



2025 RSVP Digital Event

“How to Get Published in an Academic Journal” with
Katherine Malone (*VPR*), Devin Garofalo (*Victorian Poetry*),
and Janice Schroeder (*Victorians*)

Chat Transcript

10:01:33 From RSVP Host : Welcome everyone! This is Alison Chapman, VP of RSVP, behind the RSVP logo. Thank you for joining us for this November DigiEvent.

10:01:50 From Preeshita Biswas : from the not-so-cold Fort Worth, TX

10:01:56 From Michele Robinson : Raleigh, NC

10:02:09 From Josh Povall : From an also cold York, UK

10:02:12 From RSVP Host : A grey and damp Victoria BC

10:03:15 From Kaari Newman : Chilly and sunny Minnesota!

10:04:55 From RSVP Host : Welcome everyone, if you’ve just joined us! This is Alison Chapman, VP of RSVP, behind the RSVP logo. Thank you for joining us for this November DigiEvent, and to our grad reps for chairing today.

10:05:35 From Victoria Bartness : Reacted to "Chilly and sunny Min..." with 

10:25:13 From Devin Garofalo : I will just add that learning to develop new / different language — in this case, for an abstract — for describing your work is an important skill that will serve you well in other contexts: grant applications, job materials, etc.

10:25:20 From RSVP Host : Reacted to "I will just add that..." with 

10:25:26 From Victoria Bartness : Reacted to "I will just add that..." with 

10:26:40 From RSVP Host : And abstracts and keywords will help others find your work when it's published.

10:26:48 From Devin Garofalo : Reacted to "And abstracts and ke..." with 

10:28:02 From Katherine Malone : Joseph Williams and Joseph Bizup, Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace (Pearson, 2021)-- especially chapter 7

10:28:09 From Victoria Bartness : Reacted to "Joseph Williams and ..." with 

10:28:10 From RSVP Host : Reacted to "Joseph Williams and ..." with 

10:28:28 From RSVP Host : Removed a  reaction from "Joseph Williams and ..."

10:29:17 From RSVP Host : Reacted to "Joseph Williams and ..." with 

10:38:29 From Preeshita Biswas : Thank you so much for this fantastic session!! This question on COVER LETTER is for all speakers: Could you please speak a little about how to frame and what to include in a cover letter when a journal asks for it besides abstract, keywords, and article at the time of first submission? What are the Dos and Don'ts of writing a cover letter to the journal editor? Should I avoid repeating information I have already provided in the abstract? And what do I add further in the cover letter? How does the cover letter frame the abstract and the article? Please feel free to take up any of these aspects. Thank you again!

10:38:34 From Justin Rogers : 

10:38:55 From Preeshita Biswas : 

10:38:59 From Justin Rogers : Oh hi Preeshita! o/

10:40:15 From Jan Schroeder : <https://jovanevery.co.uk>

10:40:30 From Gillian Walters : Reacted to "<https://jovanevery.c...>" with 

10:40:39 From Jan Schroeder : This is the website I was mentioning. Jo's really good!

10:40:44 From Gillian Walters : Reacted to "Joseph Williams and ..." with 

10:40:54 From RSVP Host : Reacted to "This is the website ..." with 

10:41:22 From Victoria Bartness : Reacted to "https://jovanevery.c..." with 

10:41:27 From Victoria Bartness : Reacted to "This is the website ..." with 

10:41:45 From Preeshita Biswas : Reacted to "Oh hi Preeshita! o/" with 

10:44:05 From Justin Rogers : With British publications it can sometimes be difficult. I was scratching my head trying to shift things into MHRA style and in my email I wrote that I attempted to follow the style guide, if there are any issues, I'm happy to fix them.

10:44:18 From Lisa Peters : how do you select reviewers for very niche subjects or a topics where there aren't any obvious experts in the field?

10:44:38 From Jan Schroeder : Reacted to "With British publica..." with 

10:44:39 From Preeshita Biswas : Thank you so much for answering my question!

10:44:55 From Rachel Cleaver : Reacted to "With British publica..." with 

10:44:55 From Preeshita Biswas : Reacted to "how do you select re..." with 

10:44:57 From Hazel Vosper : Devlin spoke about being careful to not overly-quote from primary sources. But what are your general feelings re. illustrations and presentation of information in tables etc.

