



GENDER
Platform

WE3.1: Take it from experienced authors! Practical tips for publishing a scientific article

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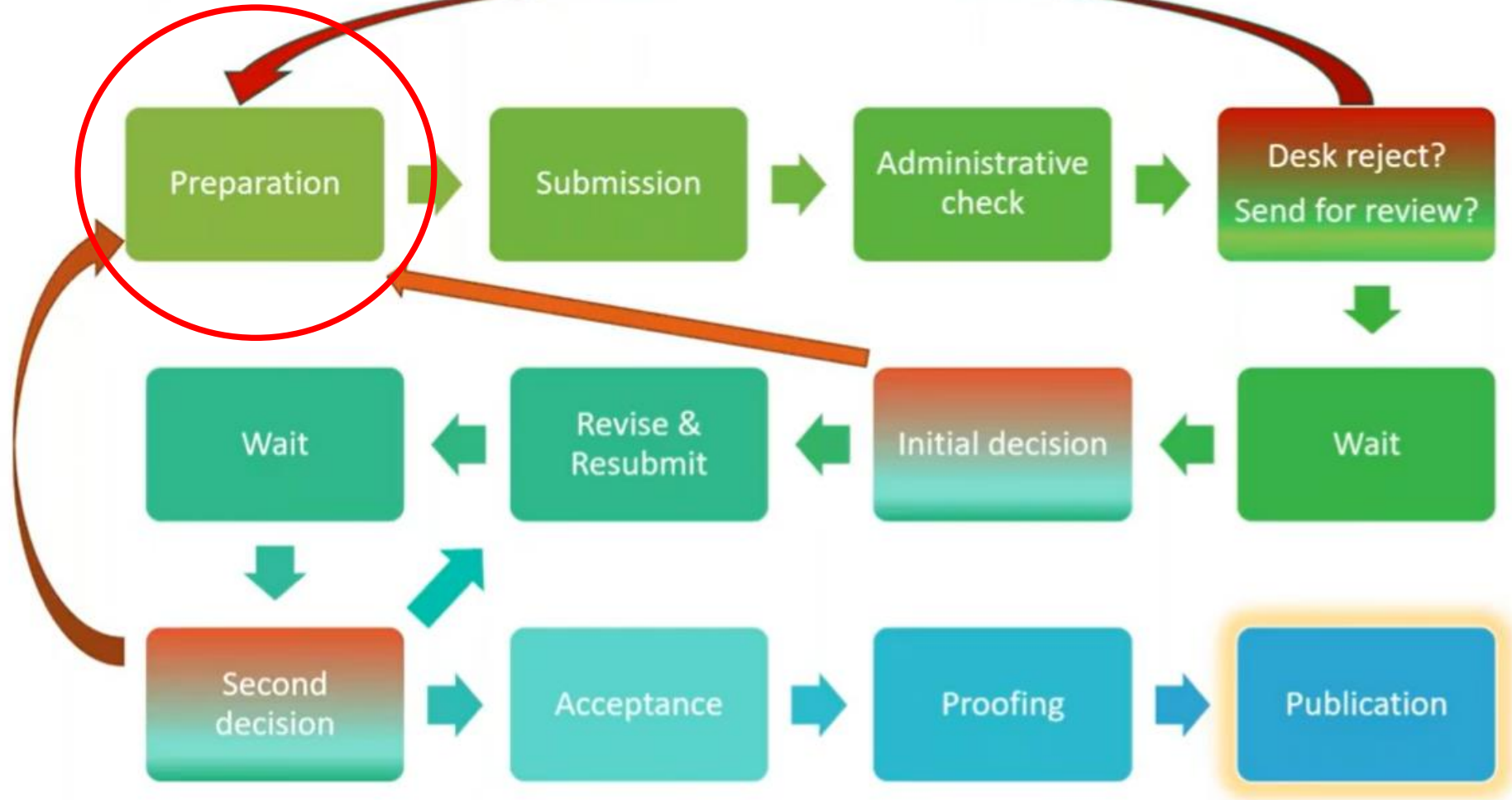
CGIAR GENDER Science Exchange, Nairobi, 12-14 October 2022

