Publish or Perish: Demystifying the Publishing Process

John Allegrante, PhD
Editor-in-Chief, Health Education & Behavior (HE&B)

NIH NIEHS Meet the Editors Webinar Presentation
December 14, 2015
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The 2015 Thomson Reuters Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) Journal Citation Report ranks HE&B 28 out of 147 journals in Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health for 2014, which is near the top third of all PEOH journals.

HE&B’s Impact Factor for 2014 was 2.229 and the 5-year impact factor is 2.620. The five-year Impact Factor trend for HE&B taken from the Journal Citation Report (JCR) (Thomson Reuters, 2014) is shown in the figure.
<table>
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<th>Rank</th>
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Health Education & Behavior publishes authoritative empirical research and commentary on critical health issues of interest to a broad range of professionals whose work involves understanding factors associated with health behavior and evidence-based social and behavioral strategies to improve health status.
Special Theme and Supplement Issues

Special Issues and Theme Sections

- Global Progress in Core Competencies and Quality Assurance for Health and Health Promotion
- Tribute to Noreen Clark (Podcast)
- DELTA (Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances) PREP Project (Podcast)
- Latino Health

Supplements

- System Science Applications in Health Promotion and Public Health
- Fostering Engagement and Independence: Opportunities and Challenges for an Aging Society Supplement Issue (Podcast, Webinar)
- The Evidence for Policy and Environmental Approaches (Podcast)
- Non-Communicable Diseases in Africa and the Global South (Forthcoming)
Lawrence W. Green Paper of the Year Award

2015: Developing Behavioral Theory With the Systematic Integration of Community Social Capital Concepts
Laura J. Samuel, Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, and Cheryl R. Dennison Himmelfarb
Health Educ Behav August 2014 41: 359-375, first published on October 2, 2013
doi: 10.1177/1090198113504412

2014: On Measuring Community Participation in Research
Dmitry Khodyakov, Susan Stockdale, Andrea Jones, Joseph Mango, Felica Jones and Elizabeth Lizaola
doi: 10.1177/1090198112459050

2013: The Extended Parallel Process Model: Illuminating the Gaps in Research
Lucy Popova
Health Educ Behav August 2012 39: 455-473, first published on October 14, 2011
doi:10.1177/1090198111418108

2012: Social Ecological Approaches to Individuals and Their Contexts : Twenty Years of Health Education and Behavior Health Promotion Interventions
Shelley D. Golden and Jo Anne L. Earp
doi:10.1177/1090198111418634
Flow Diagram of the Peer Review Process at HE&B

Editor-In-Chief  
Review & Management  
  →  
Associate Editor  
Review & Management  
  ↓  
Expert Review  
  ↓  
Associate Editor Action  
  ↓  
Additional Expert Review  
  →  
Final Disposition  
  (accept, revise, or reject)


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Essential Tensions in Journal Editing

- Underrepresented topics and timely results
- Coherent theme and diversity of topics
- Practice and research
- Historical and current content
- Social science and biomedical science
- Debate and evidence
- External and internal funding
- Commissioned and unsolicited contributions
- Editorial review and peer review
- Images and text
- Ethics and intellectual integrity (plagiarism)

Communicating with Editors

- Be familiar with instructions to authors
- Provide a key summary of findings and significance
- How does your manuscript potentially contribute to the journal
- Suggest potential reviewers
  - Use your reference list to identify potential reviewers
  - Avoid conflicts of interest
- Electronic submission
- Make sure your letter of transmittal is addressed to the right editor and the right journal
Responding to Reviewers

- Reviews provide the opportunity to strengthen a manuscript
- Write a detailed letter of response to the editor and reviewer comments
- Be explicit and address each reviewer’s concerns and issues
- Justify your revisions
- The tone should be appreciative, courteous, and respectful; manuscripts with courteous and explicit reply letters, vs. letters “with an attitude”, have a much higher likelihood of being accepted for publication
Suggested Reading
