

**Medical Education and Research Center, Shiraz NIOC
Health Organization – IJOEM, 1389 dey 13 / 3 Jan 2011**

**AuthorAID
in the Eastern
Mediterranean**



AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean (AAEM)

Karen Shashok

AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean

kshashok@kshashok.com

What is AuthorAID?

A concept:

**To support health by
supporting the publication
and availability of important
information**

What is AuthorAID?

A goal:

To improve research and publication practices, and to level the publication playing field so all important information becomes available

What is AuthorAID?

A practical outcome:

**A consortium of projects with
different sources of support
but common goals**

What do AuthorAID projects do?

- Find author's editors to help authors write manuscripts in English and get them published
- Provide training for authors and journal editors



AAEM Co-coordinators



**Dr. Farhad Handjani, Shiraz University
of Medical Sciences (SUMS)**

AAEM resources:

- 1. Volunteer author's editors
(face-to-face, email)**
- 2. Guidelines for authors and
editors**
- 3. Training in writing and
publication skills**

Authors' editors:

- 1. Help researchers improve their manuscripts to satisfy readers' expectations for language, content and organization**
- 2. Do not write the first draft or rewrite text for the authors**
- 3. Are contributors named in the Acknowledgements, but not authors named in the byline**

Authors' editors:

- 4. Are often but not always native speakers of English**
- 5. Can be specialists in science, in writing, or both**
- 6. Want researchers to publish successfully and learn good writing skills**

- **Manuscripts edited face-to-face or via email**
- **Track changes and clean files**
- **Pre-peer review queries about content**
- **Help with Instructions for Authors**
- **Information on the Inet**

Guidelines for authors and editors:

1. Abbreviations

2. References

3. Plagiarism/Appropriate citation

4. Secondary publication

5. Choosing the right journal

Workshop topics:

- 1. Manuscript writing and editing**
- 2. Good publication ethics for authors and editors**
- 3. Journal quality, technical editing and copyediting**
- 4. Online resources for journal editors**
- 5. Bilingual and multilingual publication**

Shashok K. 2009. AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean: A communication bridge between mainstream and emerging research communities. *European Science Editing* 35(3): 106-108.

http://www.ease.org.uk/pdfesearticle_snov09/EATW_correspondence106

[-8.pdf](#)



Shashok K. 2010. How AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean helps researchers become authors. *The Write Stuff* 19 (1): 43-46.

http://www.emwa.org/JournalPDFs/J_V19_I1.pdf

Shashok K. 2010. Aiding authors in the Eastern Mediterranean. *Ethical Editing* 2(3): 5-6.

<http://publicationethics.org/newsletters>

**Shashok K, Handjani F. 2010.
Enhancing the quality of research
publication: AuthorAID in the
Eastern Mediterranean. *Journal of
the Tehran University Heart Center*
5(4): 169-171.**

http://journals.tums.ac.ir/current.aspx?org_id=59&culture_var=en&journal_id=18&segment=en&issue_id=1994

2010 – AAEM accepted as a member of COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics)



<http://publicationethics.org.uk>

More information:

AuthorAID - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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AuthorAID

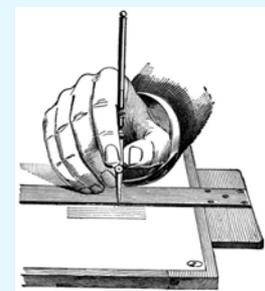
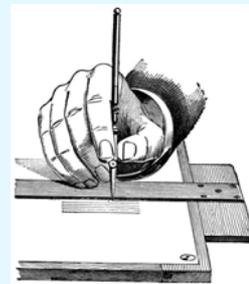
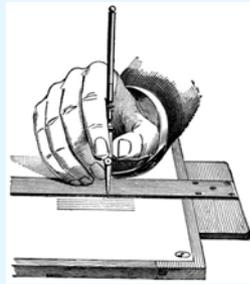
Make a donation to Wikipedia and give the gift of knowledge!

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

AuthorAID is the name given to a growing number of web-based activities that provide developmental editing assistance to scientists and researchers from developing countries who wish to prepare scientific articles for publication in peer reviewed journals. Phyllis Freeman^[1] and Anthony Robbins,^[2] co-editors of the *Journal of Public Health Policy (JPHP)*,^[3] first suggested the name and concept in 2004 and published “Closing the ‘publishing gap’ between rich and poor” about AuthorAID on the Science and Development Network (SciDev Net) ^[4] in 2005 ^[5]

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AuthorAID>

Ready to write?



When you write the manuscript, ask yourself **who needs to know what you found.**

Before you finish the manuscript, identify the **journals most likely to accept it.**

To reach the **right readers**

An optimal match between your work
and the journal's mission

(Guyatt and Haynes, 2006)

Where will the article be seen by the
greatest number of most interested
readers?

