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# Publishing advice from NHS Wales Librarians



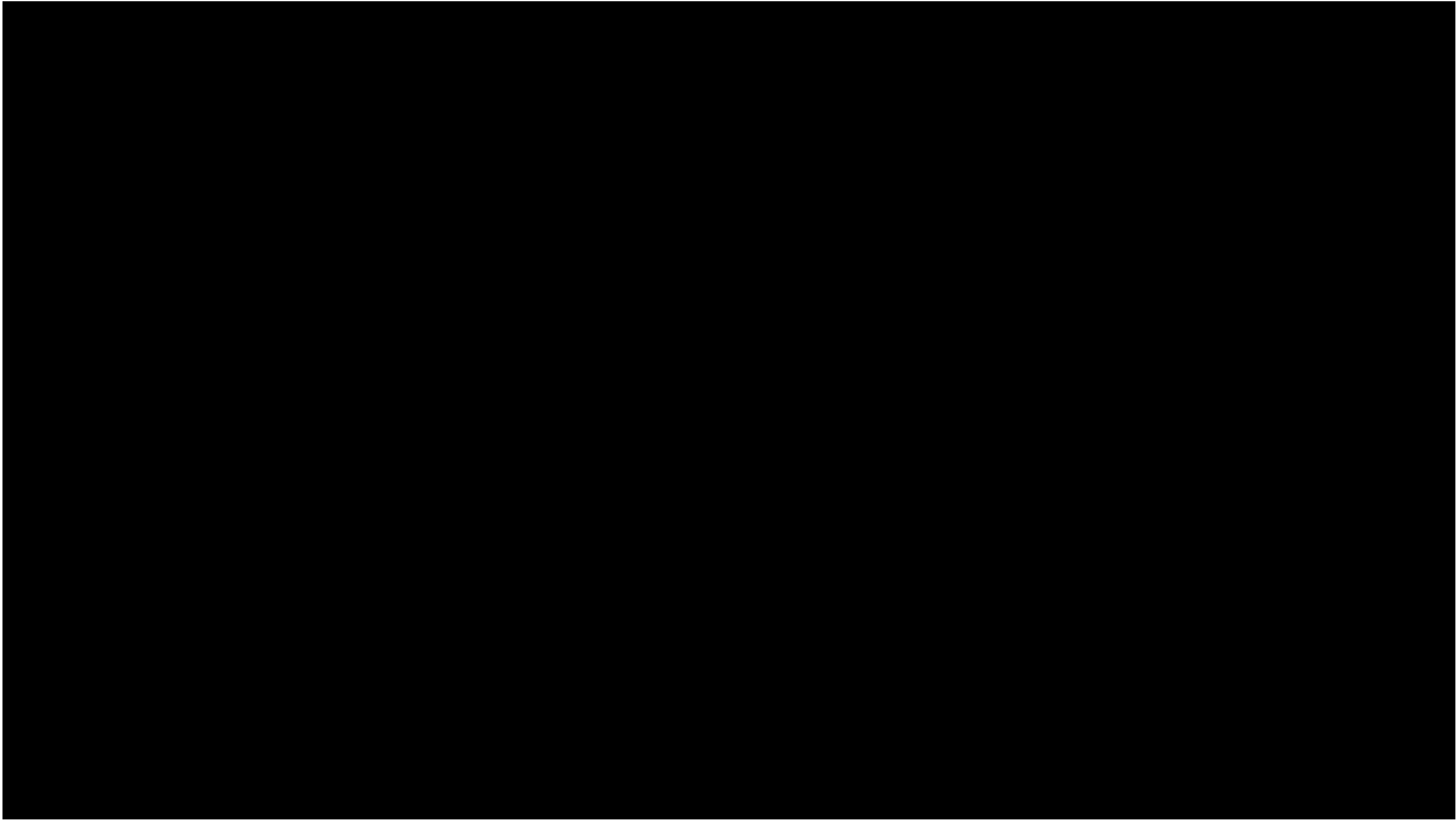
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e-lyfrgell GIG Cymru  
NHS Wales e-library

[www.nhswls.org/contactyourlibrary](http://www.nhswls.org/contactyourlibrary)





1. Things to consider at the start of your project
2. Writing up your research
3. Submitting your paper
4. Promoting your research

# Why Publish?

Think about the reasons that you or any healthcare professional may want to publish.

Please share your comments in the chat box.

# Why Publish?





1. Getting a paper published is hard
2. Many published systematic reviews have a high risk of bias

BMJ (n.d.). *Acceptance rate and handling times*. The BMJ. Retrieved June 13, 2023, from <https://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/publishing-model>

Kleijnen, J. (2023, May 31). *Facts and figures about systematic reviews in health care, and the current state-of-affairs*. [Conference Presentation]. KSR.

