

From Bench to ASAP – the process of publishing...

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Discovery Park, Seattle, WA, Sept. 2015

A bit about me...

- ✓ Theoretical chemist, so I've not done "bench work" since I was an undergraduate!
- ✓ I moved to UW about 3 months ago and am enjoying UW/being in Seattle
- ✓ In addition to research, I've served on the ACS Committee on Professional Training (since 2008)
- ✓ Organized a number of conferences
- ✓ ... and been an editor for J. Phys. Chem. for ~10 years; Deputy editor for JPC-A since 2011

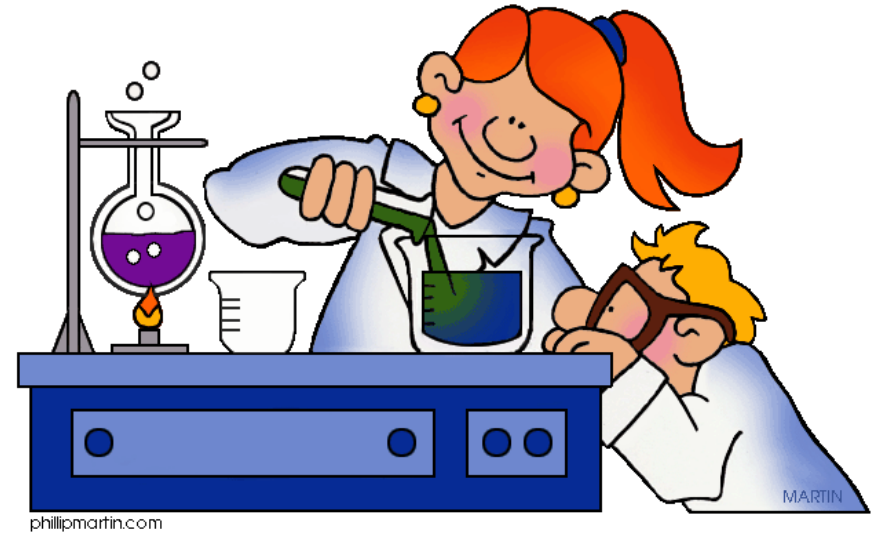
JPC editor work – by the numbers

- ✓ I have an assistant (in Columbus) who does most of the communications
- ✓ I spend ~10 hours/week on this activity
- ✓ I will handle ~400 papers this year
- ✓ I also distribute ~25-50 papers to the ~30 editors of the Journal every Wednesday
- ✓ I get to see the range of research that is going on in pchem!



Publishing process

- ✓ Step 1: you have done the lab work and your advisor says “it’s time to write a paper”
 - ✓ What does this mean?
 - ✓ Where should you start?



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- ✓ Step 1: you have done the lab work and your advisor says “it’s time to write a paper”
 - ✓ What does this mean?
 - ✓ Where should you start?
- ✓ Talk to your advisor or a senior student or post doc if you have questions like this
- ✓ Be prepared – writing a paper for a journal is different than writing a paper for a class
- ✓ Be ready to receive and accept constructive criticism – we all have our own styles of writing
- ✓ Read the literature – this is not only a good practice, but helps in understanding what a “paper” looks like.

Publishing process

- ✓ Step 2: You are nearly ready to submit the paper
 - ✓ Be aware this may take as little as a few weeks or several months (or years).
 - ✓ Be patient
- ✓ Be aware of the Journal Style guide
- ✓ There are often several other pieces of information that are needed (TOC graphic; cover letter; etc)
- ✓ It is unusual for students to publish without their advisor as the lead author
- ✓ Decision on where to publish are based on scope of the journal/impact of the work
- ✓ Author order varies from group to group. If you have questions about it talk to your advisor/other students in the group/post docs

Publishing process

- ✓ Step 3: The review process
- ✓ Initial editorial decision
 - ✓ Sometimes the editor will decide to triage a paper – typically it is an issue of the paper not fitting within the scope of the journal
- ✓ Reviews
 - ✓ If the paper is not triaged, then it will go for external review. This typically takes 3-6 weeks depending on the journal.
 - ✓ The editor needs to find several experts
 - ✓ Typically some come from suggestions from the author while others the editor comes up with

Publishing process

- ✓ Step 4: Response to reviews
- ✓ Reading reviews
 - ✓ Read the reviews carefully and take them as constructive suggestions – it's easy to get defensive, but in the end that is not helpful
 - ✓ Be responsive to the reviews
- ✓ Before resubmitting the paper it is wise to read the manuscript carefully as this is the last chance for revision!
- ✓ As part of the revision, you will be sending a detailed list of corrections – make sure that they are easy to read by both the editor (who may not be an expert in this area) and the reviewers (who may receive this document).
- ✓ Many journals use the equivalent of “turn-it-in” to catch plagiarism (self- as well as of the work of others)

Publishing process

- ✓ Step 5: Acceptance and proofs
- ✓ Hopefully the paper will then be accepted! Sometimes it will go out for another round of review
- ✓ After the paper is accepted it will be typeset and the proofs will be sent to the authors
 - ✓ Read these carefully – this is the last chance to catch and correct mistakes
 - ✓ This is NOT the time to rewrite the paper.

Publishing process

- ✓ Step 6: ASAP
- ✓ You did it! Pat yourself on your back
- ✓ Especially if it's your first paper – send a copy to family members – they are proud and enjoy having something to show off!

**THANK YOU! AND I'M HAPPY TO
ANSWER QUESTIONS...**