

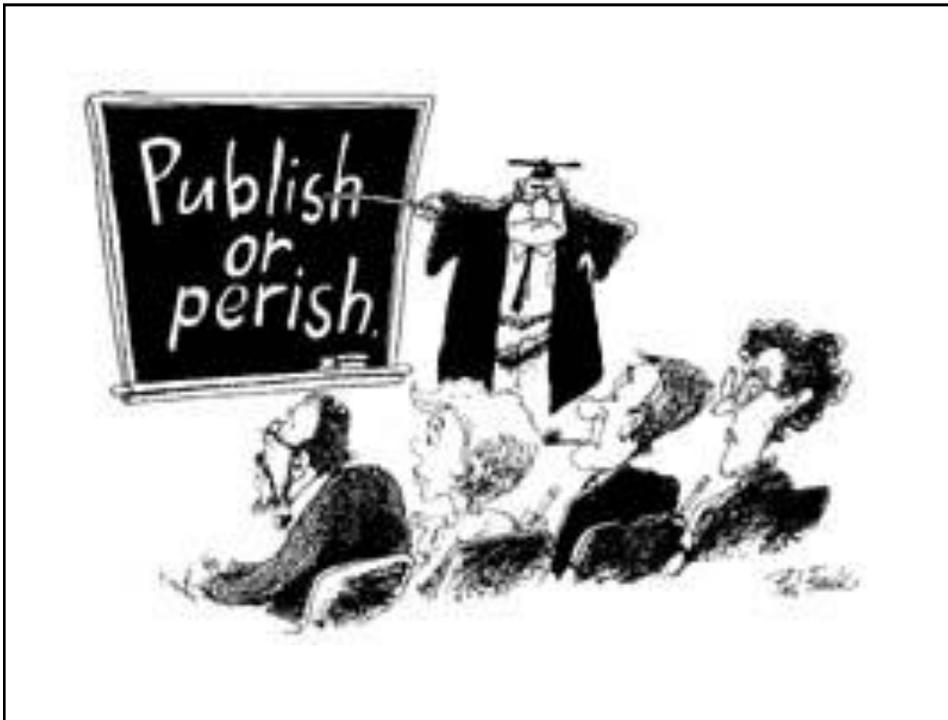
# Writing Scientific Papers for International Journals

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## Scientific Writing ~ Swimming



## Data and Results of Our Research

- Data and research from tropical countries → high demand
- Make sure:
  - Topic is to date
  - Standardized methods is used
  - Data analysis is correct
  - Use proper language (grammar) and terminology

## The IMRAD Structure

- **I**ntroduction: “why?”
- **M**ethods: “when, where, how, how much?”
- **R**esults: “what?”
- **A**nd
- **D**iscussion: “what does it mean?”
- **C**onclusion

## Why International Journal?

- Higher impact than local/national/regional journals
- Improves our writing and analytical skills  
→ comments and input from reviewers
- Improve our career and our organization

### **BUT:**

- More challenging  
→ work harder, intensive reading, takes longer to prepare the manuscript, longer waiting period
- Might need some contribution (\$)

## Where to Submit Our Manuscript?

- Journals used by yourself or colleagues  
→ topic is suitable for the journal
- Consider your desired audience
- Impact and ranking
- Indexing status by citation databases
- Journal information
- Other factors to consider

## Journals Ranked by Impact: Forestry

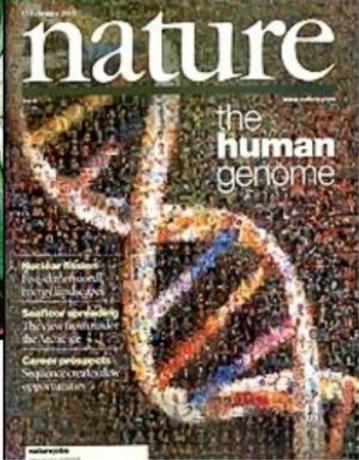
Rank	2008 Impact Factor	Impact 1981-2008
1	Agricultural and Forest Meteorology 3.67	Vegetatio 23.23
2	Tree Genetics & Genomes 2.43	Journal of Vegetation Science 18.75
3	Tree Physiology 2.28	Agricultural and Forest Meteorology 17.37
4	Forest Ecology and Management 2.11	Tree Physiology 16.88
5	Journal of Vegetation Science 2.04	Canadian Journal of Forest Research 15.34
6	Plant Ecology 1.73	Forest Science 14.16
7	Forest Science 1.66	Forest Ecology and Management 10.86
8	Trees – Structure and Function 1.63	Trees – Structure and Function 10.27
9	European Journal of Forest Research 1.56	Holzforschung 9.39
10	Annals of Forest Science 1.55	IAWA Bulletin 8.96



