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# From Submission to Publication: A Practical Walkthrough of the International Journal Editorial Process

Presented by

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# Why This Topic Matters

- Ever submitted a journal article... and it felt like texting someone who never replies?
- You hit Submit, get “Received”... then silence for weeks—months.
- Suddenly: Rejected — and you’re left wondering, “What actually happened behind the scenes?”

This session matters because **publishing isn’t only about research quality — it’s also about understanding the system.**

**Key reality:** many manuscripts are rejected before peer review (at the editorial screening stage).

If you understand how editors work, you can reduce the “luck factor” and **submit more strategically.**

# Common Myths About Journal Publication

- **Myth 1: “If my research is good, it will be accepted.”**

Strong papers can still be rejected if they don't fit the journal's scope or the contribution isn't clearly communicated.

- **Myth 2: “Reviewers are trying to make it harder.”**

Reviewers' role is to protect quality standards, not to bring authors down.

- **Myth 3: “The process is random.”**

It feels random because we don't see the editorial workflow—but there is a system, and we can learn it.

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# Today's Roadmap

Today we'll do one thing: open the “black box” of publishing.

We'll walk through the full journey:

- Before submission
- Editorial screening (desk review)
- How reviewers read and evaluate
- How to respond to revisions
- From revised manuscript to published article

After this session, submitting won't feel like “good luck” —it will feel like: “I know what will happen next.”

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# Choosing the Right Journal

- Question:
  - Often, rejection happens not because it's poor—but because it's the wrong fit.
  - Choosing a journal is like choosing a stage: a great song can sound wrong in the wrong show.
- What to look for:
  - Scope that truly matches
  - The right audience/readers
  - Credible reputation & valid indexing
  - A realistic publication timeline
- If the scope doesn't match, an editor may stop at the title/abstract—no matter how strong the data is.

# Understanding Author Guidelines

- Author guidelines may feel long and exhausting—but for editors, they’re a quick test: Are you meticulous?
- Many manuscripts fail not because of weak theory, but “small” technical issues:
  - Reference style
  - Heading structure
  - Journal template
  - Word limits
  - Ethics statements
- Editorial logic: if the basics aren’t tidy, why trust the rigor of your methods?

# Common Mistakes at Submission Stage

- Common pitfalls that trigger early rejection:
    - Abstract tells a story but doesn't state the contribution
    - The research gap is not explicit—readers must guess
    - High similarity (overlap/plagiarism concerns)
    - Weak academic language and unclear argument structure
  - Editors don't read slowly—many decisions happen in the first 3–5 minutes.
  - If your contribution doesn't appear fast, the paper is done before it starts.
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# What Happens After You Click Submit?

- After you click Submit, the workflow usually looks like this:
    - Administrative check: format, completeness, ethics requirements
    - Editor-in-Chief screening: Is it in scope? Is it review-worthy?
    - If it passes: assigned to a handling editor → reviewers are invited
  - So if you get a fast rejection, it's rarely the reviewers—it's the editorial screening (desk rejection).
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# What Editors Look For

- Editors read with very practical questions:
  - Is this a fit for my journal?
  - Is there clear novelty?
  - Are the methods credible?
  - Is the writing clear or confusing?
  - Any ethical red flags?
- Editors are gatekeepers, not enemies—they protect the journal's quality and identity.
- To pass screening, write for a reader who is busy but smart.

# Why Papers Get Desk Rejected

- Most common reasons for desk rejection:
  - Scope mismatch
  - Contribution is not visible
  - Outdated literature
  - Unclear methods
  - Messy / hard-to-follow writing
- A tough but important truth: papers are often rejected not because they're wrong, but because they're not convincing.
- Editors must be able to say: "I can justify sending this paper out for review."

# How to Avoid Desk Rejection

- Key goal: make it easy for the editor to say “Yes.”
- How:
  - State the gap explicitly: “What we know vs. what we don’t know.”
  - End the Introduction with a clear contribution: not “this paper discusses...”, but “this paper contributes by...”
  - Ensure the abstract highlights novelty and main results
  - Use up-to-date literature
- Editors aren’t mind readers—don’t make them guess your contribution.

