where do you look for help?

Check all that apply.

- I feel lost and don't know where to look
- I approach my seniors or colleagues
- I search online using a search engine
- I ask my librarian for resources or visit my university writing support center
- I check on specific social media or an online forum for researchers (please specify in the comment box below)

Comments/Details

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9. In order of importance, what factors do you/would you consider when selecting a journal?

Drag and rearrange the choices (drag up or down). Order from most important at the top to least important at the bottom.

<input type="text"/>	The journal should have published similar papers
<input type="text"/>	The journal should have a high impact factor for my field
<input type="text"/>	My colleagues and seniors should be reading the journal regularly
<input type="text"/>	The journal should have an open access publishing option
<input type="text"/>	The journal should offer a short time-to-publication or have a rapid publication option
<input type="text"/>	The journal's submission process and charges should be clearly mentioned on its website
<input type="text"/>	The journal should have a clear and professional-looking website

10. Has a journal ever contacted you, guaranteeing publication or promising rapid publication?

- Yes
- No

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11. If yes (a journal has contacted you, guaranteeing publication or promising rapid publication), have you submitted to such a journal?

Yes

No

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12. If yes (you have submitted to a journal that guaranteed publication or promised rapid publication), how would you describe the outcome?

- My manuscript was accepted and published as promised
- The journal demanded unexpected article processing charges
- The journal stopped responding to my queries after I submitted my manuscript
- Other (please describe the outcome)

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13. If no (you have never submitted to a journal that guaranteed publication or promised rapid publication), why?

- I didn't trust the journal
- I didn't recognize the journal
- I already had another journal in mind for my paper
- I'm not sure
- Other (please specify)

14. Have you ever published in an open access journal, or chosen to make your paper open access in a subscription-based journal?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know what open access is

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15. If yes (you have published in an open access journal), why?

Check all that apply.

- I prefer the open access model of publishing
- The journal guaranteed publication
- I wanted my paper to be read by a larger audience
- My institute or funding body mandated open access publishing
- I chose the journal that was the best fit for my paper and it happened to be open access

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16. If no (you have never published in an open access journal), why?

Check all that apply.

- I don't understand open access publishing
- I doubt the quality of open access journals
- I couldn't afford the article-processing charges
- I don't see any/adequate benefits of open access publishing
- I chose the journal that was the best fit for my paper and it happened to be a subscription journal

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17. How difficult do you find each of the following aspects of manuscript preparation?

	Extremely difficult	Very difficult	Moderately difficult	Slightly difficult	Not difficult
Framing a research question that highlights the importance of your study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conducting a literature review	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presenting information from previous studies in your own words	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drafting the manuscript Title and Abstract	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Structuring the manuscript in IMRAD format	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating Figures and Tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Formatting as per journal guidelines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. In general, how well do you think journal guidelines for authors are framed?

- Clear and complete** - They are easy to understand and give authors all the information they need
- Clear but incomplete** - They are easy to understand but do not give authors all the information they need
- Unclear but complete** - They are difficult to understand but give authors all the information they need
- Unclear and incomplete** - They are difficult to understand and do not give authors all the information they need
- I don't know**

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19. How difficult do you find each of these aspects of manuscript submission and processing by the journal?

	Extremely difficult	Very difficult	Moderately difficult	Slightly difficult	Not difficult
Preparing the submission (cover letter, authorship statement, conflict of interest disclosure, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating and managing your account in the journal submission system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding the status of your manuscript in the journal system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sending enquiries to the editor during manuscript processing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. What is the shortest time it has taken you to get a paper published from the time of first submission?

- Less than 1 month
- 1-3 months
- 3-6 months
- More than 6 months
- I haven't had a paper published yet

21. How long do you think it should ideally take to publish a paper in a journal (from submission)?

- Less than 1 month
- Less than 3 months
- Less than 6 months
- It doesn't matter how long it takes if the quality of publication is high

In your experience, how long does a manuscript remain at the following status points on the journal submission system?

22. "With editor"

- Less than 5 days
- 5-10 days
- 10-30 days
- More than 1 month
- Not applicable

23. "Under review"

- Less than 1 month
- 1-3 months
- 3-6 months
- More than 6 months
- Not applicable

24. "Decision In process" or "Awaiting decision"

- Less than 5 days
- 5-10 days
- 10-30 days
- More than 1 month
- Not applicable

25. Have you ever written to the journal for queries or clarifications during the publication process?

Yes

No

26. If yes (you've written to the journal during the publishing process), how did you generally find their response?

- Prompt and clear
- Prompt but not clear
- Delayed but clear when it came
- I didn't get any reply

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27. If no (have never sent queries to the journal during the publication process), why?

- I didn't have a query
- I didn't know I was allowed to contact the journal
- I didn't know how to contact the journal
- I was scared to contact the journal
- Other (please specify)

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28. Based on your experience, what are your views about peer review comments?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	Strongly agree
Peer reviewer comments are generally insightful and help me improve my manuscript	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer reviewer comments are generally clear and easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Comments from different reviewers are often conflicting and confusing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer reviewers usually provide their feedback in a constructive and actionable way	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer reviewers often ask for complex and time-consuming additional research to be conducted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Author perspectives on the academic publishing process

29. Which of the following, in your opinion, constitute(s) plagiarism?

Check all that apply.

- Rewording/paraphrasing someone else's ideas from a previous study, without citing the source
- Using text from a previous study/someone else's work, without rewording or using quotes
- Reusing text from your own previously published study, and citing your study as the source
- Reusing text from your own previously published study, without citing your study as the source

30. Which of the following people, in your opinion, should get coauthorship on your paper?

Check all that apply.