7 July 2006 | \$18

# Science

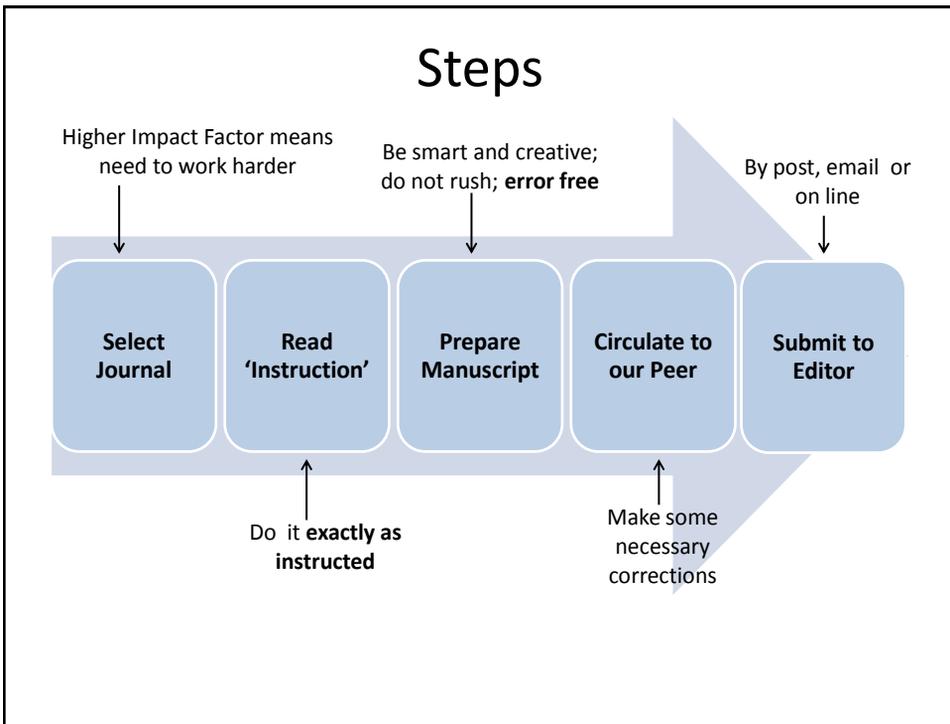
Impact Factors  
35



# nature

the human genome

32



## J. of Forest Economics: Instruction to Authors

### 4. General layout of manuscript

There are no specific instructions concerning the layout of the submitted manuscript. However, manuscripts typed in double spacing on one side of the paper are preferred. Line numbering is highly recommended. Three copies are required. The manuscript should include the following items: (a) titlepage including a short title of the manuscript; an abstract of 50-100 words, a keywordlist, the names and affiliations of all the authors, and the name and address of the corresponding author; (b) the main text; (c) acknowledgments; (d) appendices (if any); (e) references. Tables and illustrations (diagrams, drawings etc.) with captions may be included in the main text. If the paper is accepted for publication the author will receive more detailed instructions concerning the layout and form for submission of the final manuscript.

### 5. Illustrations

Submit illustration files separately from text files. Files for full colour images must be in a CMYK colour space. Colour figures can be printed only if the costs are covered by the author (€ 250.00 for first colour figure and € 200.00 for every subsequent figure). All illustration files should be in TIFF or EPS formats. Journal quality reproduction will require greyscale and colour files at resolutions yielding approximately 300 dpi. Bitmapped line art should be submitted at resolutions yielding 600–1200 dpi. For detailed information on artwork instructions, please refer to <http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>.

## Forest Science: Guide to Authors

Figures may be maps, diagrams, or summaries of results, such as bar charts and line graphs. The line weight for rules should be at least 1 point (no hairline rules). Captions appear at the bottom of the figure in the journal, but are listed on a separate page at the end of the manuscript. Captions should not appear on the figure itself. Use abbreviations consistent with SAF style. Common abbreviations are yr (year and years), dbh (not DBH), bd ft, mbf, ac, ha, ht, vol, m3, ft2, in. (inch and inches), cm, g, lb. Labels for figures should be in initial cap and lowercase, not all caps. Avoid fake 3-D and other effects that add to the complexity of the figure, but not to its ability to communicate.

## Common Problems: General

- Manuscript: too long, inefficient
  - **Writing style: ABC – Accurate, Brief, Clear**
- Consistency
  - Format
  - Objective → Method → Results → Conclusion
- List of References: format

→ *Read, read, and read!*

## Common Problems: Abstract

- Results and conclusion are not presented
- Introductory part: too long

→ *Write abstract after you finish writing your manuscript*

## Common Problems: Methods

- Confusing
- Lack of detailed information
- Not confirm with data presented in 'Results'

→ *Detailed but concise*

→ *Present: location, duration of research, n, repetition, precision of equipments, data analysis, statistical tests*

## Common Problems: Results

- Mixed with 'Discussion'
- Number of samples, SD (or SE): not presented
- Lack or inappropriate statistical analysis

→ *Straight forward, concise*

→ *Use appropriate subheadings*

→ *Data presentation: tables and figures*

## Common Problems: Tables

- Too crowded
- Too 'fancy'
- Redundant or repeated in text and/or figure

- *Heading: 'stand alone'*
- *'Always refer table number to text*
- *Usually no vertical lines*

## Common Problems: Figures

- Too complicated
- Driven by computer software

- *Figures: everything not presented in a table format*
- *Simple, plain, no photo (unless extremely necessary)*
- *Map: 'old style' b&w*

## Common Problems: Discussion

- Does not know what and how to discuss
- Out of focus
- Not leading to a certain conclusion
- Avoid 'grey literature'

- *'Why' and 'vs'*
- *Required heavy literature review*
- *Possible biases and errors need to be presented*

## Final Tips:

### Writing for International Journals

- Set a personal target: which journal?
- Blind reviewers: great help in improving quality of our writing
- Open mind, open to suggestions and corrections
- Be prepare to be rejected
- rejected manuscript can be submitted to other journal

