Achieving quality
Publications
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What we will cover

• Choosing the right place to submit your paper
• Writing the paper to best present the work
• Mistakes to avoid!
What do I know about this?

- EiC: ACM Transactions on the Web
- EdBoards:
- Guest editing
- Conference programme chairing:
  - ACM Hypertext 04 (07 and 05), AH 2006, WWW7, Ausweb
- Had lots of my own papers rejected!
Why does this matter?

• “Proof” your work is good – easier to get theses accepted or high marks
• Better publications – easier to get good doctoral, postdoctoral, academic jobs
• Great for promotion
• Better publications make it easier to get research funding
Where to send your paper

• Conference or journal?
  – In computer science, tendency to publish in conferences far more - not all that “respectable” in other fields
  – Some conferences have far higher rankings than many journals
  – Deadlines?
  – Sudden death?
    • You might not get a second chance to revise and resubmit your paper if there is a publication deadline
  – Conferences great for networking
  – Can be expensive to attend conferences
Which one?

- International generally higher-ranked than Australian
- ACM or IEEE transactions generally excellent
- Check journal and conference rankings
- Most ranking systems only consider journals
  - [Eigenfactor](https://eigenfactor.org)
  - IMPORTANT: [ISI Web of Knowledge](https://www.isiknowledge.com)
    - used for RQF/ERA
    - many journals not ranked
  - CORE rankings
CORE rankings

- Australian CORE rankings - both journals and conferences
- A and A+ the target - perhaps one or two of these in a PhD thesis
- B- and U-ranked conferences for networking
- CORE rankings being increasingly used internationally
- CORE rankings likely to form part of any research quality assessment (the old RQF, now the ERA)
Writing the paper

• Think about it from the editors’ and reviewers’ point of view
  – Often working to deadlines
  – Often many other papers to review

• Make it pleasant and not too challenging to read
  – Not too many acronyms or equations
  – “Glue” writing for narrative flow
Mistakes to avoid (1)

- Lots of standard errors to avoid:
  - Relevance to venue
  - Novelty – enough new content
  - Status – in-progress="premature"
  - Standard structure needed
  - Related work?
  - Written expression
  - references
Mistakes to avoid (2)

• Related work:
  – Essential – must be there!
  – Comprehensive – maybe not every single system, but a representative from every class of system
  – Comparative – not enough just to list them – you need to say why your work is better than each bit of related work

• Whole purpose of this section is to place your work in context
Mistakes to avoid (3)

• Narrative flow and written expression:
  – Clarity of paper’s contribution
  – Repetition – better than missing the point
  – “road map” – let the reader know what to expect and where to find it
  – Narrative flow – “glue” between sections
  – Relevance – prune out irrelevant or well-known stuff
  – Spelling, grammar, first person, gender, politics, etc.
No infallible solution

No tool or method that always works to ensure publication

But you can optimise your chances

More info and links at