Correlation between Prolific Writing and a Researcher's Citation

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Preamble

- Prolific: - **Intellectually productive**

- ***An Example of a Prolific Writer and Researcher***

- One of the world's most prolific contemporary researchers is Dr. Syed Tauseef Mohyud-Din, a professor of mathematics at HITEC University in Taxila, Pakistan.

Preamble

- His website claims he has more than 350 publications. A Google Scholar search appears to confirm this. His Ph.D. thesis, *Variational Iteration Techniques for Solving Boundary Value Problem*, was presented to the Department of Mathematics, Comsats Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad, in 2010.

Writing a Good Research Paper

Steps:

- Choose a topic
- Find the information
- State your objectives
- Make a tentative outline
- Organise your notes
- Write your first draft
- Revise your outline
- Type final paper. Read through and through.

Structure and Approach

- Scientific research must begin with a defined research question, which results in a well-designed research protocol that plans the overall approach. This foundation should lead to a set of data from which the manuscript can be constructed. Manuscripts submitted to journals for consideration for publication typically have the following components.

Components of Manuscripts

- Title Page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- References
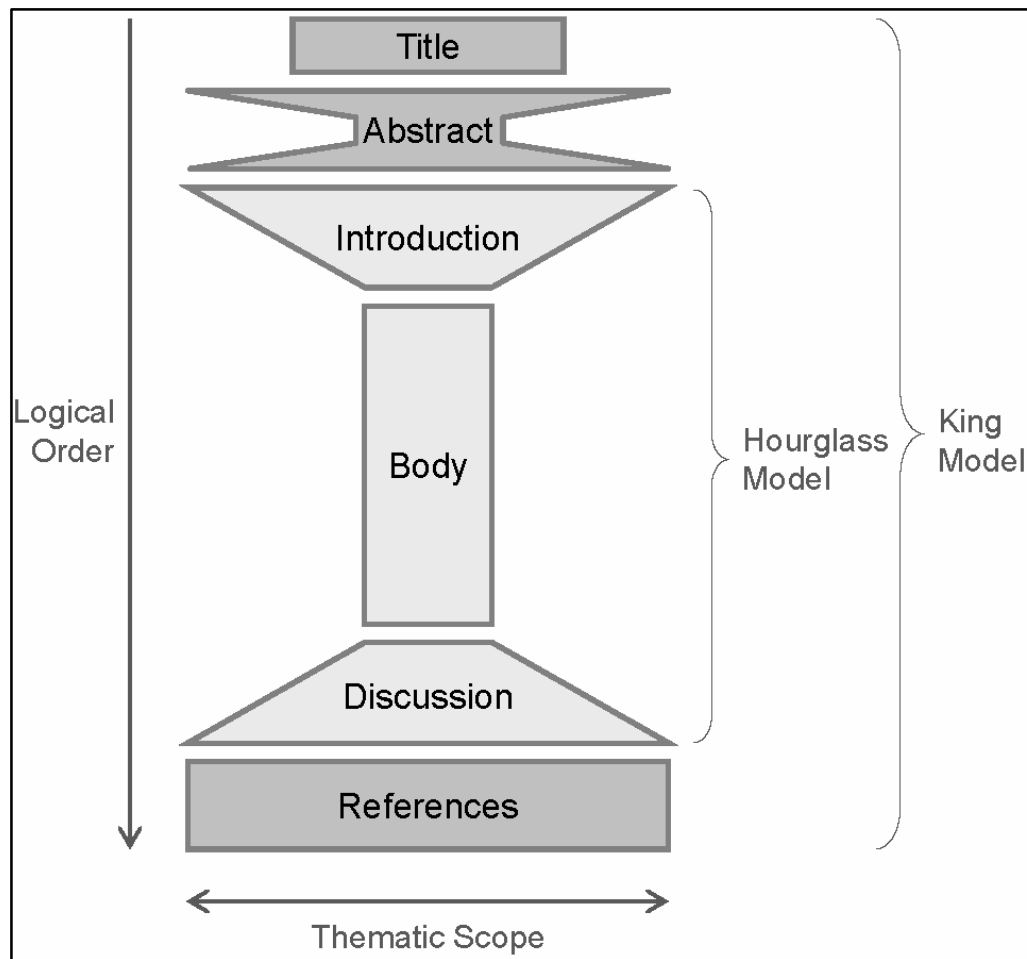- Tables and Table Captions
- Figure and Figure Captions

Figure 1 The 'Hourglass Model' (light-grey parts) and the 'King Model', which covers an extended set of parts in a typical paper's structure. Source: Based on Swales (1993)

How to be a prolific writer

- **Steps:**

1. Write every single day.

2. Leave the edits for later.

3. Write off-topic if you feel like it.

4. Make your environment as conducive as possible for your process.

5. Keep track of your output for feel-good sake and self-assessment.

Habits of Highly Prolific Writers

- **1. They block email and distracting Web Sites.** This is really about [designing an environment for optimal performance and creativity](#). It also eliminates the need for willpower.
- **2. They read good books**
- **3. They don't wait to be inspired**
- **4. They write by hand**
- **5. They write everyday**
- **6. Their habits are part of their identity**
- This is really the cornerstone. Habits and routines send a message to your subconscious that you're serious.
- **7. They write shitty first drafts**

in other words…

1. Routine
- Write daily.
- Write often.

2. Outline
- When you write, start with an outline.

3. First Draft
- Once your outline is in place, it's time to write a first draft.

4. Rewrite
- After I've written my first draft, I rewrite.

in other words....

