

# Publishing from your thesis



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# Plan



- Overview

Basics :

- Working out how to cut it
- Priorities
- Journal choice
- Abstracts
- Planning structure
- Writing for specific journals
- Submission and dealing with reviews

# Why?



Contributing to social work?

Promotion? Career choices?

You wrote your thesis and now it's on the shelf!

It is clear that writing for publication is a major part of the academic role but it often takes second or even third place- why?

What are the barriers?

# Why present or publish?



- ❖ **Reflect and analyse practice**
- ❖ **Impact policy**
- ❖ **Share developments with wider audience**
- ❖ **Receive feedback and incorporate this feedback into further research**
- ❖ **Contribute to local/global literature**

## A note about authorship



- Your supervisor's job is done when you have had a successful examination
- In some disciplines it is expected that you will publish at least one article with supervisor(s) as co-authors **Discussion point**
- Have you discussed this with your supervisors ?

# Getting started



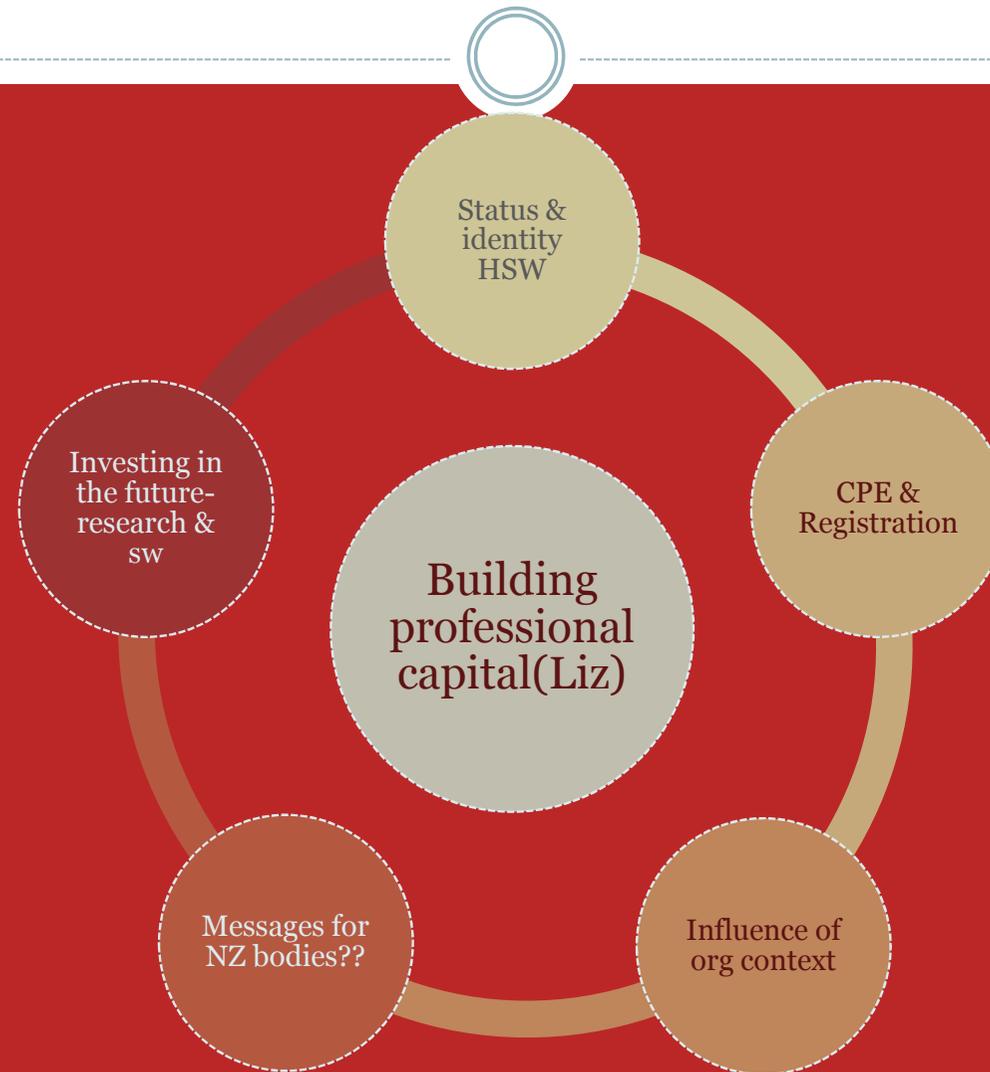
- What do you hope to get in this workshop?
- What are the particular aspects of writing that you find challenging ?
- What kind of support do you need?