To make a good first impression

- Invest time to compare journals.**
- Write specifically for the journal.**
- Follow the **Instructions for Authors** or **Guidelines for Manuscript Preparation** carefully. Details are as important as content.**
- Title page, abstract, references**

Emphasis on research methodology and reporting

- Follow the CONSORT and EQUATOR reporting checklists for different study designs

<http://www.consort-statement.org/consort-statement/>

<http://www.equator-network.org>

A **title that reflects the contents**

What subjects? What population?

What conditions? Where?

**What setting (local, national,
regional, international)?**

Experimental or observational?

When?

Title

Emphasis on the hypothesis, the method, or the results?

Should the title state the conclusion?

Consult examples in your target journal.

An **abstract** that reflects the contents

Re-revise the abstract after the main manuscript is completely finished.

No discrepancies in the information in the abstract, main text, and tables or figures for: **terminology, sample size, population size, numerical data**

An **Introduction that attracts attention and identifies the target population of readers**

- Interesting first sentence**
- Identify the problem or gap in knowledge.**
- State your proposed solution.**
- Say how you tested your solution.**

Methods

- **No secret ingredients**
- **Reproducibility**
- **Traceability of materials (apparatus, reagents, cell lines, antibodies, etc.)**
- **Compliance with ethics guidelines**

Results that focus on the question asked in the Introduction

Figures and tables that focus on the question asked, and the data that help readers answer it for themselves

No repetition of data among text, tables and figures

A Discussion that explains what
your findings mean

Answer the **question** you asked in the
Introduction.

A Discussion that is critical of your own study

- Identify the limitations.**
- Explain to what extent the conclusions can be generalized.**
- Suggest new studies that could help answer questions that require more data.**

Should the **Discussion** begin with a summary of the results?

It depends on the discipline and the editor's preference. **Check your target journal.**

****** ******

For any questions, **ask the Editor** before you submit the manuscript.

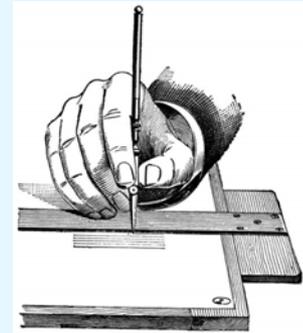


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1. A simple and boring text is better than a complex, “interesting” text that is hard to understand.

2. Revise, correct and rewrite.

It is normal for a good article to be rewritten many times before it is clear enough for **readers** to understand easily.



- **Language and usage**

Grammar and syntax

Specialized terminology and usage

- **Content and writing**

Organization and logical flow

Rhetoric and persuasiveness

- **Journal's instructions**

3. Ask a **specific question**. Provide a **specific answer**.

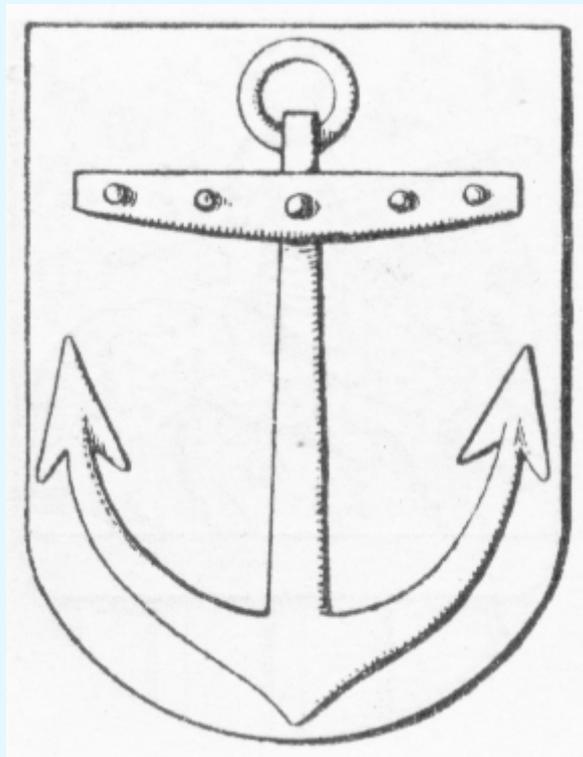
Your **statement of purpose** (at the end of the Introduction) is the anchor for the whole article.

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4. Refer to your **statement of purpose** often while writing and revising, to stay focussed on the aim of the study and the new, original, key results.

