



Spice Up Your Career by Publishing and Presenting: Tips and Insights from the Field

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Round Table participants at our 2022 SCC/MLA meeting shared tips and insights on publishing and presenting.



Topics/Ideas – Where to Find?

Things happening at your library

Your own work projects including annual professional/development goals

Research you'd like to see published 

Personal interest—topics you can bring into the library world

Topics seen @ library listservs

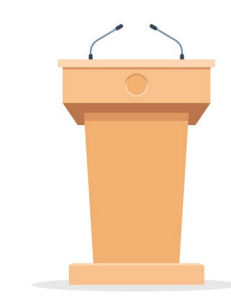
Gaps of service

What do you enjoy about your librarianship?

Keep a "Publishing Topics Ideas" list 


Thoughts/Tips on Format

How best to tell the story?




- Conference poster or lightning talk vs. conference paper?
- What about published article or webinar?

Library conferences vs. medical conferences: affects format decision (at a medical conference usually you'll collaborate with medical/clinician partners, so they'll adjust the story for that audience)

Poster buddy—find one! This is someone to review your poster when it's finished and provide feedback. Fresh eyes can help your poster make sense and look good. 

100% possible to take the same topic and make it a Lightning talk → Poster → Conference paper → Published article

The Paper Writing Process

More time-consuming than poster/conference paper 

Writing solo vs. writing with co-authors:

- Pros of solo: can work/write faster
- Pros of collaborating: other brains/eyes can think of things/see things you won't

Collaborate with who?

- Other librarians 
- Your faculty

How to find collaborators?

- At conferences (did someone present on a topic that you're also interested in publishing on?)
- Social media
- Listservs

How much time does your organization allow for writing/publishing? Create your own writing discipline.

Editors will come back with tweaks—stick to those tweaks! Don't start to rewrite.

You get better at writing the more you do it.


MLA Academic Librarians Caucus: has writing accountability group that meets regularly bit.ly/MLA-ALCaucus

Where to Publish

Ease into publishing by writing a newsletter article


Library journals—which ones to submit to? Good/easy peer-reviewed journals to publish in:

- *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet*
- *Journal of Hospital Librarianship*
- *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*

The library publishing world is friendly—don't be afraid! 

Use automated journal finder websites to match your paper title/abstract with journal suggestions, such as JANE jane.biosemantics.org/ or Springer journalsuggester.springer.com/ or Elsevier journalfinder.elsevier.com/

Open Access (OA) or not?


- *Journal of the Medical Library Association* is OA but can be hard to get published in
- If you publish with faculty, they have  for OA fees

Final Thoughts

Sharing is caring! Everyone has a story to share. 

Your library is doing the same thing as other libraries, but in your own way—share your perspective

If you don't like to do research papers... don't do research papers. Do informational, program description, etc.

Presenting at your MLA chapter's annual meeting is prestigious enough for tenure because it's an MLA chapter. Plus, most chapters accept 95-100% of submissions. (MLA is more selective with submissions to the annual meeting.) 

MLA Research Caucus: can learn a lot from them bit.ly/MLA-ResearchCaucus

Submit your posters/conference papers to other library conferences, e.g., a different MLA chapter. Many are doing virtual or hybrid virtual.

Don't feel weird about submitting the same poster/paper presentations to both MLA and your MLA chapter—not everyone can attend both, so not all the same eyes will see them.

