Publishing Papers: The “How To” of Getting Your First Byline
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A discussion of the publication process and recommendations for getting your first paper published by:

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You can listen in to the entire discussion here: [http://umdischool.adobeconnect.com/p23wfpmv6eb/](http://umdischool.adobeconnect.com/p23wfpmv6eb/)
OR
Check out the big themes from all of our presenters below from the evening below:

**Get Comfortable Writing!**
Write – Re-write – Write – Re-write – Repeat!! Set aside your writing for a time if you can so that you can come back to it with fresh eyes.

Write frequently and circulate your ideas amongst co-workers, professional conferences, and journals. Find mentors to read what you write. Present your research at conferences in poster sessions and panel discussions to get feedback as you are writing. Spend so much time editing, refining, and presenting that by the time you finally submit your research for publication you are entirely sick of the topic.

**Submitting Your Work**
Submit your research to the same journals where your background research came from. Search for relevant publications in *UlrichsWeb: Global Serials Directory* to submit your finished articles to.

Submit your work and be prepared to be rejected. If you are rejected, submit your writing to another journal. Understand that there is a lag time between submission and response from a journal. Articles are evaluated for “fit” with the journal’s typical content. Next, articles are reviewed by volunteers with lives – it can take them a while to get an article read. A few months wait time is normal. Moral: “no news is good news”.

Keep in mind that journals need to have something to publish as subscribers expect content. Editors really do want your submissions.
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Where/How to Build Your Reputation as a Writer
Seek out newsletters as they consider a variety formats and topics. Journals are always looking for individuals to write book reviews. Writing book reviews for a journal you want to publish in can help build a relationship with the editors and reviewers of that publication. Professional organizations (at both the national and regional level) will frequently send out calls for submissions to journals associated with the organization.

Write about what interests you! Not just what you think will get you published. Try to develop a main theme for your writing that will unify your identity as a writer, though occasional side projects are perfectly acceptable. Consider getting started working with faculty who are already published and who are researching projects which interest you. Once you’re published as part of a group, you can branch off on your own specific interests.

Regurgitating what is already known will not get you published. Find something new to say about what we know. Offer a different perspective or connect topics in a new way. Look for information gaps. There are still many holes in our knowledge.

Steps to Take as a Student
MLS is a professional degree so classes focus more on application than research frequently. However, treat every class paper as an opportunity to create an article. Ask instructors for feedback on a course paper if you are considering publishing.

Consider taking an independent study if you have a research interest for which there is no course at the iSchool. Watch the listserves for faculty looking for students to help with research projects.

Take the research methods course to learn how to do research. You can pick up methodology by reading articles on topics which interest you.

Mechanics of Getting Published