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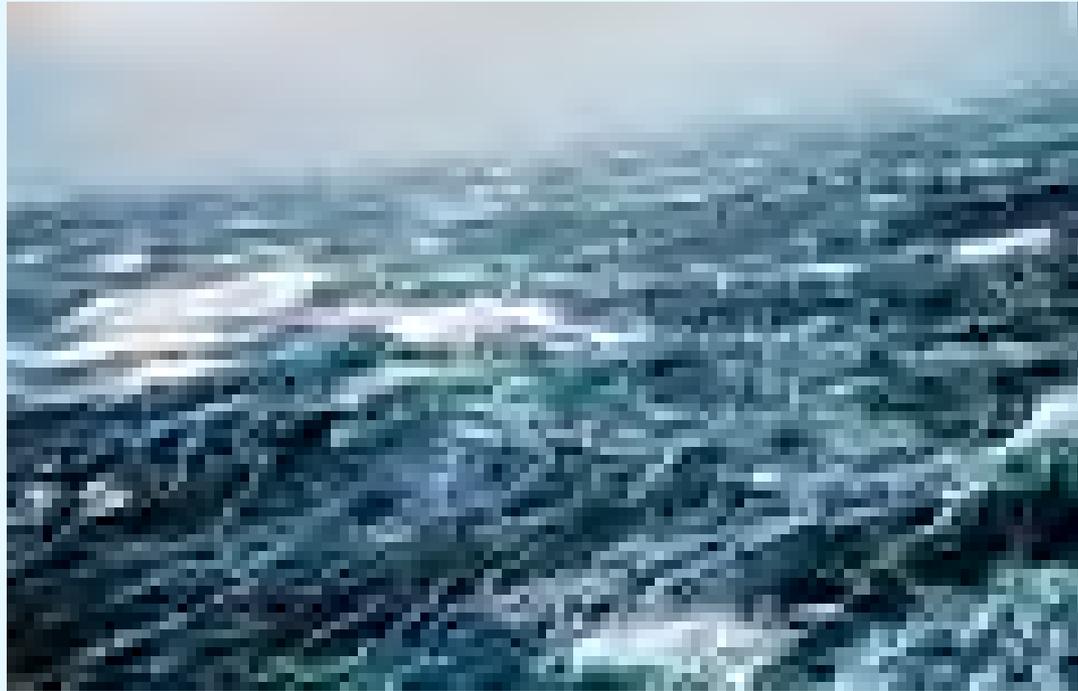
5. What do your results mean for other researchers?

Eliminate discussion and references that are not related to the aim of the study.



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6. Relate the conclusions explicitly to the aim of the study.



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Research publication ethics

Articles are **rejected or retracted** for ethical deficiencies in authorship, **originality, accurate citation, conflict of interest** and local ethics committee approval.

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com>

<http://www.icmje.org/>

<http://www.wame.org/>

Ethical and legal concerns have proliferated among editors of journals.

As a result the number of documents and assurances that editors require from authors about the ethical conduct of research is increasing.

Noncompliance with these ethical requirements can lead to **rejection of a submitted manuscript or **retraction** of a published article.**

Noncompliance may be **unintentional or **intentional**, i.e., with the intent to deceive or mislead.**

Is cut-and-paste a good solution for writing problems?



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Don't copy and paste from other articles. The English may not be very good.

Many articles in an unreadable writing style are published even in top journals.

would tell us that writing well can boost the authors' chances of getting published. Even so, attention to language among scientists is still scant, which would account for the number of unreadable articles published even in top-tier journals. In a Letter published in the *British Medical Journal*⁶, the author reports that "over the past 20 years..." many articles have shown "that medical information (such as journal articles, informed consent forms) is written in an 'unreadable' writing style." Among the authors of such texts are NES researchers, as even those writing in their mother tongue can be poor writers. However, improving writing skills in the native

**Vasconcelos SMR.
Writing up research
in English: Choice
or necessity? Rev
Col Bras Cir 2007;
34:1-2**

Research publication ethics

Good writing and good referencing (correct citation of sources) go together.

The readers want some background but also want to know what your original, expert analysis and conclusions are.

Research publication ethics

“Although the two papers were not exactly identical, there were overlaps between the two papers, and more importantly, the authors have failed to mention the existence of a closely related paper, using the same cohort of patients, and being submitted to another journal.”

Research publication **ethics**

“We do not say whether this was intentional or simply due to a misunderstanding of our journal’s policy, but **the fact that the authors have failed to report (either to us or to the chief editor of Respiratory Medicine)...**

Research publication ethics

“of this almost concomitant submission of two very closely related papers was real and undisputable.”

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/2010/12/28/nearly-identical-twins-european-respiratory-journal-retracts-asthma-in-pregnancy-paper-similar-to-another-by-same-group/#more-1199> Accessed 1

January 2011

How to improve citation accuracy and avoid plagiarism?

1. Avoid copy-and-paste.
2. Write or revise all the text yourself.
3. Insert provisional references (author-year) in the first draft.
4. Paraphrase (1 or 2 lines).
5. Always use “quotation marks” to enclose verbatim quotations (1 or 2 lines), and provide the reference.

Guidelines on how to improve citation accuracy and avoid plagiarism

Roig M. Avoiding plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and other questionable writing practices: A guide to ethical writing. Last updated Dec 2009. Available at <http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/plagiarism/>

Askt J. When is self-plagiarism ok? The Scientist [Entry posted at 9th September 2010 02:19 PM GMT]. Available at <http://www.the-scientist.com/blog/display/57676/> . Accessed 25 Sept 2010

**Thank-you very much
for your participation.**



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kshashok@kshashok.com

AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean 2006 - 2011

