

How Do I Get Started on Research or Scholarship?




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Various Strategies

- Turn a course paper into a manuscript
- Secondary data analysis
- Investigate a problem in clinical practice
- Collaborate with a colleague
- Start looking at a literature that interests you
- Talk with a senior colleague/potential mentor



Turn a Course Paper into a Manuscript

- State of the Science paper
- DNP Capstone Project
- Dissertation



Moving from course paper to journal manuscript

- Course work tends to be defensive: you're justifying yourself and what you know to faculty
- Manuscript writing assumes your competence and requires you to lay out your argument clearly
- Coursework is writer-centered: faculty are a captive audience: reading your work is their job!
- Manuscript writing has to be reader-centered: First question asked is "can I be bothered to read this"?
- Biggest problems:
 - You have something new to say but don't make what's original about your work clear
 - Literature review is not sufficiently comprehensive

How to Choose a Journal

- Choose a journal

- Talk to senior colleagues
- Use journal finder tool (see Duquesne University Gumberg Library reference): [Where to Publish Your Research ... - Duquesne University](#)
- From International Academy of Nursing Editors (INANE): [VIEW THE NURSING JOURNALS DIRECTORY](#)
- From Nursing and Allied Health Resources section of the Medical Library Association [NAHRS List of Selected Nursing Journals](#)

- Get additional feedback (present at a conference, go back to your faculty member to talk about turning into a manuscript, share with other faculty or peers)
- Determine the appropriate length
 - Many journals in the health sciences have max. lengths ranging from 2000 words to 4000 words (8 to 16 pages)





How to Become a Published Writer (from 2017 series in AJN)

- **Why Write?** You can contribute to knowledge for a practice-based profession.
- **Create a Writing Life.** Read/Write regularly/Join or Create a Writing Group.
- **Getting Ready to Write:** Set aside space and time. Get to know the guidelines.
- **Getting Started:** Outlining/Mind Mapping. Manuscript Structure.



How to Become a Published Writer (from 2017 series in AJN)

- **Types of Articles**
 - Research that builds knowledge
 - QI projects with supporting data
 - Clinical review articles providing up-to-date evidence on best practice
 - Systematic/integrative lit. reviews
 - Insightful analysis of professional issues or health policy
 - Opinion essays that present a well-reasoned argument or discussion of topics of concern in health care
 - Personal narratives that provide insight into nursing or patient experiences
- **Writing clearly and correctly**
- **Submitting and revising a manuscript/Getting published**

Secondary Data Analysis

- Doing additional analysis with data already collected by someone else
- There are lots of databases out there
- Issues:
 - Ask questions to answer what you're interested in?
 - Sample?
 - Data Quality



Investigate a Problem in Clinical Practice

- Suzanne S. Clark: “Prior to doing my research study Trends and Factors in Blood Pressure in Hyperbaric Medicine, I had been asked numerous times by patients undergoing hyperbaric oxygen treatments about why there was an increase in their blood pressures after their treatments. I provided patient teaching regarding increased blood pressure and vasoconstriction, but I could not explain it does not always occur during every treatment.”
- Research Question: What factors (history of hypertension, anxiety) are related to BP elevation? History of hypertension and low anxiety related.
- From: McLaughlin & Bulla, pp. 209-212





Investigate a Problem in Clinical Practice

- Nancy B. Hutchison & Megan E. Brunson: Overcome with patients' discomfort related to thirst post open-heart surgery, several nurses created this research project as a result of discussing the differences between patient care in dealing with the thirsty, dry-mouthed patients.”
- Study Design: Randomized comparison of 4 groups: 30 cc/hr or less of ice chips, ice chips as desired up to 120 cc/hr, water at room temperature, as desired, up to 120 cc/hr, up to 120 cc/hr of Diet Sprite. No stat. differences in outcomes, most satisfaction with fluids vs. ice chips
- From: McLaughlin & Bulla, pp. 213-216



