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A Guide to Publishing Papers

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A Guide to Publishing Papers Pence Law Library 2012

This brief guide is designed to help you with the process of publishing your article or paper in a non-WCL publication. The Pence Law Library supports its students and faculty by paying for submissions through ExpressO. Details and strategies for submission are below.

How do I select the best journals to submit to?

Law Journals Submissions and Rankings – Washington and Lee Law Library

<http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/>

This site lists law journals by subject and other factors, and allows users to rank journals by impact factor. You can generate a ranked list by subject from 2003. This site includes only scholarly journals and contains contact information.

Ulrich's International Periodical Directory

This is the most comprehensive directory for periodicals available and includes newspapers, bar journals, legal newsletters and law reviews. It usually provides a description of the content of the publication, contact information, some circulation figures, abstracting and indexing services, and links to the publications' websites. Available through the Bender Library at

http://bender.library.american.edu:8083/php/databases_a_z.php

Journal Citation Reports

This database covers legal and non-legal journals and provides information about impact through the use of citation studies using the ratio of the number of citations to the previous 2 years of the journal divided by the number of articles in those years, essentially the average number of recent citations per article. Available through the Bender Library at http://bender.library.american.edu:8083/php/databases_a_z.php

Journals by Subject

The Washington and Lee Law Journals site at <http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx> allows you to sort by subject. Use the drop down box on the left side. ExpressO has a list of journals by subject at <http://law.bepress.com/expresso/list.html>

Other Factors to Consider

Find out if the journal is indexed in LegalTrac and/or the Index to Legal Periodicals and Books. Determine if the journal is available on Lexis and Westlaw. More prominent journals have larger circulation and wider online access. Another common strategy is to submit to the publications of the leading schools in the U.S. News ranked list of law schools or the 50 schools on the Leiter list at http://www.leiterrankings.com/students/2008student_quality.shtml . However, do not disregard specialty journals or practice oriented publications (including bar journals and continuing education materials) if that fits the profile of your article.

Consider your intended audience when you choose where to submit. Factors including topic, length and currency may guide you in where to submit. Writing Competitions often offer guaranteed placement in particular publications. Writing Competitions can be viewed at <http://library.wcl.american.edu/writing/> or on the board at the entrance to the Pence Law Library.

Directories and Law Journal Policies

Directory of Law Reviews and Scholarly Legal Publications (2006), available at <http://www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool/prodev/lawreview/>

Compiled by Professor Michael Hoffheimer, this publication provides the title and contact information for every law- related scholarly publication edited by students or faculty at ABA accredited law schools that accept unsolicited articles.

Allen Rostron and Nancy Levit, *Information for Submitting to Law Reviews and Journals* (February 6, 2012) available at:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1019029

This article, that appears to be updated annually, provides information on article submission and includes information about special formatting requirements, general information and special contact information relating to expedited review, and requests to withdraw from consideration. Includes about 195 journals.

Allen Rostron, Lawrence Duncan MacLachlan and Nancy Levit, *Submission of Law Student Articles for Publication* (July 26, 2010) available at

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1656395

This article is a variation on Levit and Rostron's original paper and includes advice to law students on where, what and how to submit for publication.

Strategic Submission: When and What to Submit

Timing

Student edited journals are most open for submissions in August through October and again from February to April. Student editors generally don't review submissions over the summer but start immediately at the beginning of the fall semester. The Spring dates

may reflect the turnover of the editorial boards or the need of the outgoing boards to fill the remaining issues of their tenure.

Supplementary Materials

Provide a cover letter that provides a short summary of the article and be sure to let the editors know why they should publish your paper. Pertinent information might include the timeliness of the topic covered, any special qualifications/authority you may have in writing the article, and that the article falls within the purview of that journal. Most journals also require a resume or CV with your submission, but even if they don't require one, it is a good idea to include one.

The Paper

The article should be in final form, with complete footnotes, accurate citations and an abstract. Follow the guidelines as to page length and form that each journal provides. Some might be available in the Rostron, Maclachlan and Levit article *Submission of Law Student Articles for Publication* (July 26, 2010) Available at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1656395 or consult the Emory University Law Library page at <http://library.law.emory.edu/law-library/services/faculty-services/law-review-submission-resources/law-review-limits/>

Expedited Review

If you receive an early offer of publication but still want to wait to hear from other journals, you can *usually* negotiate additional time with the first offering journal before you have to accept. You may then ask for an expedited review from your preferred journal. Make it easy for the editor/expediter by attaching an electronic copy of the paper with your request for expedited review.

Submitting your Paper

ExpressO

<http://law.bepress.com/expresso/>

Nearly 750 journals accept submissions via Berkeley Electronic Press's ExpressO service and WCL is one of very few law schools that pay for electronic student and faculty submissions. Students may submit up to \$150.00 in submissions at one time using your WCL email address to validate your use of ExpressO as part of the WCL subscription. The cost is \$2.00 per submission or to about 75 journals; probably more journals than is reasonable to submit to at one time. Some journals do not accept papers submitted by students outside of their own institutions, a fact that will be noted during the submission process.

The uploading process is very easy, but you **MUST** register with them by using your WCL email address or ExpressO will charge you directly and you will not be reimbursed. You may upload documents in Word (preferred), but WordPerfect format is also accepted. Be sure to save your work as you go along in the upload process. Further information about ExpressO is available at http://law.bepress.com/expresso/faq_authors.html

LexOpus

<http://lexopus.yiil.org/lexopus/>

This site is hosted by the YIJUN Institute of International Law and allows free electronic article submissions to about 515 law journals. You can also view abstracts of papers submitted through this service. An author may submit a work to a sequence of author-selected law journals or invite offers from any of the over 1300 journals registered with LexOpus by choosing to indicate the work as open to offers. Works may be hidden from public view. For further information about this website go to <http://lexopus.yiil.org/lexopus/about.aspx>.

Consider entering a writing competition – see: <http://library.wcl.american.edu/writing/> for a current list of open competitions. These usually come with a guarantee of publication and a cash prize.

See Also:

Elizabeth Fajans & Mary R. Falk, *SCHOLARLY WRITING FOR LAW STUDENTS: SEMINAR PAPERS, LAW REVIEW NOTES AND LAW REVIEW COMPETITION PAPERS*, 3d ed. (2005). Reserve: [KF250 .F35 2005](#)

Eugene Volokh, *ACADEMIC LEGAL WRITING: LAW REVIEW ARTICLES, STUDENT NOTES, AND SEMINAR PAPERS*, 4th ed. (2010). Reserve: [KF250 .V65 2010](#)

Jason P. Nance & Dylan J. Steinberg, *The Law Review Article Selection Process: Results from a National Study* at <http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=988847>.

Leah M. Christensen & Julie Oseid, *Navigating the Law Review Article Selection Process: An Empirical Study of Those with All the Power—Student Editors*, 59 *UNIV. OF ST. THOMAS L. REV.* 465 (2008).

Legal Periodicals Blog at <http://bloggery.wlu.edu/lawrevs/>. For those interested in legal periodical publishing, indexing, searching, ranking and use.

Legal Scholarship Blog at <http://legalscholarshipblog.com/category/umbrella-categories/calls-for-papers/> For information about Calls for Papers, conferences and general legal scholarship.

The Pence Law Library wishes you every success in getting your paper published. For further information and questions, please contact Adeen Postar, Deputy Director, at apostar@wcl.american.edu

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