

Not all papers you write as a student will be a fit for an academic journal. Generally, substantial papers, projects, or theses of greater length may be a good place to start.

Transforming Library School Papers into Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Transitioning from completing academic assignments to publishing in a journal can be a significant achievement for a Master of Library and Information Sciences (MLIS) student or early career professional. This resource offers guidance to help navigate the transition from student work to peer-reviewed article.

Getting Started



Investigate exemplar articles by skimming recent publications in the journal(s) you are interested in. Look for common *structures* in the articles, particularly section headings.



Ensure your manuscript makes a focused, logical (rather than chronological) argument of case for what you are recommending, rather than providing an overview.



Assess whether your paper focuses on a clear topic and question/problem.



Consider if you and your reader can identify your thesis statement.

Clarity of thought



Ensure your paper is contextualized within your larger field of study. Before you start writing, read and think about the common words, acronyms, and language used in the field.



Tailor the content to an audience of professionals in the field using professional language, incorporating relevant jargon, employing a formal tone, and avoiding colloquial expressions.



Use an outline to facilitate a logical and organized flow of information.



The organization serves as a platform for the organization of scholarly evidence. Structure is essential.

Clarity of writing



Signposting and structuring your writing are essential for ensuring clarity. Use a logical progression to guide readers through your main points and take ownership of ideas.



Back up your ideas with literature to a greater extent than may have been required for coursework. Present evidentiary claims with signalling, which involves using attribution/citations and reporting verbs.



Be concise. "Say only what needs to be said in your writing: The author who is more concise – that is, more frugal with words – writes a more readable paper" (APA Manual p. 113). Focus on simple sentences.



Avoid passive voice to improve the clarity of your writing.



Rereading your work after some time can help you gauge its coherence and make necessary adjustments to enhance its quality.

Journal Submission Requirements

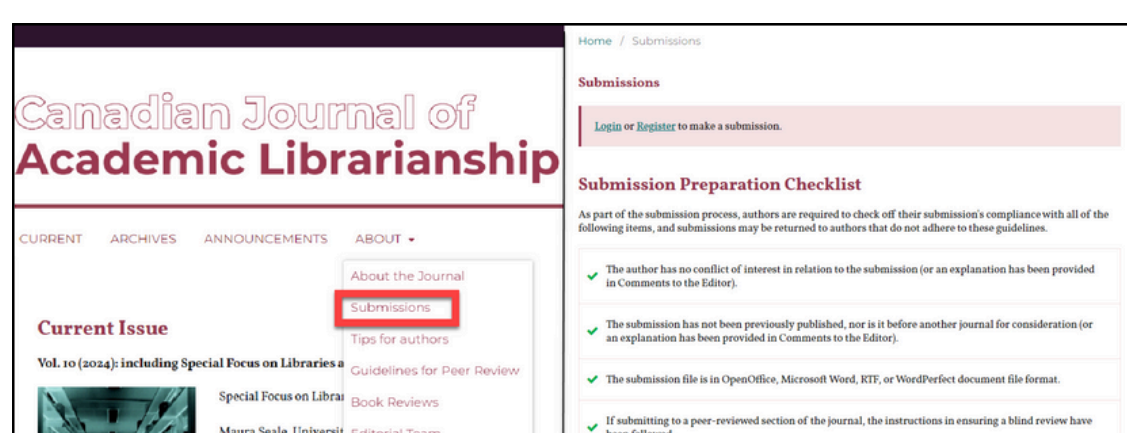
Check the journal website for scope, aim, and submission requirements, such as length, early in the writing process!

HOW:

1. Go to the journal's webpage (e.g., [Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship](#))
2. Scroll for a link or tab called *Author Instructions*, *Information for Authors*, *Submission guidelines*, *Author guidelines*, or *Call for papers*.
3. Access the link or tab to familiarize with the important details like deadlines, word lengths, submission formats & method.



This may need to be expanded for class papers or focused on only one area for larger projects (like looking at length requirements, citation, etc.).



Publishing timelines can vary significantly and are often unpredictable. If authors have not received a response following the quoted timeline after 4-6 weeks, it is appropriate and recommended to follow up.