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O L L S C O I L L U I M N I G H

On being a successful writer...

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Why?

- Why write in this discipline?
- How do you understand the importance of writing for your work?
- We write to describe, to persuade, to advocate, to contribute to the literature...
- Why should you be writing?



Hazzard of passage?

Lack of confidence/clarity at the beginning are early career blocks

Rejection after an ambitious goal: writing block after a specific piece of writing has been criticised by a high profile journal...

Shifting from one kind of writing to another...

Questions about the value of writing from our practice



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Associations with other writers... motivates





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See yourself as a writer...

One that is in continual formation....

See the interconnections, the writing activity is also a professional one...

Keep the antennae up for the experience and its intended and unintended consequences

And have fun...



Where do you publish?

Journals (peer review and non peer review/ isi or other ranking)

Books

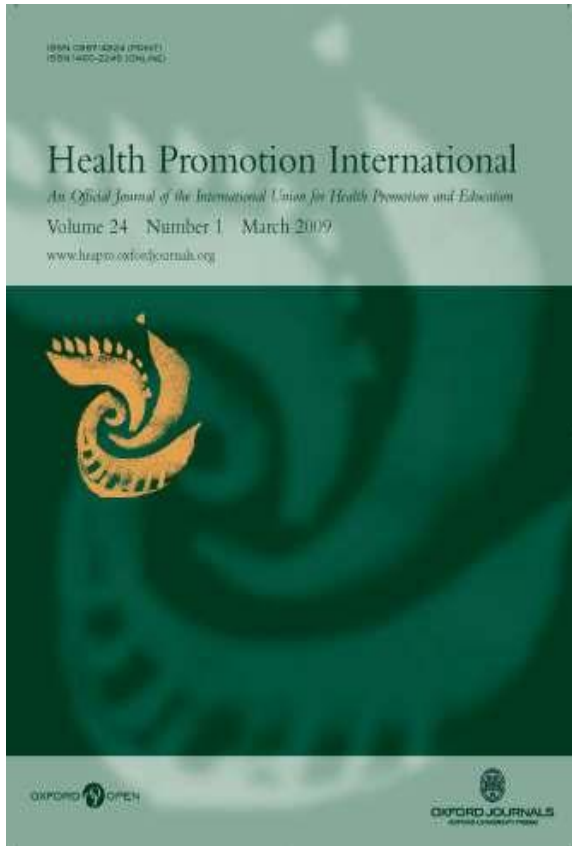
Professional magazines

Blogs and web sites



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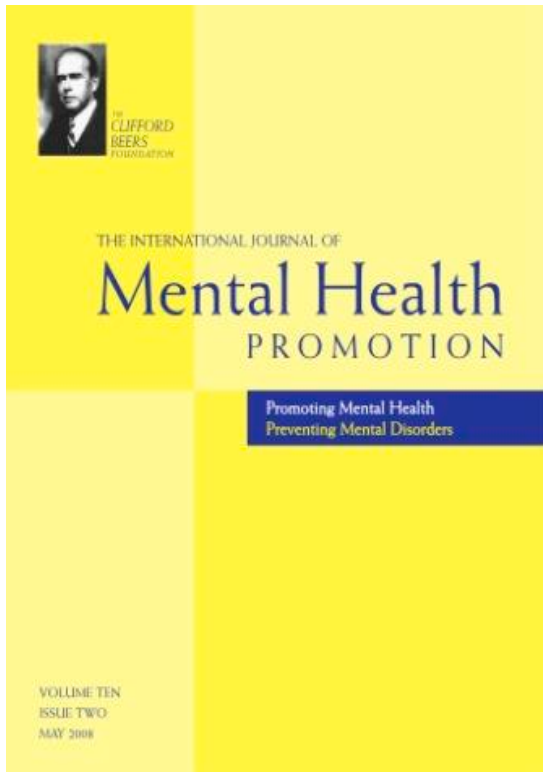
Journals...some examples





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Journals....look beyond health promotion





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For discussion....

What are your successes as a
writer?

What are your challenges?



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From experience....

Talk about your writing

Build a writing group or peers... (UL writer's retreats/
writing groups)

Collaborate

Find a mentor and write with them





Targeting Journals....

- Experts in effective academic writing strategies say: Do not write comprehensively and then plan to find an appropriate ‘place’ for your writing - rather, analyse target journals carefully as you go along, and then write with the benefit of this analysis

Get several copies and scan recent editions of your chosen journal

Read full instructions for authors, check website and print off all relevant author info



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Targeting Journals....

Work out how you can tailor your work to suit the journal agenda

In your introduction you should locate your work within related studies published in this (and other) journals.

Some write to the editor with an initial inquiry



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Targeting Journals....

Read the Instructions to Contributors carefully and follow all of the requirements for style, referencing, word length, anonymise the text and so on.

Write to the editor with an initial inquiry...?



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Reviews....

Selection of two reviewers...blind???

Six weeks to return the review. 😊

Reviewer provides advice to the editor and advice to the author...and recommends Accept, Accept with minor revisions, Major Revisions, **Reject and resubmit**, Reject.



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Some common reasons why papers are rejected

Study did not examine an issue that is important to this journal/conference

Study was not original

Did not test author's hypothesis or do what it said it would do

Different type of study should have been done

Practical difficulties led authors to compromise on original design



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Some common reasons why papers are rejected

Sample size was too small

Study was uncontrolled or inadequately controlled

Analysis was incorrect/ inappropriate / inadequate
Unjustified conclusions were drawn from the data

Too badly written to be clear or comprehensible

Tries to tackle too many issues - may be 2 or 3 papers rather than one

Not following journal's criteria does not help



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Finding your voice

When do you find your voice in your writing...

When do you get into a flow of ideas and feel focused and alert and engaged?

Finding your voice is often about writing what you're interested in.

Finding your voice has a lot to do not just with your expertise, your research, your experience, but with your professional self-esteem

Finding your voice means overcoming whatever the emotion is associated with writing



Managing Feedback

Read the feedback carefully.

Address each point as comprehensively as you can...

Be positive while revising and address each major point.

If you disagree with a reviewer's comment, say so and provide a reasoned argument.

Do not accept abusive or rude reviews.

Dealing with rejection - learn from the experience.



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Keep writing

Do not give up

If you experience a writing block seek support

Your voice is needed in the drive to improve
school health...