Investigate a Problem in Clinical Practice

- Cheryl G. Newmark: The particular study I am working on at the present time came about while I was in the triage area in the emergency department. I would greet patients in triage and ask them about allergies and if they took any medications on a daily basis. I was amazed and somewhat disheartened to see that many of the patients who presented to me in triage had no idea of certain aspects of their medications.
- Study: Subjects complete medication card and asked to be sure they understand it. Will be strategies to update at patient's next visit and check with providers if patient used medication card.
- From: McLaughlin & Bulla, pp. 167-170



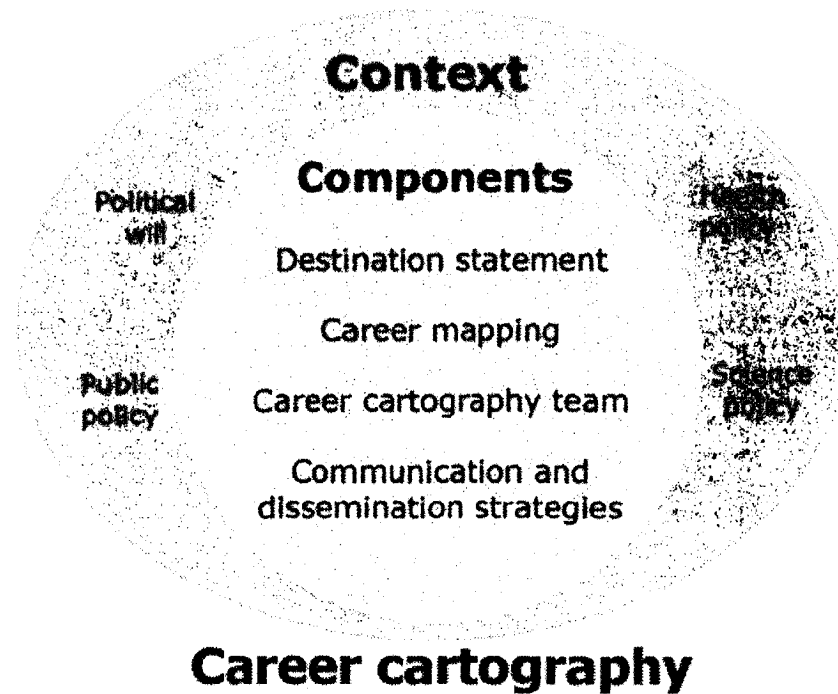
Start Looking at a Literature That Interests You

- Formulate a research question
- Identify a term/terms that will be used to search the literature
- Create robust inclusion and exclusion criteria to select the most appropriate literature
- Select the most relevant databases to interrogate the literature
- Search the literature from a global perspective
- Analyze, synthesize and critique the research articles
- Present the findings

Your Program of Scholarship and/or Research

- Career “Cartography” like mapping is a perspective on the development of your scholarly and/or research career trajectory
- Ideally, your work will be “coherent,” related to one or a small number of (related) topics, putting together a story over your career
- For researchers, you will want to start with published dissertation research, then pilot studies, and finally larger grant-funded projects. Always turn presentations into manuscripts to submit for publication
- For clinicians, you will want to think about long-term goals related to practice or policy and consider the steps to get there
- Destination Statement: Elevator Speech

Career Cartography



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Figure 1. Conceptualization of the career cartography process.



Questions to Inform Destination Statement: Context of Science

- What are significant health issues including incidence, cost, morbidity, and mortality?
- What is the political and social will to address these health issues near-term and long-term
- How will the science inform policy to advance the health of the public?
- How does the science align with the priorities of the institution (health system, university), county, state, region, and nation?



Questions to Inform Destination Statement: Impact of Science

- What are the unique contributions for health, education, and practice?
- How does this science change health outcomes of the public and healthcare systems?
- Does this research have the potential to be sustained long-term and scaled up?
- What are outcomes of the science in comparison to county, state, and national data?

References

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