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# The New Researcher

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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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## **The New Researcher**

Graham Bowrey – University of Wollongong

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### **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.

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

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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