# Alternative routes to publication

Correspondence | [Published: 01 May 2018](#)

## Are patients with poorer vision more polite? A study examining door closing tendencies in patients with poor vision

[Sidath Wijetilleka](#)  & [Gwyn Williams](#)

[Eye](#) **32**, 1539 (2018) | [Cite this article](#)

296 Accesses | 1 Citations | 5 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

## Abstracts from ABCD Conference

7 - 8 September, 2022, NEC, Birmingham

<http://dx.doi.org/10.15277/bjd.2022.393>  
*Br J Diabetes* 2022;**22**:163-169

### Abstract ID: 440

Current trends of diabetic ketoacidosis admission in adults with type 1 diabetes in Wales

*Ndlovu PC,<sup>1</sup> Atkinson M,<sup>2</sup> Min T,<sup>3</sup>*

1. Diabetes Research Unit, Swansea University

2. Diabetes Department, Singleton Hospital, Swansea Bay UHB

3. Diabetes Department, Neath Port Talbot Hospital, Swansea Bay UHB

### CORRESPONDENCE

## Subclinical Hyperthyroidism

4 Citing Articles

TO THE EDITOR

October 11, 2018

*N Engl J Med* 2018; 379:1483-1486

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc1809627

[Metrics](#)



# BMJ Case Reports

- NHS Wales e Library provides institutional access to BMJ Case Reports. Allows NHS staff to submit case reports free of charge
- Some Health Boards have institutional access to BMJ Quality. Allows NHS staff to submit quality improvement projects free of charge

## BMJ Case Reports

**Have you been published yet?**

Submit unlimited cases in the world's  
largest online repository of case reports



Ask your librarian  
for your Fellowship  
Number today!

# Identifying a suitable topic or research question

What's already been published?

What will my research add?

Start with a literature search

# Identifying a suitable study methodology



[File:Evidence-based Medicine \(EBM\).png](#) by [Tingjoh](#) is licensed under [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

# Use your NHS Library

## NHS Wales Libraries are here to support you on your publishing journey

- Book Collections - books to help guide you through the process of how to get your research published.
- Quiet study spaces to work
- NHS Wales e Library provides all NHS Wales Libraries with a fellowship code allowing you to submit your work to BMJ Case Reports free of charge.
- Our library intranet pages provide guides, articles and websites to support you.
- Literature Searching Services – all libraries provide a literature searching service to assist in finding the research to support your work

**NHS Wales Libraries** <https://www.nhswls.org/>

**NHS Wales e Library** <https://elh.nhs.wales/>

[Home](#) > [Researchers](#) > [Support and guidance for researchers](#)

# Support and guidance for researchers

<https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/researchers/support-and-guidance-researchers>

# Reviews



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- Systematic
- Narrative
- Rapid
- And many more...

Sutton, Clowes, M., Preston, L., & Booth, A. (2019). Meeting the review family: exploring review types and associated information retrieval requirements. *Health Information and Libraries Journal*, 36(3), 202–222.

[https://nhs.wales.librarysearch.cardiff.ac.uk/permalink/44WHELF\\_CAR/hptobj/cdi\\_proquest\\_miscellaneous\\_2335168244](https://nhs.wales.librarysearch.cardiff.ac.uk/permalink/44WHELF_CAR/hptobj/cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_2335168244)

[Review types - Systematic & scoping reviews - Research Toolkit - Curtin Library](#)



# Reporting guidelines

[The EQUATOR Network | Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of Health Research \(equator-network.org\)](https://equator-network.org)



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CARE Checklist of information to include when writing a case report



Topic	Item	Checklist item description	Reported on Line
Title	1	The diagnosis or intervention of primary focus followed by the words "case report" . . . . .	_____
Key Words	2	2 to 5 key words that identify diagnoses or interventions in this case report, including "case report" . . .	_____
Abstract (no references)	3a	Introduction: What is unique about this case and what does it add to the scientific literature? . . . . .	_____
	3b	Main symptoms and/or important clinical findings . . . . .	_____
	3c	The main diagnoses, therapeutic interventions, and outcomes . . . . .	_____
	3d	Conclusion—What is the main "take-away" lesson(s) from this case? . . . . .	_____
Introduction	4	One or two paragraphs summarizing why this case is unique ( <b>may include references</b> ) . . . . .	_____
Patient Information	5a	De-identified patient specific information. . . . .	_____
	5b	Primary concerns and symptoms of the patient. . . . .	_____
	5c	Medical, family, and psycho-social history including relevant genetic information . . . . .	_____
	5d	Relevant past interventions with outcomes . . . . .	_____
Clinical Findings	6	Describe significant physical examination (PE) and important clinical findings. . . . .	_____
Timeline	7	Historical and current information from this episode of care organized as a timeline . . . . .	_____
Diagnostic Assessment	8a	Diagnostic testing (such as PE, laboratory testing, imaging, surveys). . . . .	_____
	8b	Diagnostic challenges (such as access to testing, financial, or cultural) . . . . .	_____
	8c	Diagnosis (including other diagnoses considered) . . . . .	_____
	8d	Prognosis (such as staging in oncology) where applicable . . . . .	_____
Therapeutic Intervention	9a	Types of therapeutic intervention (such as pharmacologic, surgical, preventive, self-care) . . . . .	_____
	9b	Administration of therapeutic intervention (such as dosage, strength, duration) . . . . .	_____
	9c	Changes in therapeutic intervention (with rationale) . . . . .	_____
Follow-up and Outcomes	10a	Clinician and patient-assessed outcomes (if available) . . . . .	_____
	10b	Important follow-up diagnostic and other test results . . . . .	_____
	10c	Intervention adherence and tolerability (How was this assessed?) . . . . .	_____
	10d	Adverse and unanticipated events . . . . .	_____
Discussion	11a	A scientific discussion of the strengths AND limitations associated with this case report . . . . .	_____
	11b	Discussion of the relevant medical literature <b>with references</b> . . . . .	_____
	11c	The scientific rationale for any conclusions (including assessment of possible causes) . . . . .	_____
	11d	The primary "take-away" lessons of this case report (without references) in a one paragraph conclusion . . . . .	_____
Patient Perspective	12	The patient should share their perspective in one to two paragraphs on the treatment(s) they received. . . . .	_____
Informed Consent	13	Did the patient give informed consent? Please provide if requested . . . . .	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

