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Editorial Board

Shelby Shapiro, Ph.D. (General Editor)	tis@ncis.org
Amanda Haste, Ph.D. (Humanities Editor)	amanda.haste@ncis.org
Joan Cunningham Ph.D. (STEM Editor)	jcunningham@ncis.org
Tula Connell, Ph.D.	tulaconnell@ncis.org
Annie Rehill, Ph.D.	annie.rehill@ncis.org
Laurence Schiller, Ph.D.	lds307@northwestern.edu
Patricia Silver, Ph.D.	patricia.silver@ncis.org
Tim R. Woolley, Ph.D.	t.r.woolley.00@cantab.net

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EDITORIAL BOARD

Tula Connell (Ph.D. American History; M.A. European History) is an historian of the United States focusing on 20th century labor and social movements, and author of *Conservative Counterrevolution: Challenging Liberalism in 1950s Milwaukee* (University of Illinois Press, 2016), in the series, "The Working Class in American History". Connell is a writer, editor and media professional with more than 20 years' experience in labor communications. She serves on the board of the Labor and Working Class History Association, where she co-chairs the Committee on Independent Scholars.

Joan Cunningham (Ph.D. Public Health: Epidemiology) is a cancer epidemiologist, recently retired from the Medical University of South Carolina. She holds an MSc (Biology: aquatic eco-embryology) from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada and Ph.D. (Public Health: epidemiology) from the University of Texas School of Public Health (Houston). Her work focuses on racial disparities in breast cancer, and non-pharmacological mitigation of cancer treatment side effects. She also gives invited lectures on cancer epidemiology to the graduate program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas.

Amanda Haste (Ph.D. Musicology; Dip.Trans.IoLET) is a British musicologist and academic translator whose research interests include identity construction through music and language. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists and teaches courses in Translation and in English for Specific Purposes at Aix-Marseille University, France. Her research has been published in leading journals and books by major editors, and she co-authored *Constructing Identity in an Age of Globalization* (Paris: Ex Modio, 2015); and her awards include the Louise Dyer Award for research into British music, and the Elizabeth Eisenstein Essay Prize (2018).

Annie Rehill (Ph.D. Modern French Studies, MFA) specializes in the literature and history of Francophone Canada, focusing on intercultural expressions and implications. Most recently she has studied Métis literature and art. Previous work in ecocriticism centered on representations of the Canadian *coureur de bois* figure, and on Francophone Caribbean writings. Her publications include "Le Travail dans la nature canadienne: L'Équilibre (et le déséquilibre) humain tel qu'il est représenté par Louis Goulet et Joseph-Charles Taché" (2018); "An Ecocritical Reading of Joseph-Charles Taché's *Forestiers et voyageurs*" (2018); *Backwoodsmen As Ecocritical Motif in French Canadian Literature* (2016); and "Inscriptions of Nature from Guadeloupe, Haiti, and Martinique" (2015).

Laurence Dana Schiller (Ph.D. History) is a retired Adjunct Professor from Northwestern University, from which he holds a Ph.D. in African History, and was also the Head Fencing Coach there for 38 seasons. He has authored several papers on East African history, including "Female Royals of the Lake Kingdoms of East Africa: An Examination of Their Power and Status" but is now primarily engaged in writing on the American Civil War. He has produced works on cavalry tactics including the Blue Gray Education Society monograph, *Of Sabres and Carbines: The Emergence of the Federal Dragoon*.

Shelby Shapiro (Ph.D. American Studies), the General Editor of *The Independent Scholar*, served for many years as the English-language editor of *Tsum punkt/To the Point*, the magazine of Yiddish of Greater Washington, as well as for its predecessor publication. He is currently Associate Editor of *Records of the State of Connecticut*. His Ph.D. dissertation dealt with acculturation and American Jewish women in the Yiddish press; he is a Yiddish-English translator, and his research interests include Jazz and Blues (having presented jazz radio programs for nine years), the labor movement, the First World War, and immigrant anarchism.

Patricia Silver (Ph.D. Anthropology) is a sociocultural anthropologist whose research has centered on the Puerto Rican diaspora in the U.S. states. Her publications have appeared in *American Ethnologist*, *CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, *Op. Cit.: Revista del Centro de Investigaciones Históricas, Southern Cultures, Memory Studies*, and *Latino Studies*. Her book, *Sunbelt Diaspora: Race, Class, and Latino Politics in Puerto Rican Orlando* was published in 2020.

Tim Woolley (Ph.D. Theology) is a British Methodist minister and adjunct lecturer at Cliff College, tutor for the Methodist E-Academy and the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education, and research associate of Wesley House, Cambridge. He researches 19C British Methodism, the Holiness Movement, Revivalism and Nonconformity and has co-written *Mission Shaped Intra* (2nd ed.) for Fresh Expressions of Church and *Talking of God and Worship: Leading and Preaching* for The Methodist Church in Britain.



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If you have a book you would like reviewed, or you would like to offer to review a book, please email the Book Review Editor on reviews@ncis.org. As a guide to length and content, you can download previous reviews from <https://www.ncis.org/book-reviewsthe-independent-scholar-tis>.

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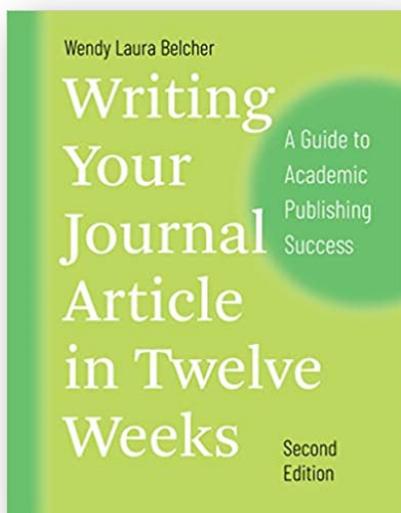
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Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success

(2nd edition)

Wendy Laura Belcher

Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing, 2019.