Aim of the session

- Learn about publication process
- Hear first-hand experiences with publishing (including challenges and strategies)
- Ask questions
- Support each other and identify mechanisms for support moving forward




Process

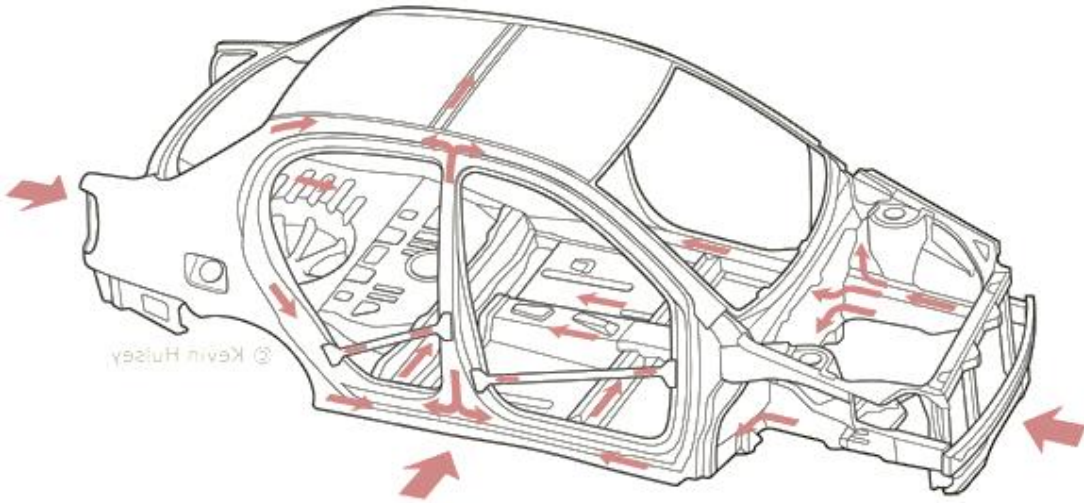


Source: Doss 2021, Webinar: The Journal Publication Landscape

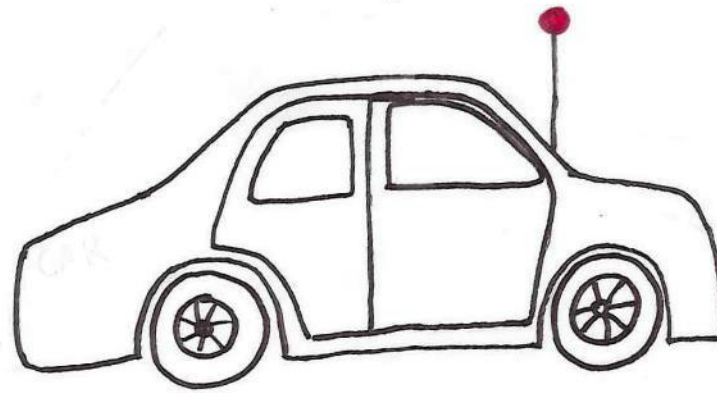
Preparation

- Identify your key findings
 - Have a clear, key message. Everything in the paper should speak to this point.
 - Position paper within key literature and its gap(s)
 - Spell out your argument
 - Big picture scene setting
 - Literature says X, but there is a gap...
 - This is important because...
 - This paper will contribute to filling this gap by doing...
 - Write a compelling discussion – insightful interpretation, going back to the lit. and showing how findings advance the state of knowledge
 - Ensure alignment across all sections (abstract, intro, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion)
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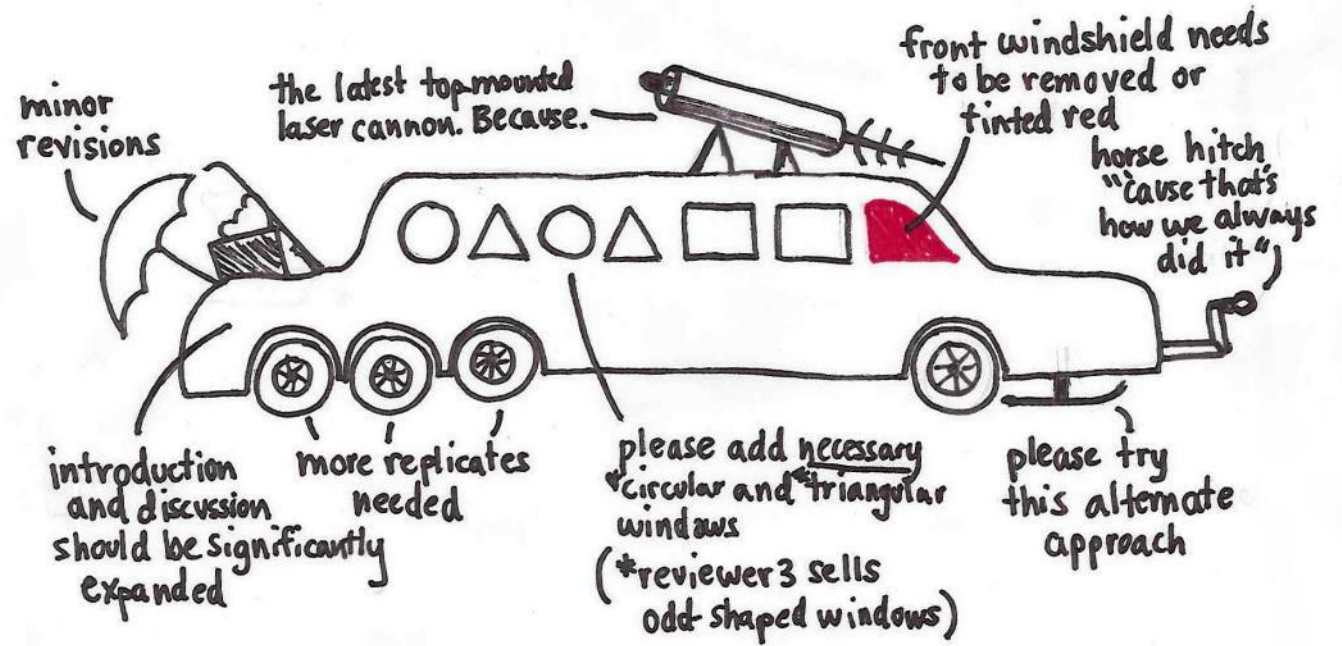
Preparing your study and manuscript



Your manuscript as submitted