# Authorship

The ICMJE recommends that authorship be based on the following 4 criteria:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>

# Open Access

- What is it?
- Gold or Green?
- What are the benefits?
- What are the disadvantages?



Ferreras-Fernández, T., García-Peñalvo, F., Merlo-Vega, J. A., & Martín-Rodero, H. (2016). Providing open access to PhD theses: visibility and citation benefits. *Program*, 50(4), 399-416.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/PROG-04-2016-0039>

# Open Access

- Should I publish Open Access?
- Funding requirement
- Increase in reach of research
- Support Open Access

Sherpa Romeo

<https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>

[Paywall: The Business of Scholarship](https://paywallthemovie.com)  
([paywallthemovie.com](https://paywallthemovie.com))



# Funding

- Regardless of the scale of your project it's important to consider funding right at the very start of the process
- Not securing funding doesn't necessarily mean that your research won't get published but it could result in some challenges further on down the line.

# Funding

- Article Processing Charges- Usually upwards of £750
- Protected research time- NHS Research Time Award
- Statistics- Are you going to need the support of a statistician?
- If you do get funding make sure you put money aside for publishing
- Translating articles- If conducting a systematic review will you need to have foreign language papers translated? Approx. £400.00 per article



# Funding

- Add it to your research grant proposal
- Work with a co-author who has access to funds
- Universities usually have open access funds you can apply for if affiliated
- Essay competitions sometimes have cash/ or publication as a prize e.g. BMJ Quality competition
- Some publication types such as letters may be free of charge
- Submit to a subscription/ green journal or a platinum journal
- Consider other forms of publication (conference poster, repositories, blogs, podcasts).

# Funding

**Health Care and Research Wales-** [Funding schemes | Health Care Research Wales \(healthandcareresearchwales.org\)](https://healthandcareresearchwales.org)

## **Professional Bodies:**

Royal College of Nursing- [Apply for funding | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](https://rcn.org.uk)

British Medical Association- [BMA Foundation - Research funding \(bmafoundationmr.org.uk\)](https://bmafoundationmr.org.uk)

Council for Allied Health Professionals Research- [Funding sources | Council for Allied Health Professions Research](https://councilforalliedhealthprofessionsresearch.org.uk)

Chartered Society of Physiotherapists- [Research funding | The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy \(csp.org.uk\)](https://csp.org.uk)

Royal College of Occupational Therapists- [Research and Development - RCOT](https://rcot.org.uk)

## **Charitable Organisations:**

Association of Medical Research Charities- [Member directory | Association of Medical Research Charities \(amrc.org.uk\)](https://amrc.org.uk)



# Predatory Publishing

“Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices.”

Grudniewicz, A., Moher, D., Cobey, K.D. et al. (2019) ‘Predatory journals: no definition, no defence.’ *Nature*, 576, pp. 210-212.





**“Think. Check. Submit.** helps researchers identify trusted journals and publishers for their research. Through a range of tools and practical resources, this international, cross-sector initiative aims to educate researchers, promote integrity, and build trust in credible research and publications.”

**[thinkchecksubmit.org](https://thinkchecksubmit.org)**

# Choosing the right journal

Decide on your journal before you start writing your paper

## Journal Aim and Scope

- Does the subject of your article match the journal's subject focus?
- Does the journal accept the article type you intend to write & submit?
- What is the target audience and readership of the journal?



# Resources to help you choose the right journal

**Jane** - [Journal / Author Name Estimator \(biosemantics.org\)](https://biosemantics.org/journal-author-name-estimator)

**JOT**- [Search \(yale.edu\)](https://yale.edu/jot-search)

**BMJ** – <https://authors.bmj.com/before-you-submit/how-to-choose-a-journal/>

**Wiley**- <https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/find-a-journal/index.html>

**Elsevier** - <https://scientific-publishing.webshop.elsevier.com/research-process/how-to-choose-a-journal-to-submit-an-article/>

# 1. Summary

- Contact your local librarian for literature searching support/ advice
- If publishing a review article take some time to understand the different kinds of reviews and their methodology
- Will you publish open or closed access? Will you require funding?
- Working with a team? Be clear about everyone's roles and responsibilities
- Identify suitable journals
- Beware predatory journals



## 2. Writing up your research

- Writing skills
- Writing support
- Referencing
- Screening
- Statistics

## A photograph of wooden letter tiles spelling out the word 'RULES' on a wooden surface. The tiles are arranged in a row, with the letters R, U, L, E, S. Other scattered tiles with various letters are visible in the background.

