Writing Style

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Photo credit: https://www.girlslife.com/books/rad-reads/31706/12-bookshelves-that-are-shelfgoals
Pro Tips for writing an article: Overview

• Clearly define your goal statement

• Decide where you want to publish your work

• Let the journal define the outline for your article

• Prepare the tools that highlight how you achieved the goal
  ▪ Tables
  ▪ Figures

• Assemble those pieces and write!

Photo credit: https://www.metmuseum.org/art/libraries-and-research-centers/thomas-j-watson-library
Pro Tips for writing an article: Clearly Define Your Goal

- A goal should encapsulate the who/what/where/when/how of your project
- If you had more than one goal, write more than one paper

Two recent goal statements from the journal:

**Collaborative Study and Preservation of Coastal Alaskan Native Watercraft and Material Culture**
T. Rose Holdcraft, Sven Haakanson Jr., Ellen Promise, Judy Jungels, Fran Ritchie & Patricia Capone
JAIC, Published online 06 Apr 2020

**Abstract:** …study and preserve endangered Alaska Native material culture and traditional knowledge by focusing on skin-based kayaks and associated objects.

**Minimally Invasive Sampling of Surface Coatings for Protein Identification by Peptide Mass Fingerprinting: A Case Study with Photographs**
Daniel P. Kirby, Annette Manick & Richard Newman
JAIC, Published online: 10 Oct 2019

**Abstract:** …investigates the efficacy of a sampling technique to acquire sufficient sample for peptide mass fingerprinting analysis (PMF) with minimal alteration to photograph surfaces.

- **How:** study and preserve
- **Who/where:** Native Alaskans
- **What:** material culture and knowledge about skin-based kayaks and associated objects

- **What:** Efficacy of new sampling technique
- **Who/where:** photograph surfaces
- **How:** PMF
Pro Tips for writing an article: Where to Publish Your Work

Search: “Taylor and Francis JAIC conservation” to find the JAIC homepage

Every journal will tell you the types of articles they are looking for

Every journal will tell you how they would like you to structure your article
Pro Tips for writing an article: Creating an Outline For Your Article

Imagine your article as individual components you assemble together

“…all [JAIC] manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to evaluate a manuscript:”

• Title
• Author affiliation
• Abstract
• Keywords (5 – 10)
• Introduction
• Materials and methods
• Results/Discussion
• Conclusions
• Acknowledgments (includes funding information)
• References
• Tables
• Figures
Abstract: (197 words!)
The sensitivity of oxidized cellulose to damaging beta-elimination reactions was studied to define safe pH conditions and treatment times beyond which damage from alkaline treatment may occur; whether damage caused by alkaline treatment was affected by the type or amount of oxidation was also investigated. Cotton paper was oxidized using UV-A radiation, a hydrogen peroxide solution, or a sodium metaperiodate solution. Following oxidation, samples were soaked at room temperature in carbon-dioxide–free calcium hydroxide baths, at pH 8.5, 10.0, or 12.5, for 20 or 60 minutes. Changes to the molecular weight of the cellulose as a function of the amount of oxidation, treatment bath pH, and treatment time, were monitored to understand which conditions cause degradation to occur. The UV-A and hydrogen peroxide oxidized samples, simulating naturally oxidized papers, showed minimal sensitivity to beta-elimination reactions in baths up to pH 10.0; slight degradation was observed during treatment at pH 12.5. By contrast, sodium metaperiodate oxidized samples, which did not mimic naturally oxidized papers, were markedly degraded in pH 10.0 and 12.5 baths, with more degradation occurring at higher pH. For the oxidized papers found to be sensitive to beta-elimination reactions, longer treatment times led to more degradation.
Pro Tips for Writing an Article: Tables and Table Captions

A picture speaks a thousand words: a table is another type of picture!

From JAIC:

- Tables should present new information rather than duplicating what is in the text
- Readers should be able to interpret the table without reference to the text

Caption: defines the contents of the table
- What was are we summarizing?
- What were the conditions?
- What do acronyms mean?

Table shows you: more artificial-aging led to a decrease in both molecular weight and strength

Pro Tips for Writing an Article: Figures

Great for articles: Research Results

Photos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dye</th>
<th>Sn-Lake</th>
<th>NH$_4$OH</th>
<th>Al-Lake</th>
<th>Fe-Lake</th>
<th>Cu-Lake</th>
<th>U-Lake</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Plots

- 10% H$_2$O$_2$ 96 hrs
- 10% H$_2$O$_2$ 24 hrs
- 10% H$_2$O$_2$ 1 hr

- 0.1 M NaIO$_4$ 2 hr
- 0.1 M NaIO$_4$ 1 hr
- 0.1 M NaIO$_4$ 0.5 hr

Pro Tips for Writing an Article: Figures

OK figures: work in progress

NOT OK: anecdotal or common place images

Why?
• Doesn’t move your story forward
• But, perfectly fine for presentations!
Pro Tips for Writing an Article: Figure Captions

Captions should define the contents of the image

**Original:** Lakes of yellow natural dyes.

**Possible improvement:** Effect of mordant and natural yellow dye on color appearance when applied to wool.

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**Original:** Chain breaks as a function of 60 min calcium hydroxide treatment baths; paper oxidized by...(b) 10% hydrogen peroxide, (c) 0.1M sodium metaperiodate.

**Improved:** Chain breaks in Whatman 42 paper as a function of 60 min calcium hydroxide treatment baths; paper oxidized by...(b) 10% hydrogen peroxide, (c) 0.1M sodium metaperiodate.

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**Original**

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Pro Tips for Writing an Article: Writing the article

Did I:
- Clearly define my goal?
- Find a journal where my project will be a good fit?
- Determine that journal’s required elements?
- Prepare my poignant tables and figures?

Time to Assemble the pieces!

Article elements

See you at the JAIC submission portal

(blood, sweat, tears, and coauthors)

Finished draft!

Photo credit: https://www.metmuseum.org/art/libraries/documentation-centers/thomas-j-watson-library