... and after peer review and revision



@redpenblackpen

Prepare

Literature review

Research proposal or some form of pre-analysis plan (possibly pre-registered)

First draft outline

- Relevance
- Literature and prior evidence
- Research questions and hypotheses
- Methods (Context, data, methods of analysis)
- Steps in the analysis for testing each of the hypotheses (~Results)
- Discussion/conclusion

Write

In principle, 'simply' include the literature review, updated description of your context, data and methods, analysis (as set out in pre-analysis plan) and results in your draft outline

Write the discussion section/conclusion

- Short recap of the relevance
- Short recap of methods
- Results and the extent and way in which they support/reject research hypotheses and what that means
- Limitations of the study
- Recommendations that follow from study results, directions for future research

Update the introduction

- Sneak preview of key results
- Highlight the contributions of the study (results)

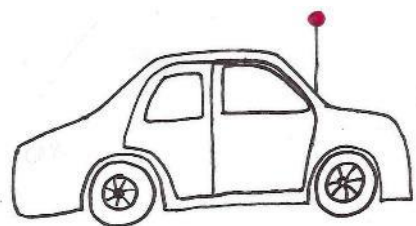
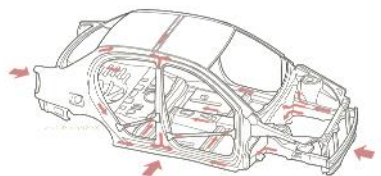
Write the abstract ([See tips and tricks for writing effective and convincing abstracts](#))