- 

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	Anatomy of an article
<b>Abstract</b>	Brief summary of the article, including research question, methodology and results.
<b>Introduction</b>	Background information about the topic, leading up to why this study is being done, and may include a brief literature review.
<b>Methods</b>	Description of how the study procedures, set-up and how data was collected.
<b>Results/ Findings</b>	Presentation of the data from the study. This section often includes tables, charts, or other visualizations of the data.
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Analysis of the data and how the study relates to existing knowledge of the topic.</p> <p>The authors evaluate whether their results answer their research question.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	The authors wrap up the article by discussion how their study contributes to the research on this topic and outline future potential research questions or studies.
<b>References</b>	List of resources that the authors consulted when developing their research and subsequently cited in their article.

# How to plan writing time

1. Decide to do it
2. Decide on your focus
3. Plan your work
4. Remember how many things, in real life, get done in the last 10% of available time
5. Think in terms of small blocks at a time
6. Open your daily planner
7. Commit to the schedule
8. Unplug the phone, close the door...
9. Try not to exceed your allotted time
10. Plan to edit later
11. Schedule time for peer review
12. Plan time to celebrate!

500 tips for getting published : a guide for educators, researchers and professionals / Dolores Black ... [et al.].  
London ; Sterling, Va. Kogan Page 1998.





# Generative AI tools e.g. ChatGPT

## Can be good for:

- summarising information
- drafting ideas and planning or structuring written materials
- experimenting with different writing style

## Limitations:

- cannot be relied upon for factual accuracy
- unlike a normal internet search, they don't look up current resources and are some months out of date
- while they can generate references that appear to be relevant and well formatted, these are often fictitious references that the GenAI has made up
- they can perpetuate stereotypes, biases and dominant perspectives

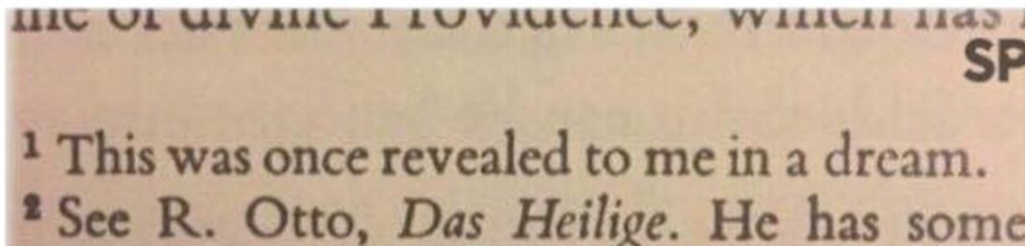
*(Cardiff University information for students, July 2023)*

# Useful tools? Referencing

- A reference, or citation, provides bibliographical data about published work.
- Referencing demonstrates your evidence and allows other to consult the same papers.
- Referencing management tools will make the process easier



Image by pch.vector on Freepik



## Reference management tools examples:

- Endnote
- Zotero
- Refworks

# Useful tools? Screening

When conducting a review the following tools can be used to help your team screen through the results:

**Covidence**- screening and data extraction tool for comprehensive literature reviews. Users can create PRISMA flow diagrams easily, along with templates for data extraction and quality assessment. Requires a subscription.

**Abstrackr**- Free, open-source tool for collaborative screening of abstracts.

**Rayyan**- Software for screening through titles and abstracts for reviews. Free version includes unlimited reviews and AI-powered features.

# Statistics

Will you require the input of a statistician?