# Strategies for starting...



- ❖ **Today I aim to get you developing your plan**
- ❖ **Test ideas on others**
- ❖ **Maybe do the first article with your supervisor (s) to share the task**
- ❖ **Keep a notebook and carry it with you**
- ❖ **Print off plan and stick it up near your desk**
- ❖ **Find a mentor/ critical friend**

# What does your thesis look like?



# How to cut it exercise



- Think about your thesis- what were the main results/ findings/themes – make your own map or diagram
- Is each of these a potential article?
- What about your literature review- what insights did you gain from this? Is this an article?
- Write a working title from each of these possible articles
- Report back

# Priorities



- Book ?
- Look for special issues
- Journal article: Your best one- that presents an overview of your work – decisions here about best journal/ fast publication **Discussion point**

# Choosing journals – task



- Make a list of all the journals where you could publish
- Rank them
- Look at their impact factor- the higher it is the more they reject
- Balance speed and quality -**Discussion point**
- Also about building confidence

# Write an abstract and keywords



- **Why start here?**
- **An abstract is a very short overview of what your article will cover .**
- **It is intended to guide the reader to enable them to make a judgement about whether to read further.**
- **It is likely that the abstract and keywords will signal who the journal editors will call on to review**

# Journal formats - JSW



- **Summary** : about 200 words- describes the problem, the study, the main findings and what specifically this paper will address.
- **Findings**: Effective supervision and peer support both emerged from the analysis of the findings as core factors for resilience in experienced practitioners' accounts of their practice.
- **Applications**: Research supports recognition of supervision of students and practitioners and peer support as essential mechanisms for promoting resilient practitioners.
- **Keywords**  
Resilience; Social work; Supervision; Peer support



## Abstracts

## Word limit

### Journals

- Most will just require a standard format
- Will set the length for an abstract may be quite short , 100-200 words
- As a working draft make the abstract 150 words –you can reduce it later
- A journal article will be 4000-7000 words
- Stick to the limit

# Abstract basics-minimum



An introductory sentence that describes the phenomenon or problem you are considering;

Its implications /effects

A sentence or two saying what you studied and how (e.g. method) ;

One- two sentences saying what your findings were;

One last sentence explaining the implications of your findings, with some recommendations or suggest further research



1. Problem
2. Consequences  
/effects
3. Method
4. Findings
5. Implications

## An example (Opinion piece) :

- *Group work is in a sorry state in New Zealand. The impact of service cuts has weakened our craft seriously. This paper describes the current crisis in practitioner group work skills, drawing from employer reports and personal experience. A case is made for the revitalisation of group work utilising ideas from Wenger's notion of 'communities of practice'*
- *58 words*

The registration of social workers in Aotearoa New Zealand, as in other jurisdictions, raises issues of cost, benefit and equity of access to opportunities for further education. There is frequently a lack of clarity or a common perspective among employers, registration and examining boards and professional associations about what continuing professional education is appropriate or valued. This paper reports on a national survey of social workers: what they value and identify as barriers and bridges to continuing professional education. Almost all of the 285 social worker respondents in the study highly value continuing professional education, and would like clarity and increased support in order to carry it out. The study supports a recommendation that the professional association takes a major role in both providing and brokering further education opportunities

**Example: Research paper ( 129 words )**

## An example (Research paper) :

The registration of social workers in Aotearoa New Zealand, as in other jurisdictions, raises issues of cost, benefit and equity of access to opportunities for further education. (TOPIC)

There is frequently a lack of clarity or a common perspective among employers, registration and examining boards and professional associations about what continuing professional education is appropriate or valued. (PROBLEM)

This paper reports on a national survey of social workers: what they value and identify as barriers and bridges to continuing professional education. (STUDY)

Almost all of the 285 social worker respondents in the study highly value continuing professional education, and would like clarity and increased support in order to carry it out. (FINDINGS)

The study supports a recommendation that the professional association take a major role in both providing and brokering further education opportunities (IMPLICATIONS).



## Let's get writing

### AUDIENCE:

- Who are you writing for?
- Is it an audience of disciplinary peers? Or an interdisciplinary journal?
- Why is your work relevant to them?
- What are the key ideas or findings you wish to communicate?
- How can you cover what you want to but stay within the word limit?