5. **Elements of Discouragement**
- When you write, you will run into some negative voice. It'll tell you how:
- You're not good enough
- You have nothing to say
- You might as well give up
- Whenever it pops up, say hi and keep writing. Writing isn't effortless for prolific writers. But they keep going anyway.
6. Confidence
7. Read-Prolific writers read – *a lot*.

CITATIONS

- A search of Science Citation Index is one of the sources of information for research

- There is the problem of padding bibliographies, which is endemic within certain fields of study. This means that certain authors will cite papers in their references, even though they have not actually read the articles or incorporated the concepts contained in them.

- Authors will sometimes do this to make an article look more academic or prestigious, by citing important authors or having a large number of citations. **Science Citation Index (SCI),** a reliable tool that measures the significance of individual scientists' contributions by counting the number of times they are cited by other researchers.

- The primary advantage of citation indexing is that it identifies relationships between academic publications that are often overlooked in a subject index. A second important advantage is that the compilation of citation indexes is especially well suited to the use of machine indexing methods that do not require indexers who are subject specialists (Katz 1987, 171).

Citation Indexing

- *Citation indexing is a method of organizing documents in a way that overcomes many of the shortcomings of more traditional indexing methods.* SCI lists all bibliographic references appearing in an increasingly large number of journals, allowing the number of citations an individual receives to be tabulated and used as an indicator of the relative scientific significance or quality of that individual's publications.

- Furthermore, citations, which are bibliographic descriptions of documents, tend to bring together material that would never be collated by subject indexing, because they "are not vulnerable to scientific and technological obsolescence as are the terms used in subject indexes" (Katz 1987, 172). A traditional topic search is dependent on your knowledge of the field's vocabulary and on how well you formulate your search statement.

- A cited reference search leads you to relevant data through the experts themselves. Since this type of search is not language dependent, it will reveal changes in terminology and phrases used in your area of research (Katz 1987, 174).

- Research output in the form of papers, books, and book chapters is there to be used by other researchers to inform subsequent research, influence policy decisions, and improve clinical practice. Authors need to consider how to make appropriate use of their previous publications and the work of others, and to ensure that their own work will be used appropriately.

- A research paper, book, policy document or treatment manual should refer to other writing that is relevant to its message. Citation is the formal vehicle for doing this. It involves explicit reference to a piece of research output which can in principle be anything from an article in a journal to a web-site.

Types of citation

- There are two main types of citation.
- The term *referential citation* refers to the situation where a piece of research output is being used for what it contributes to the field.
- The term *critical citation* is used when the citing piece points to what is considered a flaw in some research output.

- The citation serves one or more essential functions:

- It enables the reader to examine the cited work to check the veracity of a statement that it is being used to support, or the correctness of the use of a concept or interpretation of a process.

- When citing in support of a statement being made in one's own article, it also acknowledges the contribution made by the cited work. Both the *verification function* and the *acknowledgement function* are important.

- One may also use citations to document how a political debate or historical process or a specific concept has developed and has been defined. We can call this *the documentation function.*.

- Every hypothesis, conceptual analysis, or statement of a theoretical position that is not advanced for the first time in a given paper should trace a link to its source.

- Citation offers the reader an opportunity to determine for himself or herself:

a) whether the original source of a claim was justified, and

b) whether that claim is being accurately represented in the current piece.

Avoiding Plagiarism

- The New Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language (1997), defines **plagiarism** as ***"the unauthorized use of the** language **and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own"***.

To avoid plagiarism:

- All writers must document sources properly using Footnotes, Endnotes, or Parenthetical References, and must write a Bibliography, References, or Works Cited page and place it at the end of the research paper to list the sources used.

- If you use Parenthetical References you only need to put a short reference enclosed in Existing parentheses immediately after the citation, then list the sources cited in your Bibliography, Works Cited or References page at the end of your paper.

Avoiding plagiarism contd…

- If you use Footnote references, you must have numerically superscripted Footnote references at the foot of the same page where your citations are located, plus you must add a Bibliography, Works Cited, or References page at the end of your paper unless instructed otherwise by your teacher or instructor.

- If you use Endnote references, your citation within the text of your paper is the same as your Footnote citation, but you must list your Endnote references at the end of your paper in superscripted numerical order on a separate page entitled *Endnotes*. You must still add a Bibliography, Works Cited or References page after your *Endnotes* page unless instructed otherwise.

- Do not be tempted to get someone else to write your research paper.
- Do not download information from CD-ROMs or someone else's original work off the Internet and directly incorporate such information into your essay without paraphrasing and acknowledging its source.
- Consequences may be severe when writers are caught plagiarizing. Existing detection services include Mydropbox.com, Glatt Plagiarism Services and Turnitin.

CORELLATION: THE MORE YOU READ AND WRITE THE MORE THE CITATIONS YOU ACQUIRE FOR YOURSELF AND THE MORE THE CITATIONS YOU USE.

- **THANK YOU!**