**Library resources include:**

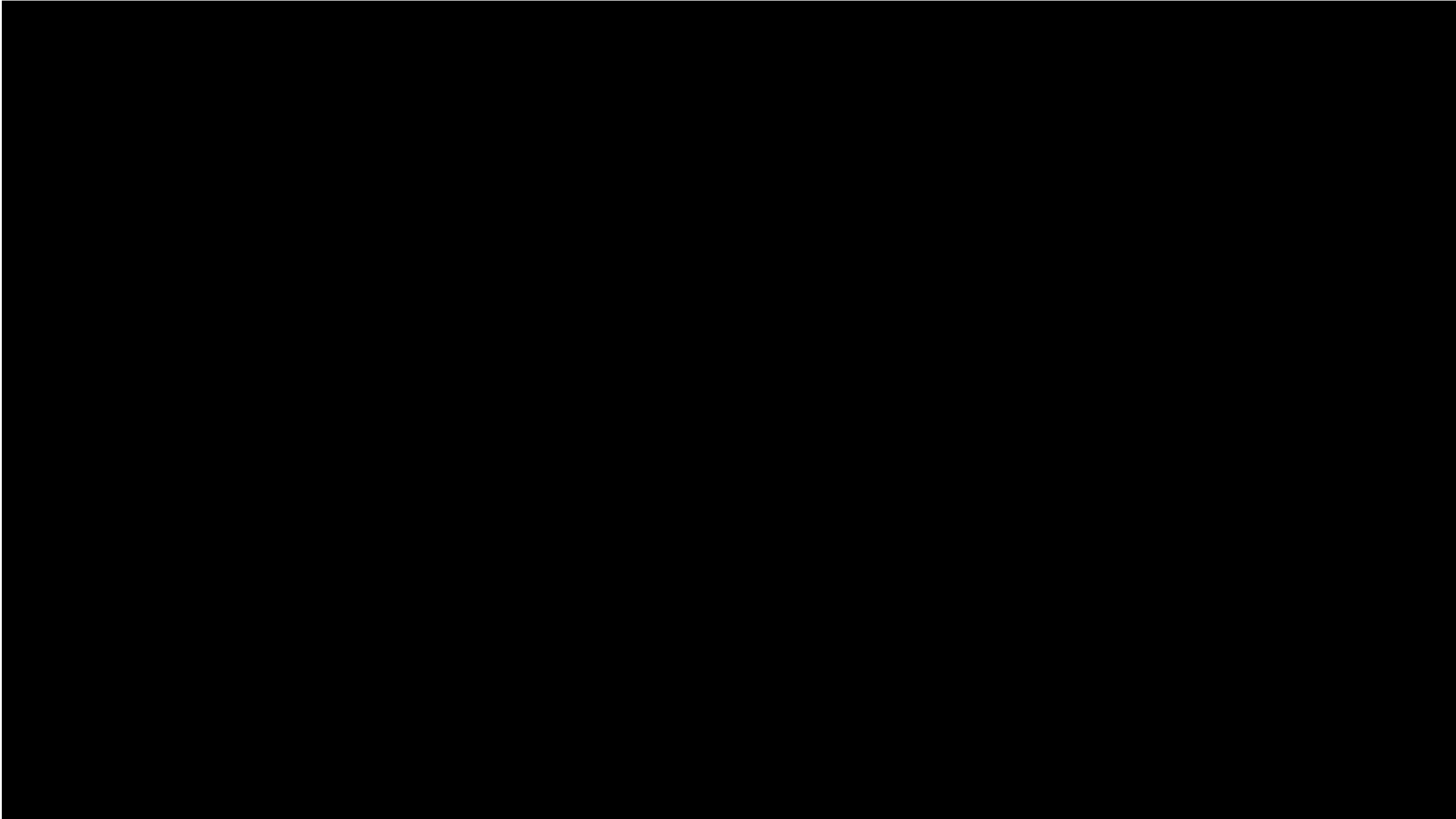
Access to statistical software such as SPSS

Textbooks- [NHS Wales LibrarySearch - statistics  
\(exlibrisgroup.com\)](https://www.exlibrisgroup.com)

## 2. Summary

- Plan your writing time effectively
- Reference management can save you time and keep your work organised
- Screening tools can help you to manage the screening process
- Statistical support can be difficult to obtain