- Your department head because he/she should be listed on all papers from that department
- A colleague who provided some material or equipment for your research
- A researcher who participated in conceptualizing the research, conducting the study, drafting the manuscript, and provided final approval
- A famous researcher in your field, because that will increase your chances of acceptance
- A friend who helped with editing and proofreading the manuscript as you have difficulty writing in English

31. Which of the following constitute(s) duplicate submission?

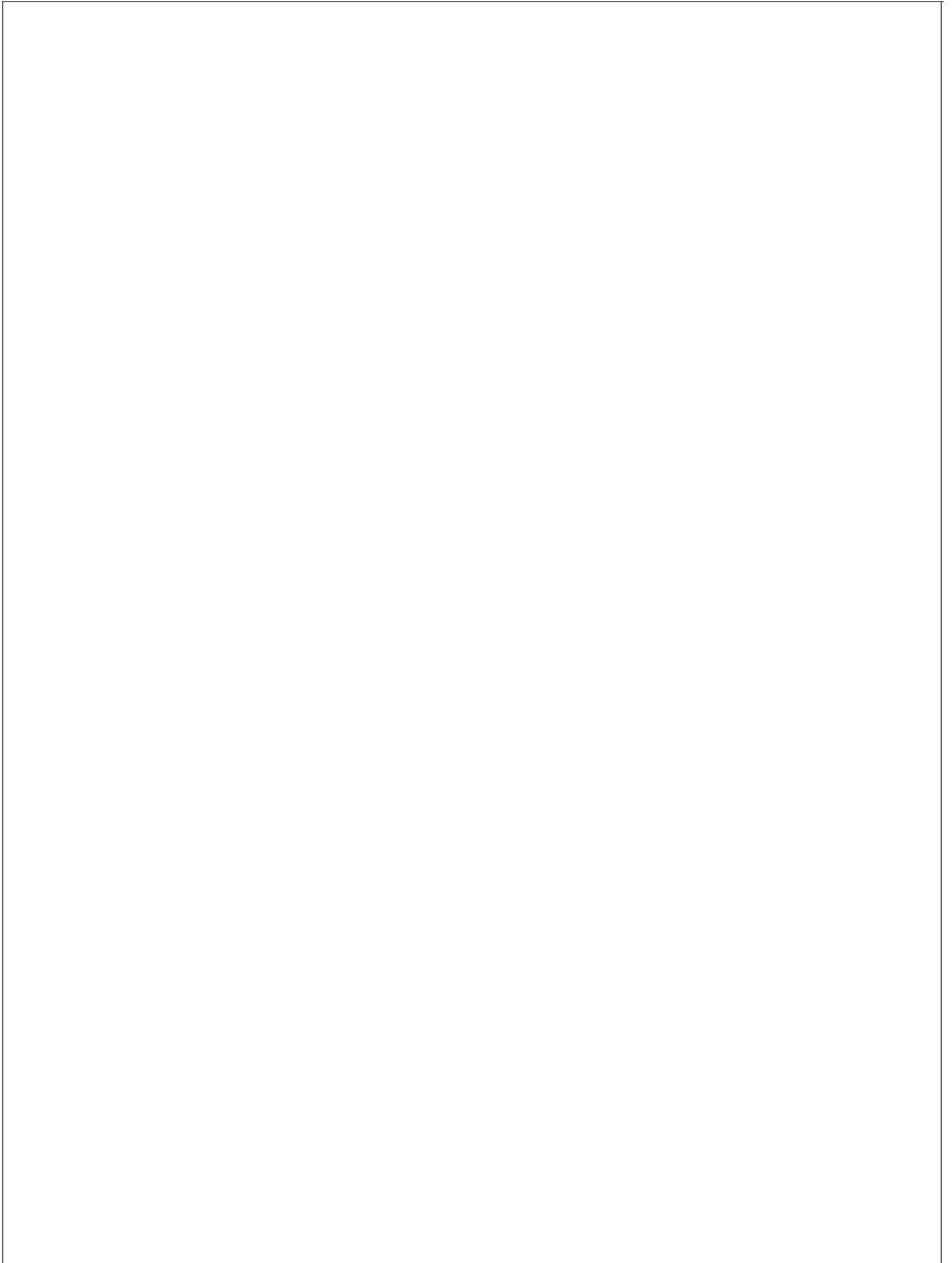
Check all that apply.

- Submitting a translated version of your paper published in a local journal to an international journal without seeking any permissions
- Converting part of your unpublished thesis into an article and submitting it to a journal
- Converting a conference poster into a journal article and informing the journal that it was previously presented at a conference

32. Which of the following bodies/guidelines are you familiar with?

Check all that apply.

- COPE
- ICMJE
- Declaration of Helsinki
- GPP2
- CONSORT
- None of the above



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33. The following are stated to be problems in the publishing industry. In what order of priority would you like them to be fixed?

Drag and rearrange the choices (drag up or down). Order from most urgent problem at the top to least urgent at the bottom.

<input type="text"/>	It takes too long to get a paper published
<input type="text"/>	Good research papers are often hidden behind pay walls
<input type="text"/>	The pressure to publish in high-impact factor journals makes publishing very difficult for young researchers
<input type="text"/>	The peer review process is not robust enough to identify all flaws and prevent retractions
<input type="text"/>	Many published studies are not reproducible
<input type="text"/>	There's no way to accurately judge the quality of a journal or individual papers in it
<input type="text"/>	Journal systems and processes are not very author-friendly
<input type="text"/>	Authors do not have sufficient resources or help to help them overcome challenges in the academic publishing industry

34. Is there something you would like to change about the academic publishing system?

- No, I'm satisfied with the system
- Yes (check my comments below)

Comments

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35. E-mail (optional - for lucky draw)

36. Your institution/organization (optional)

37. Your full name (optional)