# Practice



## Your turn

- Write a 5 sentence abstract- about 130-150 words
- Write a 7 sentence abstract – about 200 words
- Tell the story

# Writing up

- **Start with that abstract .....**
- **Write for the journal you want (deciding)**
- **Read articles in that journal**
- **Read the guidelines for authors**
- **Search for recent publications on your topic**

# Structuring a Research Article



- **Introduction : Why I chose to do the research, what was the main question?**
- **Citing your thesis and other publications**
- **Literature review**
- **Methodology- what's the minimum to say?**
- **Mention ethics approval and ethical issues**
- **What your 'field' data was and analysis and interpretation of this**
- **Discussion- Significance of findings /limitations**
- **Further research questions**

# Introduction



- **Strong clear introduction**
- **Introduce the topic and its current importance- context.**
- **What do you propose to examine and why.**
- **Hook the reader in...**

# Condensing your lit review



- **Literature reviews provide an overview of the published material on a particular topic- you can update this with literature published since your thesis was submitted.**
- **A literature review can give your reader an insight into the main findings of previous studies and support your line of inquiry**
- **A good literature review section positions your research**

# Style and Referencing



- Follow the journal's style guidelines
- Does it have an Introduction section or launch straight in?
- Does it use footnotes/endnotes
- If the guidelines say APA 6th, use it. If you don't know look it up.
- Nothing irritates editors more than lazy people who think that is someone else's job

# Now just write!!!



- Print drafts and revise- I would expect to do at least 2-3 drafts before submitting
- Check word count and monitor as you go
- Use abbreviations if you have a long topic e.g.. CPE , NZ, can save a few hundred words sometimes
- Cite enough to support your arguments but not to make your text unreadable. They will know you read a great deal to get your degree!
- Think about data- display

# Data display



## Qualitative

- Fewer rules
- Not too many figures /tables usually but be creative
- Think about using tables for text data display
- Look at recent specialist qualitative articles to get ideas

## Quantitative

- More rules
- Use the journal style precisely
- Especially for tables & Figures
- Figures can display without adding to the word limit



# Finishing

## Conclusions

- **Brief summary sentence or two-  
“this paper has explored the  
findings....”**
- **Parting shots **Discussion point****
- **what do you want the reader to  
remember?**
- **Proof -read, read aloud for sense**
- **Bribe a colleague, family member  
to read through.....**
- **Check all in text citations are in  
the references**
- **Remove references that aren't  
cited in the text**

# Dealing with peer reviews



## Cycle of feelings

- **disappointment, anger, tiredness (I thought it was finished) ,**
- **disagreement, irritation ( they didn't read it properly),**
- **they didn't understand it, ( they don't know the literature as well as I do.....)**

*Reviewer  
feedback:*

*Breathe*

*Fume*

*Sulk*

*and*

*Move on!*



The critics

# Process for responding to reviews



- First- read through and estimate the time it will take to do any rewriting (then triple it!!!)
- Decide a deadline for doing the work.
- Do the easy bits first- fixing typos and referencing errors
- Before you fix references check the style guide for the journal.....sometimes the reviewers get it wrong



The  
editor is  
your  
friend...



**Do not get mad with the editor and  
send them an intemperante e-mail if  
you disagree with the reviewers.....**

## Reviews continued ...



- Check all reviews and check for similarities of feedback.
- Open your document and read the offending sentences, sections and you will be surprised to see that often the reviewers are right

(or alternatively that they didn't understand because you haven't made it clear).

# Responding to reviews



- Cut both reviews out and paste into a new word document called say ‘ASW120 Response to reviews’
- Separate out all the different things they have suggested and highlight minor things that can be done quickly
- As you revise the text, note in red text in this document , after each point
- As you revise your manuscript, change text of substantially revised sections to red, so it is easy for the reviewer to find the changes, as they may be reluctant to read the whole paper again

# Responding to the reviews –example



- The findings section (pp. 3-13) is also a bit fragmented and needed, at least for me, a more careful stitching together from sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph so we can follow the logic of your presentation more easily. **I have edited down the Findings section, removed some minor thematic material and removed all reference to the literature from this section and into the expanded discussion, as per Reviewer One's suggestion.**

You refer to 'the advent of limited statutory registration' in ANZ at the top of page 2. Fair enough, but I think some details are needed for the uninitiated and also to avoid the possible inference that registration is in some way statutorily mandatory in ANZ at this point in time. **See the expanded introduction which covers this point. I hope this is now clear, I have added reference to the current review of legislation.**

# Revising your paper



- **Do the rewriting**
- **Go through for consistency and to check that your referencing is still ok- have you cited new sources, removed some?**
- **If you have moved lots of bits of text check for overall flow and sense.**
- **Have good read through- you may now be your own critic and find things you think can be improved.**

# • Resubmit

- Wait another 2-3 months sometimes
- May still be minor changes to do

# • Acceptance

- Check proofs



# Happy Writing



**Thanks for your  
attention**

**Good luck with your  
future writing.**