Challenge: word limit! Set word limits per section

Presenting helps

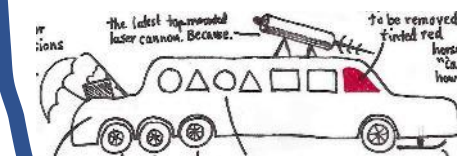
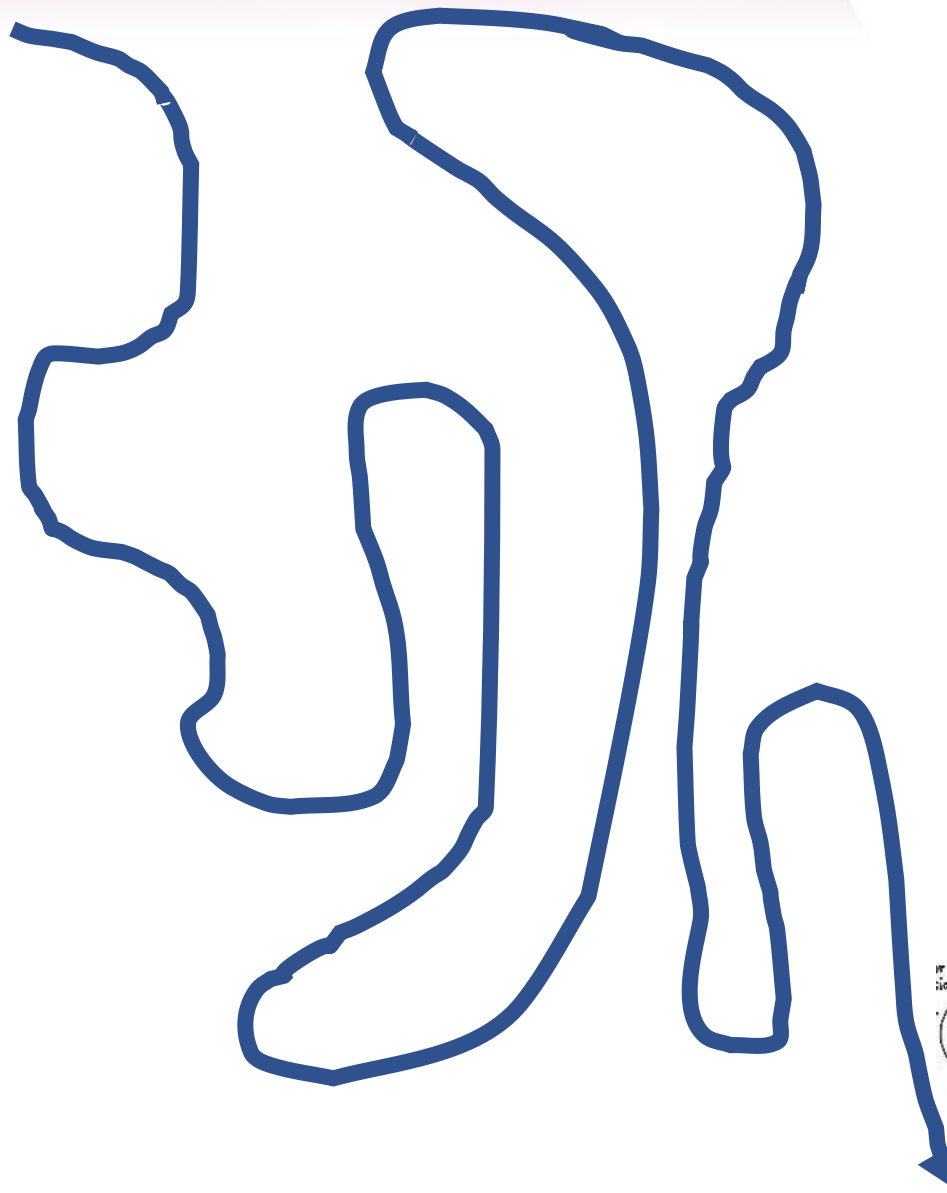
Putting the article aside for a while helps