# Types of Peer Review

- Now we enter peer review.
  - Common models: single-blind, double-blind, and open review.
  - The system may differ, but the core is the same: your paper is read by experts who are highly detail-oriented.
  - Think of reviewers as “the most invested readers” — they will truly dissect your work.
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# How Reviewers Evaluate Your Paper

- Reviewers typically evaluate five core areas:
    - Originality
    - Methodological rigor
    - Theoretical contribution
    - Implications (theoretical/practical)
    - Writing quality & clarity
  - Think of reviewers as scientific auditors asking:  
“Are the conclusions truly supported by data and analysis—or just claims?”
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# Possible Editorial Decisions

- Possible editorial decisions:
  - Accept (rare without revisions)
  - Minor Revision
  - Major Revision
  - Reject & Resubmit
  - Reject
- Reframe this: Major Revision isn't bad news.
- It means the editor sees potential—they're not discarding your paper, they're giving you a chance to level it up.

# Understanding Reviewer Comments

- When reviewer comments arrive, don't panic.
  - First, separate them into:
    - Major issues (substance: theory, methods, analysis)
    - Minor issues (formatting, typos, language)
  - If you obsess over grammar first, you may miss the heart of the review.
  - Priority #1: fix the substance.
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# Emotional Management in Peer Review

- Honest truth: harsh reviews hurt — and that's normal.
  - Don't respond while emotional:
    - Read once → close it
    - Read again tomorrow
    - Start drafting the response on day three
  - Strong revisions come from a cool head, not a burning heart.
  - Remember: the critique targets the paper, not your self-worth.
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# Golden Rule of Revision

- Golden rule of revision: never leave a reviewer comment unanswered.
  - If you disagree, respond respectfully and justify with evidence.
  - If you agree, respond and implement the change.
  - Reviewers want one thing: proof that you are taking the review seriously.
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# How to Write a Response to Reviewers

- A response letter is not a place to vent — it's a strategic document.
  - Recommended structure:
    - Quote each reviewer comment
    - Provide a short, clear response
    - Specify exact changes (page / paragraph / line numbers)
  - Goal: make it easy for the editor to say, “This revision is solid.”
  - The cleaner your response letter, the higher your chance of passing the next round.
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# When You Disagree with Reviewers

- Disagreeing with reviewers is allowed — it’s not an academic “sin.”
- Do it the right way:
  - Polite tone
  - Science-based reasoning
  - Support with evidence/references when needed
- A safe template:
  - “Thank you for this insightful comment. We respectfully disagree because... (evidence). To clarify, we have added ...”
- Never turn the response letter into an ego debate.

# Common Revision Mistakes

- Common revision mistakes:
    - Being defensive
    - Responding but not changing the manuscript
    - Inconsistent edits across sections
    - Fixing only minor issues while ignoring major concerns
  - Editors can spot cosmetic vs. substantive revisions.
  - Cosmetic revision = changing the book cover without improving the content.
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# After Acceptance

- Acceptance doesn't mean the work is over.
  - Next comes the production stage:
    - Copyediting
    - Typesetting
    - Proofreading
  - Small errors often appear here: shifted tables, changed symbols, misspelled names.
  - Good news: you still have control — during the proof stage.
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# What Authors Should Check in Proof Stage

- The proof stage is your final chance to fix issues.
  - Quick checklist:
    - Author names, affiliations, emails
    - Tables & figures
    - Equations / symbols
    - References
    - Embarrassing typos
  - After publication, changes are usually much harder to make.
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# Publication Ethics

- Publication ethics is not a formality — it's the foundation of scientific integrity.
- Avoid:
  - Plagiarism
  - Self-plagiarism
  - Salami slicing (splitting one study into minimal papers)
  - Authorship manipulation
- Key message: academic reputation takes years to build, but can collapse with one bad decision.