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https://www.amazon.co.uk/Writing-Journal-Twelve-Weeks-Second-ebook/dp/B07SRXDYDW/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Review by Amanda J. Haste. First published online 29 April 2021 and will appear in Volume 8 of *The Independent Scholar*.

Wendy Belcher is a seasoned academic and writing coach who set herself the task of writing a step-by-step to getting published in academic journals. In fact, as she says in her introduction, “the goals are active and pragmatic” and will also aid you in revising a classroom essay, conference paper, [...] dissertation chapter [or] talk.” (1).

In order to guide the reader through the process of preparing an academic draft for publication *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks* is divided into twelve chapters, each one giving a set of daily tasks. For instance, Week 1: Designing Your Plan for Writing begins by tackling the emotional impact of writing, with ‘Understanding feelings about writing’ and contains boxes for the writer to complete with their thoughts on the positive aspects of writing. The rest of the week covers Day 1, reading the workbook; Day 2, designing your writing schedule; Day 3, selecting a paper for revision; Day 4, rereading your paper to identify revision tasks; and Day 5, setting up your writing site, citation software, and file backup system;

addressing co-authorship; and reading a journal article (14-59).

Subsequent weeks focus on different tasks such as advancing your argument, writing the abstract, selecting a suitable journal, refining your works cited, crafting your claims for significance, analyzing and presenting your evidence, and opening and concluding your article.

Each chapter contains useful flowcharts and checklists which require the reader to engage in a realistic assessment of their own situation, such as the time available for writing, or introducing information such as the criteria to consider when choosing a journal. All these are incredibly detailed: the Belcher Journal Evaluation Form’ (136) allows the reader to tick boxes on twenty-five different criteria, from the preferred category through longevity, punctuality, fees, audience, word limits to citation style and type of submission process. Each one of these twenty-five criteria is supported by a paragraph explaining their significance

Review: Belcher – *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks*. First published online 29 April 2021.
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(135, 137-141) so the reader can evaluate their own priorities.

Week 11 focuses on the importance of “microrevising” using the Belcher Editing Diagnostic Test whose principles are to hone the prose by reducing lists, strengthening verbs, clarifying pronouns, decreasing prepositions, and cutting unnecessary words (310-323).

In Week 12 we reach the hallowed stage of “Sending your Article” with Day 5 reserved for celebrating! But of course this is only the beginning of the submission process, so Week X covers “Revising and Resubmitting Your Article. Importantly this acknowledges the necessity of “emotionally managing the journal’s decision” (361-4) regarding the carefully crafted work of art that is our submitted article, and starts with the excellent advice to “save the email for when you have time to emotionally absorb its contents on your own” and to “wait to read the reviewers’ comments until you have some real time [...] Even positive decisions usually arrive with critical comments, so it’s better to wait until you have the emotional space to cope” (361).

Belcher cites one author’s description of the emotional journey from despair to acceptance with which virtually all academic authors are only too familiar:

The rejection of my own manuscripts has a sordid aftermath: (a) one day of depression; (b) one day of utter contempt for the editor and his accomplices; (c) one day of decrying the conspiracy against letting Truth be published; (d) one day of fretful ideas about changing my profession; (e) one day of re-evaluating the manuscript in view of the editors’ comments followed by the conclusion that I was lucky it wasn’t accepted!”¹ (362)

Belcher then breaks down all the possible decisions and attitudes of reviewers and editors, including “the reviewers are negative and rude”, “the reviewers’ reports are problematic and/or biased” and “the reviewers give conflicting advice” 362-4) and advises on the best way to respond in each case. Again, the advice is utterly practical, and she even includes examples of revision cover letters. The final section of this chapter mentions “reviewing someone else’s article”. As Belcher says, citing Didham, Leather and

Basset, 2017, “Researchers are becoming increasingly vociferous about turnaround times and the robustness of the peer review system for their own papers, while at the same time abrogating their reviewer responsibilities in droves”² (389).

Having tackled every stage of revising an existing article into an *oeuvre* fit for publication, Belcher adds a final chapter, Week 0, in which she tackles the concept of writing an article “from scratch without an idea” and revising it using the workbook *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks*.

For this reviewer, speaking as an editor and peer reviewer, I would be delighted if every article I were presented with had been through the Belcher process. *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks* really does address every single aspect of preparing a manuscript for publication that you could possibly wish for. At 28x21.5cm/11x8.5” and weighing in at 1k/2.5lb the hard copy is definitely one for your bookshelves rather than your pocket, but in terms of providing the structure, task schedule and deadlines to get your article into publishable form it is ideal. No stone is left unturned, the style is accessible and the attention to detail will help dispel anxiety and build confidence. Highly recommended.

Dr. Amanda J. Haste (Ph.D. Musicology, Bristol University, UK) teaches as adjunct faculty in the Music Department of Aix-Marseille University, France and has published widely on identity construction through music and language, and on musician identity. She co-authored (with Prof. James Block, DePaul University) *Constructing Identity in an Age of Globalization (Paris: Ex Modio, 2015)* and she is currently working on a monograph on music and identity which expands on her doctoral research.

¹ Benton J. Underwood (1957) *Psychological Research*. East Norwalk, CT : Appleton-Century-Crofts, p.87.

² Raphael K. Didham, Simon R. Leather, and Yves Basset (2017) “Don’t Be a Zero-Sum Reviewer.” *Insect Conservation and Diversity* 10 (1): 1-4, p.1.