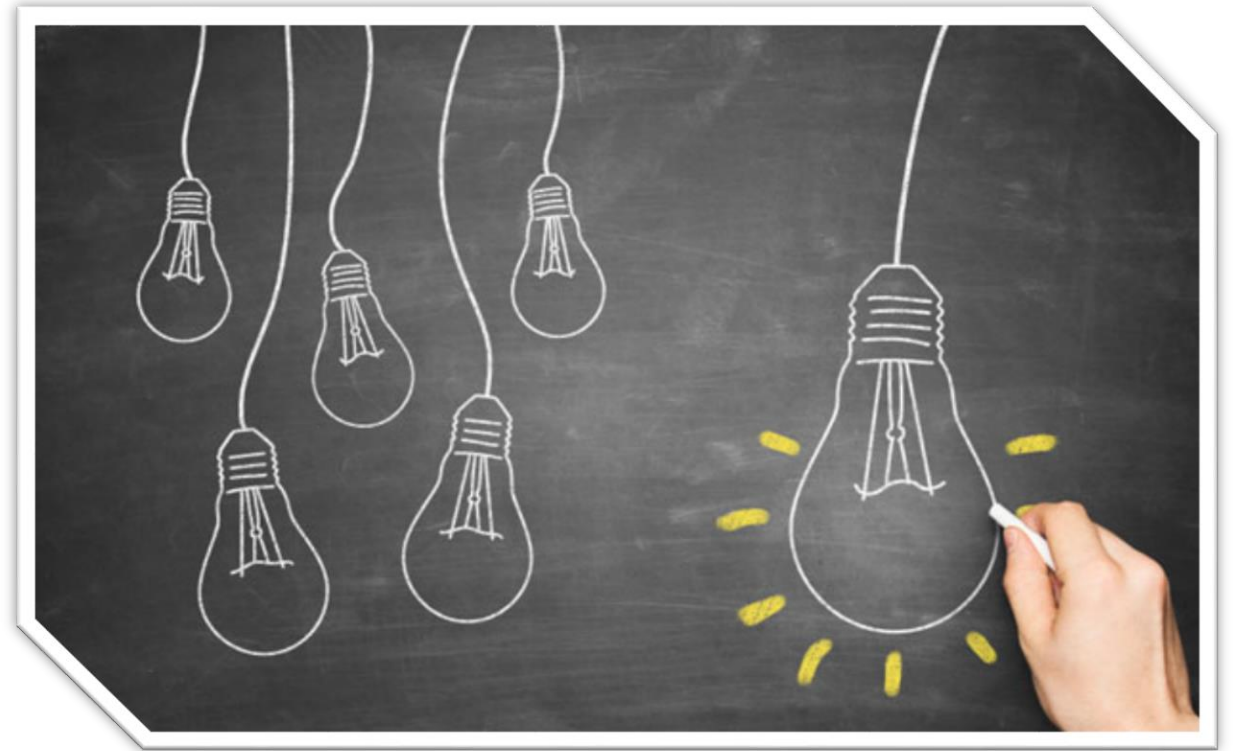


## 3. The Submission Process

- Making your paper discoverable- Key words/ title/ address
- Supplementary materials
- Peer review process
- Rejection

# Making research discoverable

1. Optimise your article title
2. Compiling your abstract
3. Keywords
4. Post publication



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# Supplementary Materials

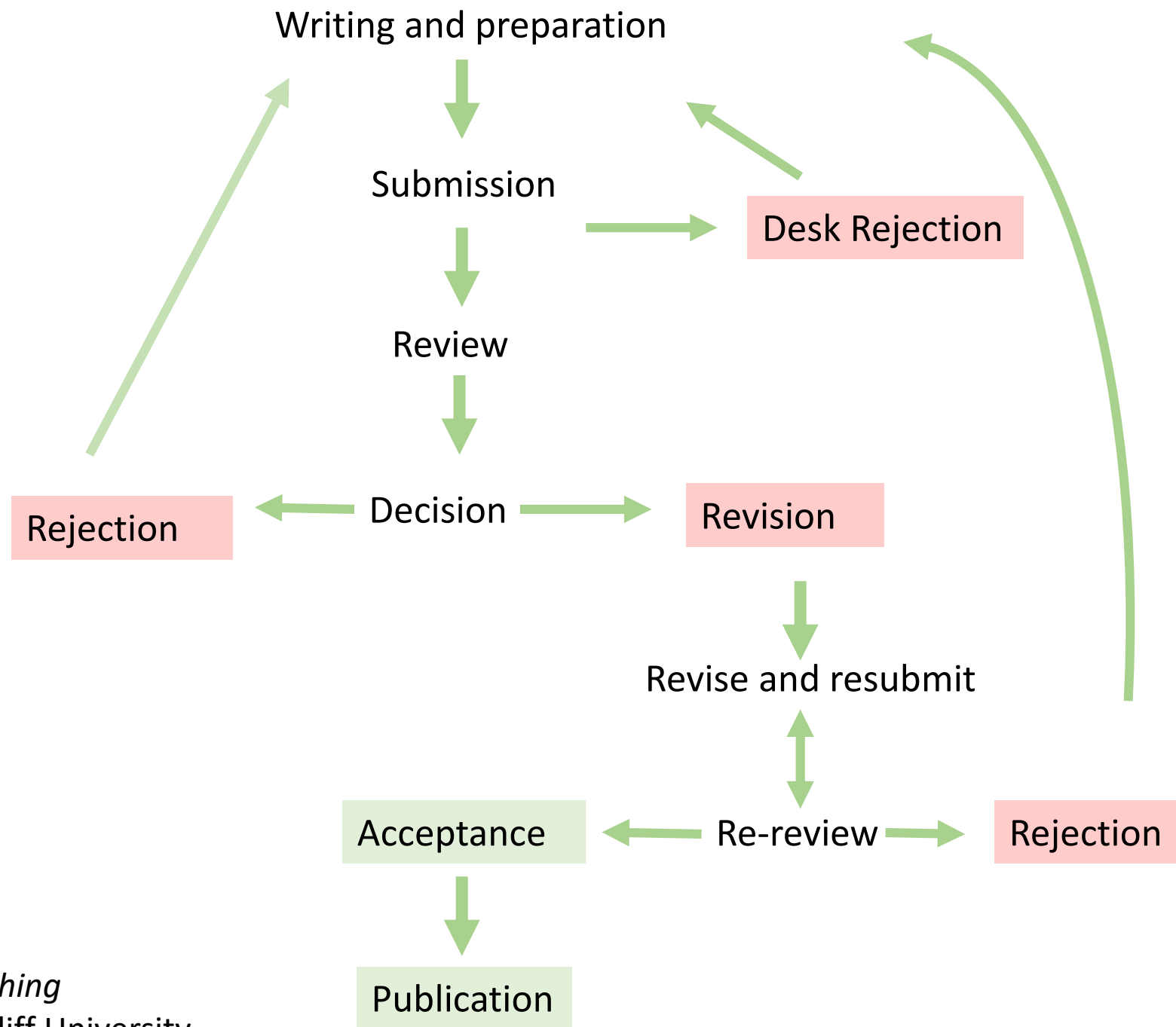
- Upload all relevant documentation that can be shared to a permanent digital archive
- Link to DOI within the manuscript
- Links to supplementary materials on publishers sites may become broken over time
- Open Science Framework- <https://osf.io/>

Rethlefsen ML, Kirtley S, Waffenschmidt S, Ayala AP, Moher D, Page MJ, Koffel JB; PRISMA-S Group. PRISMA-S: an extension to the PRISMA Statement for Reporting Literature Searches in Systematic Reviews. Syst Rev. 2021 Jan 26;10(1):39. doi: 10.1186/s13643-020-01542-z. PMID: 33499930; PMCID: PMC7839230.



