



Getting Your Work Published: Non-Peer Reviewed Articles

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PHS engineers have cool jobs and we do cool things, but how can we share what we do with the larger engineering community? You may recall from the **Spring 2016 newsletter article "How to Get Your Work Published"** that publications raise awareness of the important work you are doing, create a record of your accomplishments, and can lead to funding resources for your work. On an individual level, publishing expands your knowledge base, improves your writing skills, and helps in career advancement by creating networking opportunities and meeting category benchmarks.

NON-PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

For engineers who are not in a research-based job, publishing your work in a non-peer review journal is a good first step. Unlike peer reviewed articles that **that have been examined by people with credentials in the article's field of study** and have likely undergone several revisions and reviews before publication, non-peer reviewed journals are not as heavily scrutinized. Examples of non-peer reviewed journals include *The Military Engineer*¹, *Opflow*², and trade journals such as *Concrete Openings*, *Asphalt Pavement Magazine*, and *Stone World Magazine*.

WHAT INTERESTS YOU?

A good place to start when writing a non-peer review article is to write about something that interests you. You can write about past and present deployments, volunteer work, and completed projects. Or, you can write about a person that you have interviewed, a book, or a piece of USPHS history. Consider writing about non-traditional topics that other engineers may find interesting too. Remember to be concise while composing your article.³

START SMALL

Machinatores Vitae is one example. The Information Subcommittee is always looking for articles and the process for submitting work is relatively simple (refer to the last page of this newsletter for more information).

(Continued on page 8)



REVIEW PUBLISHING GUIDELINES

The Military Engineer, for example, requests that a proposal be submitted to TME editors for approval before submitting an article.⁴ *The Military Engineer* further requires that “submissions be original works, never before published and not under consideration by another publisher at the time of submission.”

Opflow, on the other hand, does not have this same criteria but will not include brand or company names in their articles.⁵

DRAFT AND CIRCULATE

Write an outline, draft your article, and then circulate it to peers. You may also submit your article to the EPAC Information Subcommittee or the Public Health Engineering Practices Subcommittee for feedback. Keep in mind that if you are writing about a project at work, you may need additional approvals from within your agency.

DON'T FORGET TO CITE!

Give credit where credit is due. Even if your article may not be peer-reviewed, you should still cite ideas, phrases, pictures, and conversations.

WORDS OF ADVICE

“While we may take for granted the uniqueness of our work, to others it truly seems remarkable and fascinating.” - CAPT Michael A. Stover (EPA)

“When I last changed jobs, I had to start writing more. I took a three day ‘effective writing’ course, and it was one of the best trainings I ever had. I wish I had taken it 15 years sooner. Shortly thereafter, a Senior Executive mentor told me ‘if you can’t write, you’ll have a hard time. If you can write okay, then you’ll get by. If you write well, you’ll get ahead.’” - CAPT Nelson Mix (EPA)

1 www.themilitaryengineer.com

2 www.awwa.org/publications/opflow.aspx

3 CAPT Nelson Mix (6/14/16)

4 <http://themilitaryengineer.com/index.php/editorial-resources/writer-guidelines>

5 <http://www.awwa.org/Portals/0/files/publications/opflow/documents/Tell%20Your%20Story.pdf>