# Avoiding Predatory Journals

- In today's era, predatory journals can look very professional.
  - Quick checks:
    - Confirm indexing is real (verify—don't trust claims)
    - Is the editorial board credible and reasonable?
    - Is the peer-review process transparent?
  - If a journal promises “acceptance in 3 days” with no revision—that's not efficiency. It's a red flag.
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# Strategic Publishing for Career Development

- Publishing is also a career strategy — not just a numbers game.
  - Don't chase quantity only; consider:
    - Outlet quality & reputation
    - Fit with your field
    - Citation impact
    - Profile visibility (ORCID, Google Scholar)
  - One paper that is read and cited is often more valuable than many papers that are never touched.
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# Key Takeaways

- Publishing is a process, not a one-time event.
  - Editors and reviewers are not enemies — they are quality partners.
  - Revision is normal — it's part of how science improves.
  - To level up, you don't need "luck" — you need system understanding.
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# Final Advice

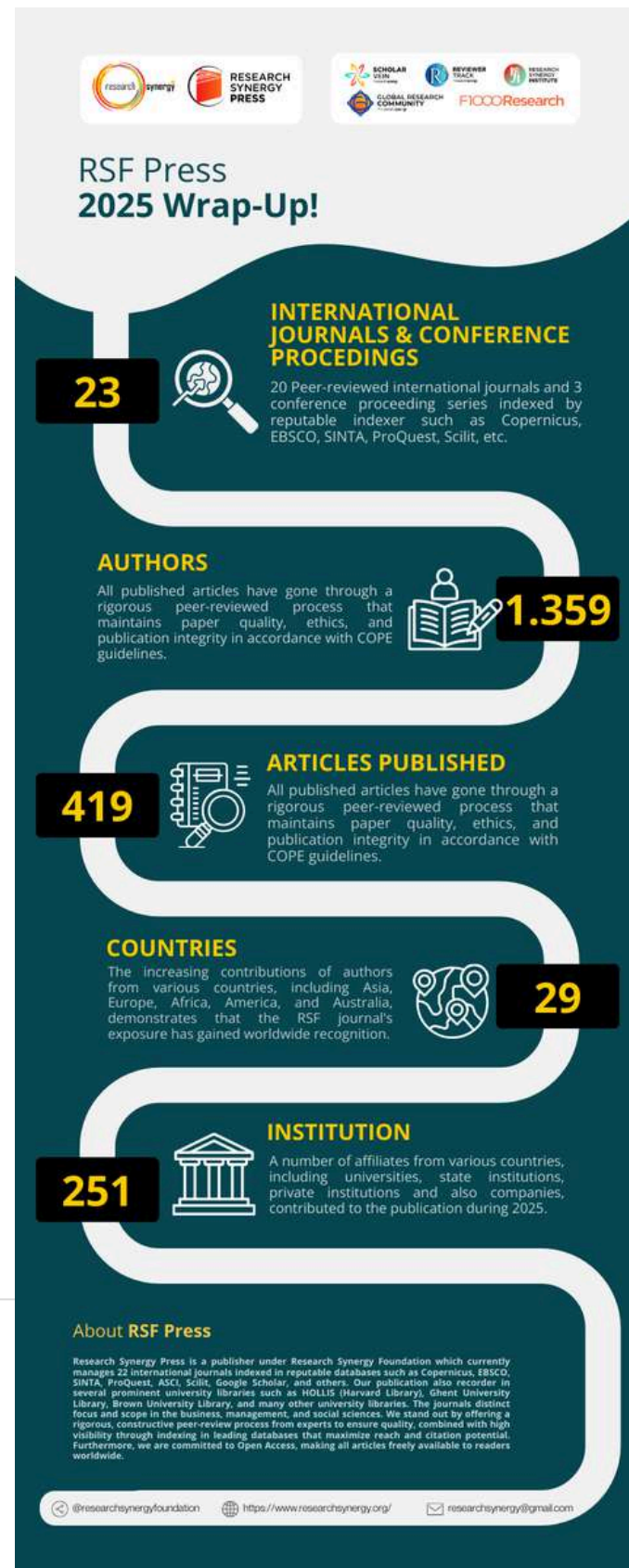
- Three final tips:
    - Choose your target journal early — not at the end.
    - Write for reviewers — make your contribution easy to see.
    - Build consistency and mental resilience.
  - Papers get accepted not because authors never face rejection, but because they keep submitting, keep improving, and keep learning.
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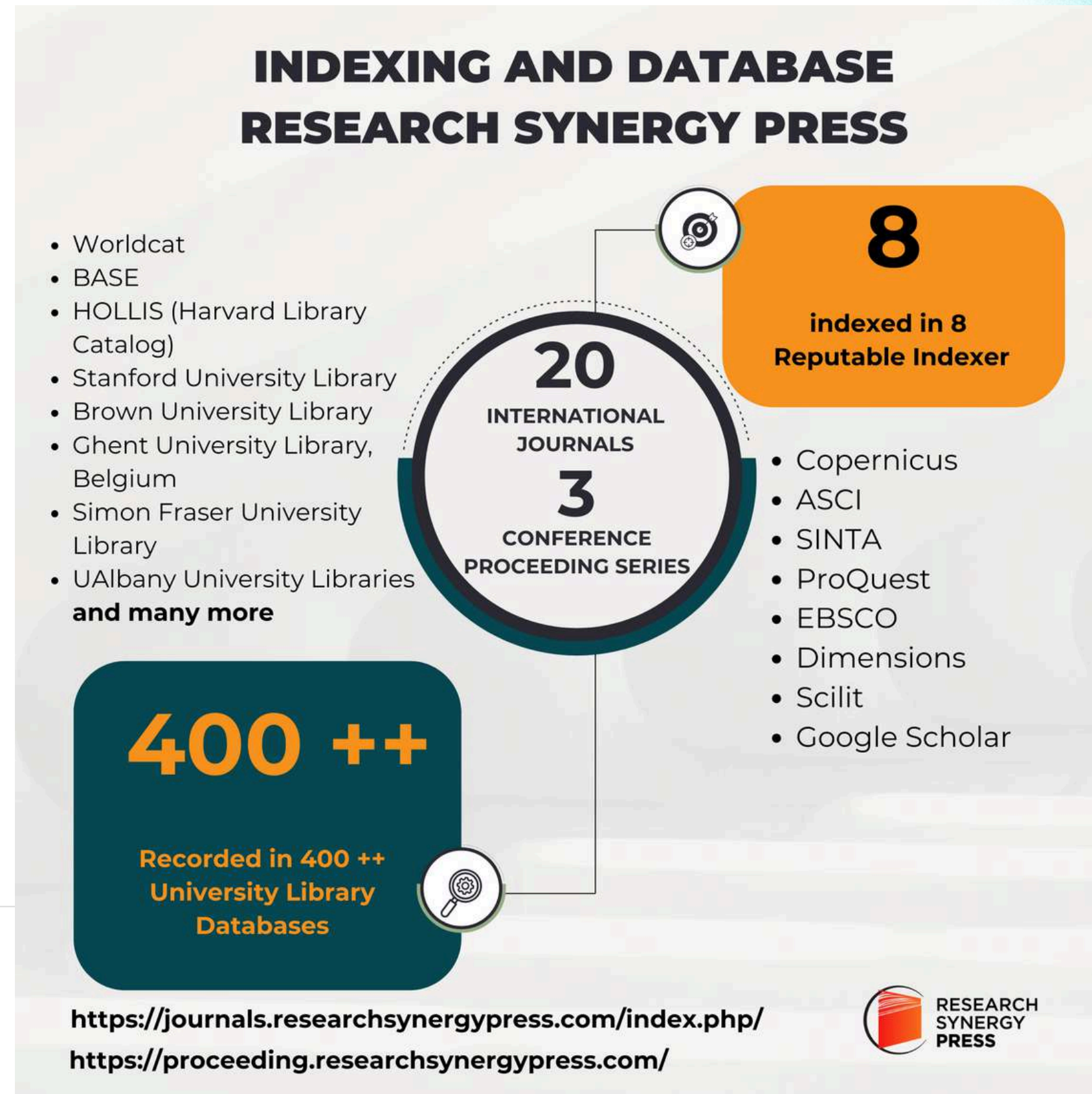


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