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# Rejection

- \* Rejection is normal
- \* Many leading scientific and medical journals reject more than **80%** of the manuscripts they receive (Khadilkar, 2018)
- \* Publisher Elsevier state that between **30% and 50%** of articles don't even make it to their peer review process (Thrower, 2012)
- \* Don't give up!

# Reasons for Rejection

**Articles are commonly rejected before they reach the peer review process for the following reasons:**

- The paper may not fit the scope of the journal – make sure the paper you are submitting is relevant to the subject matter and readership of the journal.
- The paper is not complete – key elements may be missing, such as the title, authors, keywords or references.
- There is suspected plagiarism or the paper is currently under review by another journal - submitting to more than one journal at the same time is not allowed.
- The English is not sufficient – language, structure, or figures are poor – have someone proofread your paper before submission.
- Your target journal may already have published similar papers or already have one in the process of being published.

# Dealing with Rejection

**Rejection isn't personal** – Just because one journal does not accept your paper, doesn't mean no one ever will.

**Be patient** – The peer review process can take a very long time. Some journals may have a suggested timeline, so it's a good idea to check to know what to expect.

**Listen to feedback** - During the peer review process you may be asked to make revisions to your paper numerous times. The paper may still be rejected after these revisions, but this feedback is essential when moving forward.

**Rethink your journal choice** – If your article was rejected before the peer review stage, it might be a good idea to reflect on your choice of journal. Your paper may not be a good fit for one journal but might be perfect for the next!

**Take a break** – Submission and rejection can take its toll. It's important to rest and recharge your batteries before trying again if you need to.

## 3. Summary

Make your research discoverable by using appropriate keywords in title/ abstract

List your institution

Peer review can be a lengthy process

Rejection is part of the process- don't be put off!



# Promoting your research

- Register for a publication ID
- Social media can help promote your research
- Present your research at events and conferences
- Be aware of different bibliometrics and altmetrics that can be used to measure your research output

# ORCID ID

- Provides you with a single identifier for all your body of work
- Brings together your whole publications history, helping to ensure changes of name or changes of institution don't affect your publications records.
- Makes it easy for others who have read one work by you to follow it up easily
- Increases visibility and potential impact
- Avoid being incorrectly associated with publications that aren't yours

<https://orcid.org/>

ORCID



# Getting work read, shared, cited

- If possible publish Open Access and store in a repository
- Get an ORCID and keep it up to date with new publications
- Check your Scopus author profile regularly & correct if necessary. Link it to ORCID.
- Correct inaccuracies in databases- report it to Scopus

[Databases - e-Library for Health \(nhs.wales\)](https://nhs.uk/e-library/databases)

Scopus®

# Metrics in research

- Bibliometrics

Article • *Open access*

A multicentre randomised feasibility STUdy evaluating the impact of a prognostic model for Management of BLunt chest wall trauma patients: STUMBL Trial

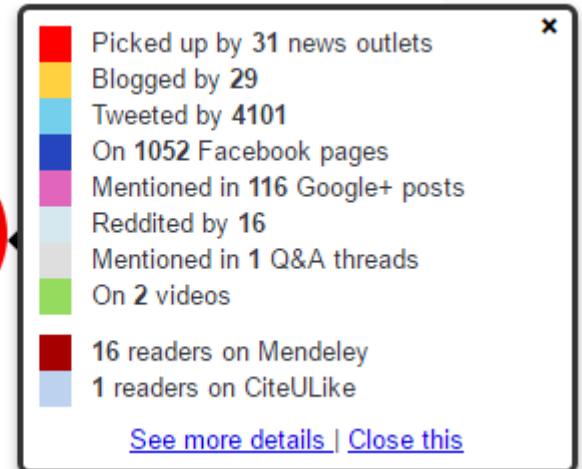
Battle, C., Hutchings, H.A., Driscoll, T., ...Abbott, Z., Evans, P.A.

*BMJ Open*, 2019, 9(7), e029187

7

Citations

- Altmetrics



# Bibliometrics

- Journal Impact Factor
- Citation analysis
- The h-index

# Altmetrics

Altmetric sources include:

News

Blogs

Social Media

Wikipedia

Reference Managers

Important to note:

High metrics doesn't necessarily mean  
high-quality research

# Promoting Research on Social Media

1. Choose the right social media platform for your needs.
2. Build a following.
3. Create interesting and compelling posts.
4. Engage with your audience.

