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The New Researcher

Graham Bowrey
University of Wollongong, gbowrey@uow.edu.au

Publication Details

This article was originally published as Bowrey, G, The New Researcher, Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal, 21(8), 2008, 1212 - 1215.

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The New Researcher

Abstract
Purpose This poem is a reflection of the processes and associated emotions early career academic researchers may experience in preparing, presenting and publishing their research. Design/methodology/approach: Fictional poem Findings: This poem highlights that the processes an early career academic researcher undertakes to publish his/her research isn't necessarily the hardest lesson to learn. Rather the hardest lesson is learning to cope with the mix of emotions they will experience during the process. Research Implications: Provides early career academic researchers, and their supervisors, a guide of what they can expect to experience during the first few years during their research. Originality/Value A fun review of the early career of a new academic researcher.

Keywords
Early career researcher; Academic research; paper submission; conference presentation

Disciplines
Accounting | Business | Social and Behavioral Sciences

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This journal article is available at Research Online: http://ro.uow.edu.au/commpapers/480

The New Researcher

Graham Bowrey – University of Wollongong

Purpose
This poem is a reflection of the processes and associated emotions early career academic researchers may experience in preparing, presenting and publishing their research.

Design/methodology/approach:
Fictional poem

Findings:
This poem highlights that the processes an early career academic researcher undertakes to publish his/her research isn't necessarily the hardest lesson to learn. Rather the hardest lesson is learning to cope with the mix of emotions they will experience during the process.

Research Implications:
Provides early career academic researchers, and their supervisors, a guide of what they can expect to experience during the first few years during their research.

Originality/Value
A fun review of the early career of a new academic researcher.

Key Words
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The New Researcher

Part 1 – The start

What to write,
When to write
No topic or time
Seems quite right

Ask the experienced
Those who have published
They must know how
For they are the Researched

Select a topic

Something specific
Think of a question
One which will stick

It is chosen
The selection is frozen
This will break new ground!
Ideas stream by the dozen

The Researched were floored
The audience will be bored!
“It has been done to death”
This will not strike a chord

Back to the beginning
The topics are thinning
A new selection is made
Will the Researched be willing?

With trepidation
And heavy anticipation
The Researched review
This topic will be the exception

Part 2 – The writing

Put pen to paper
Do it now, not later
Much angst is created
The waste would fill a crater!

First draft done
Time for some sun
The Researched edit
Waiting is not fun

Comments are back
Good news, its on track
Methodology needs work
But not much more than that

Second draft complete
The package looks neat
The Researched are confident
The paper will compete

Part 3 – The submission

Click and send
Via some Ethernet bend
The paper has gone
Now for relationships to mend

Waiting again
Nerves begin
Why so anxious?
Failure is not a sin

Two months later
Time does not matter
With bated breath
The response is

What!!
Is he a complete twat?
Needs more rigour!
Is he sane or not?

The Researched console
Its nothing personal
Its not rejected
Just needs more soul

Stew and sulk for a while
Add it to the growing pile
Give it two weeks they say
Try not to spit more bile

Two weeks later
Feel much better
Maybe he did make sense.
Work on improving rigour

The Researched review
Changes give a better view
Resubmit
The paper looks new

Patience is again tested
Response received
What does it say?
Accepted!!

Part 4 – The presentation

Arrive at hotel
I'm only new but no-one can tell
Dressed in this suit
I look like I am here to sell

Attend opening address
I feel like a mess
I'm scheduled to present
In two hours, no less

Nerves kick in
Would a drink be a sin?
I'll mumble anyway
No, be man take it on the chin

Five minutes to go
Time is going so slow
Sweating profusely
If I stumble will anyone know?

No stumbling or stammering
No blank pauses or mumbling
It went quite smoothly
Even the chair was charming

Back in the audience
What an experience!
I feel quite elated
Happy with clear conscience

Conference dinner tonight
Wine to drink and nibbles to bite
Everyone looks so relaxed
I'll behave, I just might

Closing address given
Toasts begin with drinks risen
Food is a delight
Company is from heaven

This has been exciting
Thinking and writing
I'll do it again
But this time with less whining