

How to Get Published: An Inside View of the IEEE Peer-Review Process

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Outline

- 1 Why Publish?
- 2 Types of Publications
- 3 Conference Review Process
- 4 Journal Review Process
- 5 Conclusion

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Reasons to Publish

- Lends credibility to your thesis or dissertation defense.
- Helps to land a better job.
- Stake out IP claims prior to patenting.
- An opportunity to influence the research of others.
- Required for promotion in some professions, e.g. academia.

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Publish Or Perish!



"It's publish or perish, and he hasn't published."

Share Your Research!



“I see by the current issue of ‘Lab News,’ Ridgeway, that you’ve been working for the last twenty years on the same problem I’ve been working on for the last twenty years.”

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Conference Papers

- (Usually) Binary decision: Accept/reject.
- Relatively short time to from submission to publication (6-9 months).
- Ideas typically less developed than in a full journal paper.
- Expectations may vary widely across conferences.
- Almost all conferences require attendance (cost associated).

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Journal Papers

- Multi-round process.
 - Authors respond to reviewer comments.
 - Most full papers require 2 (or 3) rounds before publication.¹
 - An editor is involved in the process.
- Longer time from first submission to publication (9-36 months).
- Greater archival value and impact than conference papers.
- More professional weight, especially in academia.
- Cost varies from free to over a thousand dollars.

¹Exception include Letter-format publications, like *Electronics Letters*.

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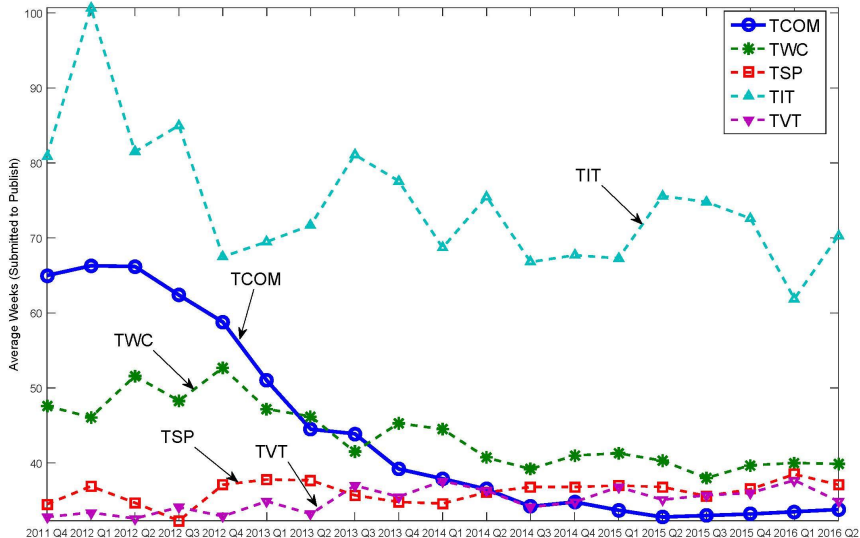
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Sub to Pub Times



Books



"It doesn't work as a novel. But we're willing to publish it as a desk calendar."

- Much more extensive than a paper.
- Typically need to establish research track record first.
- Review process varies by publisher; usually based on a proposal and market survey.
- Most book authors do **not** make money.

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- Chapters are usually invited by the editor.
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An Example Conference

- The review procedures vary from conference-to-conference.
- Rather than making generalizations, we will focus on a particular conference.
- The 2016 IEEE Military Communications Conference (MILCOM).
 - Held in Baltimore, MD, .
 - Nov. 1-3, 2016.
 - 396 papers were submitted.
 - 223 papers were accepted.
 - 56 percent acceptance rate.

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- Technical Program Chair (Brand).
- Unclassified Program Chair (Valenti).
- Two TPC Vice Chairs (Russel and Kurdziel).
- Conference is organized into 5 tracks, each with two Track Chairs.
 - ① Waveforms and Signal Processing
 - ② Networking Protocols and Performance
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Official MILCOM 2016 Timeline

- 2 May 2016. Upload draft paper for review.
 - Need to select which symposium.
 - Need title, abstract, and author information.
 - Manuscript limited to 6 pages in double-column format.
 - Can be up to 10 pages, but overlength charge applies.
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How Papers Are Handled

- Each track has a *technical program committee* (TPC) of 100 people.
- Each paper is assigned to 3 TPC members.
- TPC member is responsible for securing one review per paper.
 - TPC member can review paper themselves.
 - TPC member can delegate to other reviewer(s).
- Each TPC member was assigned about 4 papers.

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Review Timeline

- By May 16,
 - Co-chairs verify that papers are in correct symposium.
 - TPC members given an opportunity to claim papers.
 - Co-chairs deal each paper out to *three* TPC members.
- By June 17, TPC members enter/obtain reviews.
- By June 26, all reviews are due.
- By July 7, Summary Reviews are due.
- July 9, Decisions and notification.

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EDAS

A demonstration of the EDAS system.

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Types of Journals

- Open call:
 - Authors submit when they are ready.
 - Can be on any topic of interest to the journal.
 - Publication date is indeterminate.
- Special Issue:
 - Authors respond to a *call for papers* on a special topic.
 - A set deadline.
 - Typically faster publication dates than open call.
 - Some issues can be very competitive due to limited space in the issue.
- Letters:
 - Like open call, no deadline or special topic.
 - Usually short papers (3 pages or less).
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An Example Journal

- IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications
- Began publication in 2002.
- Stats for 2016
 - 1506 papers submitted (through Dec. 1).
 - 474 papers accepted (34% acceptance rate).
- Organization:
 - The editor-in-chief is Martin Haenggi (Notre Dame).
 - Editorial Executive Committee (chaired by Valenti).
 - 8 Areas, each with an Area Editor.
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Submission Guidelines

- Two types of papers.
- Transactions Papers:
 - No longer than 30 double-spaced pages, including figures.
- Comments and Corrections:
 - Make Comments and Corrections to published papers.
 - Not very common.
 - Only about 1 page when printed.
- Papers submitted through *Manuscript Central*.
 - Submitting author must have an ORCID.
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Executive Editorial Committee and Immediate Rejections

- The EEC is 8 members and a chair.
- Members rotate
 - Each week, a member acts as EiC and handles all incoming submissions.
- Duties of EEC
 - Assign papers to Areas.
 - Identify papers that are very poor or out of scope.
 - Draft rejection letters for inappropriate papers.
- Immediate Reject:
 - A paper can be immediately rejected if the EEC on duty, EEC chair, and EiC all agree.
 - Authors get a summary email explaining reasons for rejection.
 - About 20% of papers get immediately rejected.

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- Second week.
 - Area editor assigns to editor.
- Third week.
 - Editor requests reviews.
 - Invited reviewers accept or decline review requests.
 - At least three reviewers are needed.
- Next six weeks (sometimes longer).
 - Papers are with the reviewers.
 - Editor waits for reviews to be submitted.
- Last week
 - Once reviews are in, editor makes decision.

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Outcome of First Review Cycle

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 - Accept.
 - Minor Revision.
 - Major Revision (*most common*).
 - Reject & Resubmit.
 - Reject.
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- Letter from Editor will give the decision and the comments from the reviewers.

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- Most papers require at least a minor revision.
- Revisions must be completed within three months.
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- With enough perseverance, it is possible to get published.

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- The IEEE review procedure is a complex, multi-step process.
- The review process takes time to conduct properly.
- The process is run by volunteer reviewers, editors, and program committees.
 - These are your peers.
 - Once you begin to submit publications, you will be asked to review.
- With enough perseverance, it is possible to get published.

Questions?