[Sage Publishing - Using social media to enhance discoverability](#)

Suggested further reading: *Social Media for Academics* by Mark Carrigan



# Events and conferences

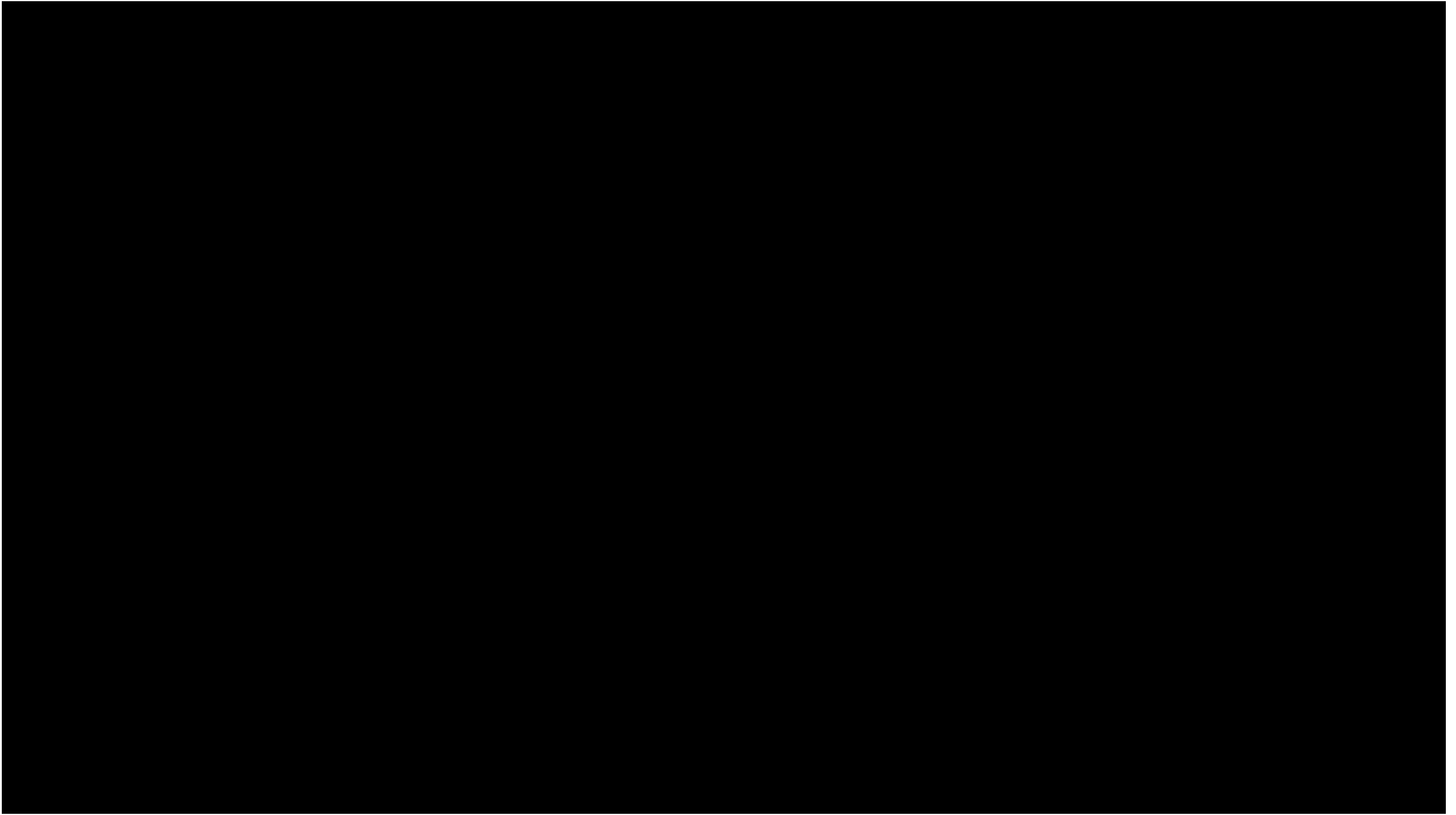
- Present your research at events and conferences
- Opportunity to network
- Follow conference on social media

## 4. Summary

- Register for a publication ID
- Social media can help promote your research
- Present your research at events and conferences
- Be aware of different bibliometrics and altmetrics that can be used to measure your research output







**Questions?**

**Feedback Form**

# List of references

NHS Wales Libraries- [www.nhswls.org/](http://www.nhswls.org/)

NHS Wales e-Library- <https://elh.nhs.wales/>

Black, D., & Black, D. (1998). *500 Tips for Getting Published: Guide for Educators, Researchers and Professionals*. Kogan Page.

Carrigan, M. (2020). *Social media for academics (Second edition. ed.)*. Sage Publications.

Grudniewicz, A., Moher, D., Cobey, K. D., Bryson, G. L., Cukier, S., Allen, K., Arden, C., Balcom, L., Barros, T., & Berger, M. (2019). Predatory journals: no definition, no defence. *Nature*, 576(7786), 210-212.

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Sutton, A., Clowes, M., Preston, L., & Booth, A. (2019). Meeting the review family: exploring review types and associated information retrieval requirements. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 36(3), 202-222.