10:45:59 From Kaari Newman : What is the difference between the editorial board and your reviewers? Are they one in the same, or is the board more of a governance body? Just something I've always wondered about.

10:46:05 From RSVP Host : For niche topics, I think also secondary source citations are extra crucial as they might point to potential reviewers for journal editors

10:46:13 From Jan Schroeder : Reacted to "For niche topics, I ..." with 

10:46:27 From Lisa Peters : Reacted to "For niche topics, I ..." with 

10:47:31 From Rachel Cleaver : Reacted to "Devlin spoke about b..." with 

10:47:55 From RSVP Host : And a tip my supervisor told me many years ago: if you're not sure what journal to submit to, check what journal you're citing the most in your sources, as you're already in a conversation with them.

10:48:09 From Victoria Bartness : Reacted to "And a tip my supervi..." with 

10:48:46 From Matthew Stephens : Just to clarify, if you want to check the details of comments/revisions offered by reviewers, should you do that through the editor - and thereby retain anonymity - or is it ever acceptable to approach reviewers directly?

10:48:52 From Justin Rogers : I've always wondered that too, Kaari! Good question.

10:49:32 From Samantha Brierley : Reacted to "And a tip my supervi..." with 

10:49:32 From Devin Garofalo : Matthew, you should work with the editor — the reviewers will be anonymous to you, so you won't be able to reach out (and if for some reason they were not anonymous I still would not recommend reaching out directly).

10:49:52 From Matthew Stephens : Reacted to "Matthew, you shoul..." with 

10:50:27 From Hazel Vosper : Devin not Devlin. Sorry!

10:50:38 From Devin Garofalo : No problem whatsoever!

10:50:45 From Preeshita Biswas : Reacted to "With British publica..." with 

10:51:09 From Matthew Stephens : Replying to "Matthew, you shoul..."

Ah, I see. Thank you.

10:51:42 From Devin Garofalo : Replying to "Matthew, you should ..."

Editors are here to help you determine a path for revision, so don't ever feel wary of asking the editor for guidance (especially in cases of conflicting reviews, for instance).

10:56:30 From Samantha Brierley : What are some of your pet peeves when reading submissions or articles in general? Or, what is something seemingly minor that impresses you when it appears in someone's writing?

10:56:39 From Preeshita Biswas : Reacted to "What are some of you..." with ❤️

10:57:21 From Niketa Narayan : If an author does not currently have an institutional affiliation, how would you suggest they explain or address that in the cover email?

10:58:21 From Devin Garofalo : Niketa, great question — you should not feel self-conscious about this. You can introduce yourself as an independent scholar and / or say something about where you've completed your graduate studies and what you're currently working on.

10:58:47 From Jan Schroeder : Reacted to "Niketa, great questi..." with 👍

10:58:52 From RSVP Host : Reacted to "Niketa, great questi..." with 👍

10:59:00 From Niketa Narayan : Thank you!

10:59:26 From Jaleen Grove : I am an editor on a journal where our Ed Board has decided to support writers heavily because ours is an emerging field in which most submissions are from artists who don't have extensive writing experience. Can I pick your brain how much you yourselves wordsmith your submissions? Do you reject poorly written stuff and let people figure it out on their own, or do you work with them in a more mentor-teacher way? I'm trying to decide when we shall start trimming such efforts on our editorial part.

10:59:57 From Katherine Malone : Reacted to "Niketa, great questi..." with 👍

11:00:21 From Gillian Walters : Reacted to "Niketa, great questi..." with 👍

11:00:38 From Kaari Newman : Reacted to "Niketa, great questi..." with 👍

11:01:37 From Justin Rogers : I agree with Jan there and that's usually indicative of someone not really doing enough research on the topic they're entering into.

11:01:43 From RSVP Host : Thank you for terrific DigiEvent, and for sharing your expertise, Devin, Jan, and Kathy!

11:01:52 From RSVP Host : Next DigiEvent: 12 Dec 8-9am Pacific: Priyasha Mukhopadhyay (Yale), "Reading for Time" (on Bengali almanacks). All welcome! Check RSVP website soon for more details and registration link (<https://rs4vp.org/>).

11:01:53 From Samantha Brierley : Reacted to "Next DigiEvent: 12 D..." with 

11:02:00 From Samantha Brierley : Reacted to "Thank you for terrif..." with 

11:02:07 From Fionnuala Dillane : This has been such an informative, generous and useful session - thank you all