



INVITATION

VIRTUAL WRITING RETREAT

Developing academic research capacity remains a key priority for the Durban University of Technology. We continuously seeking to create and provide opportunities for academic staff to develop and refine their research capabilities and strengths.

The four day retreat will be hosted by the Centre for Scholarly Publishing Services.

Further details overleaf.



VIRTUAL WRITING RETREAT



PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 19 APRIL 2022	
08:00 – 09:00	Arrival, registration and refreshments
09:00 – 09:10	Introduction of participants
09:00 – 10:00	<p>Overview of publishing in South Africa</p> <p>This module provides an overview of the South African publishing industry. It examines various sectors that comprise the book publishing industry, namely school book publishing, academic publishing, trade publishing and scholarly publishing.</p>
10:00 – 11h00	<p>Overview of scholarly publishing in South Africa</p> <p>This module provides an overview of the scholarly publishing terrain in South Africa. It examines issues such as, what is scholarly publishing? What are scholarly outputs? Who are the scholarly publishers in South Africa? What are the challenges facing scholarly publishing in South Africa? It introduces participants to an interesting field of the publishing industry and they leave with a good knowledge of where exactly to send their research outputs once completed.</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshments
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Overview of specifications of journal articles (What journal editors want in an article)</p> <p>This module introduces participants to the world of journal article writing and publishing. It is impressed on participants that before they can start writing a journal article, they need to identify a journal to which they would like to submit their article. Once they have chosen the journal, they then need to familiarise themselves with the specifications of that journal such as extent/length of the article, referencing style, the number of words in the abstract etc. Participants are made aware that journal editors do reject articles if they do not adhere to the specifications of their journals even though the quality of the scholarship might be good.</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p>A comparative analysis of theoretical journal articles vis-à-vis fieldwork based journal articles</p> <p>This module presents an overview of the similarities and differences between journal articles based on existing literature or what is commonly referred to as desktop research and those based on fieldwork/empirical research.</p>
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Getting started and choosing a relevant journal for your article</p> <p>This module introduces participants to how to identify a journal to which they wish to submit their article after completion. Participants are further introduced to how to determine whether their article would be relevant for local, national, regional, continental or international journals.</p>
14:30 – 15:00	<p>The peer-review and publishing process</p> <p>This module introduces participants to the important process in scholarly publishing, namely, the peer-review and publishing processes. Participants are made aware of how scholarly publishers conduct the peer-review process and the guidelines that publishers supply to peer-reviewers to guide them in the review process. The module clearly shows participants what it is that the peer-reviewers will be examining when they will be reviewing their articles. Finally, participants are taken through the publishing process of journal articles.</p>
15:00 – 15:15	Refreshments
15:15 – 15:45	<p>The finances of publishing</p> <p>This module introduces participants to the finances of publishing. Participants are made aware that the publishing of books is a business enterprise and therefore the saleability of books influences whether publishers will publish their books or not.</p>
15:45 – 16:15	<p>Overview of open access predatory journals publishing</p> <p>This module introduces the participants to an ever-growing field of what has come to be referred to as 'predatory' journal publishing. Over the past decade a group of scholarly journals have proliferated that have become known as 'predatory journals' and produced by 'predatory publishers'. 'Identifying predatory or pseudo-journal'. Biochemia Medica 2017; 27 (2): 285-91. 'Predatory' refers to the fact that these entities prey on academicians for financial profit via article processing charges for open access articles, without meeting scholarly publishing standards such as peer-review. Although predatory journals may claim to conduct peer-review and mimic the structure of legitimate journals, they publish all or most submitted material without external peer review and do not follow standard policies advocated by industry bodies. Simply put, predatory journals are fraudulent journals that masquerade as the real deal while their actual aim is simply to make profits. They thrive because they feast on a system that has made publications record central in academy. It is imperative that academics are able to identify 'predatory' journals from 'legitimate' journals.</p>
16:15 – 16:30	Group Discussion and Closure
WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2022	
	Individual working sessions
	Participant time slot TBC
THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2022	
	Individual working sessions
	Participant time slot TBC
FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2022	
	Individual working sessions
	Participant time slot TBC



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EXPECTATIONS

In order to extract the maximum value from this distinguished Virtual Writing Retreat, there is an expectation that attendees will:

1. Make themselves available to attend the entire Virtual Writing Retreat – i.e. communicate and prepare accordingly with their line manager.
2. Submit a well-considered, well-articulated research study in the form of a draft journal article to the facilitator, Solani Ngobeni at solani@csps.co.za by no later than 14 April 2022.
3. Ensure that they have sufficient data allocated, equipment (working pc or laptop with a microphone and a camera) and a suitable, quiet space to participate in the retreat.
4. Endeavour to submit the final draft article for publication to the chosen journal.