The plan

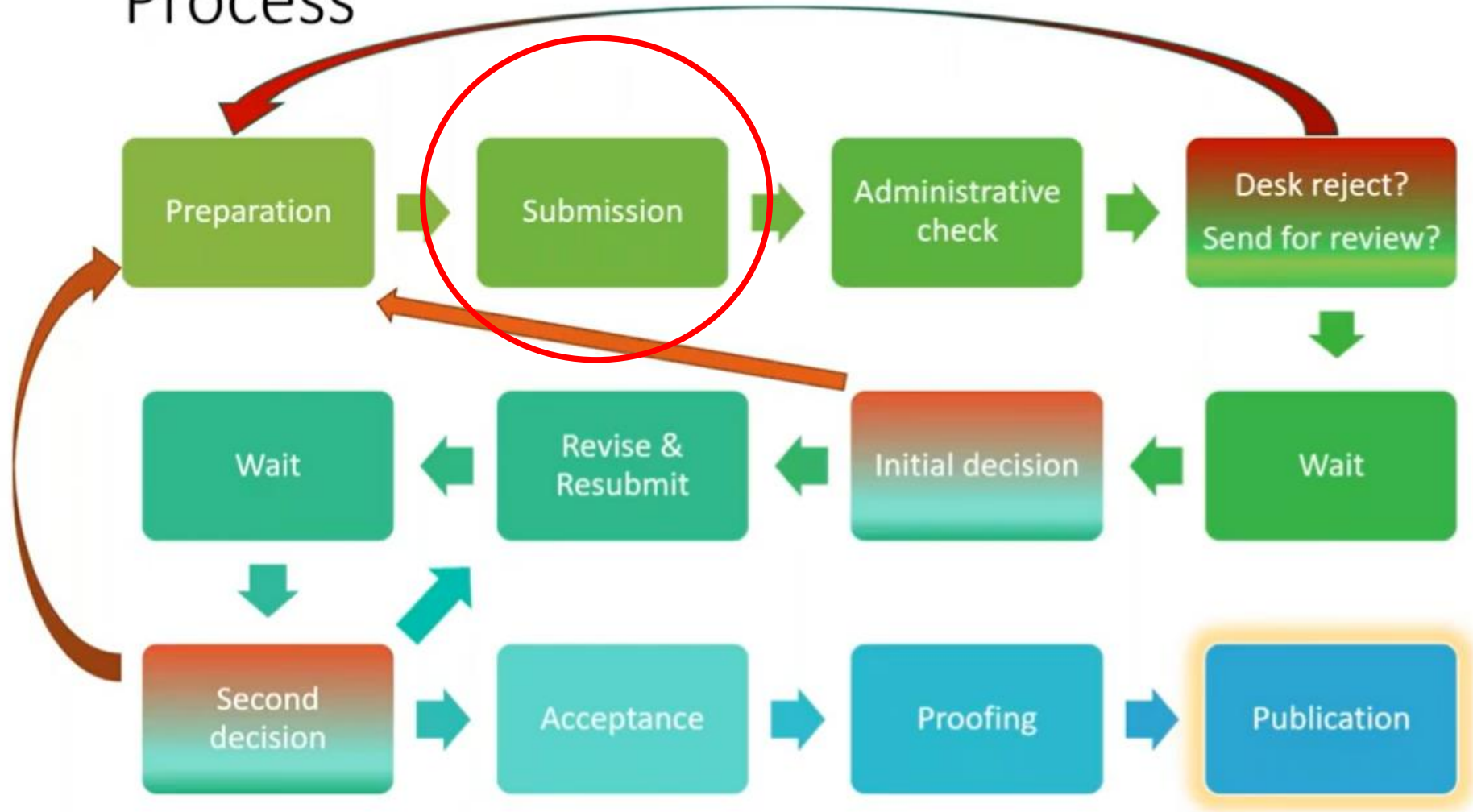


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The reality



Process



Source: Doss 2021, Webinar: The Journal Publication Landscape

Choosing a journal

- *Who do you want to reach?*
- *What methodology are you using?*
- *What is your message for your particular audience?*
- *What language will you use?*
- *How long will your article be?*
- *What journals are valued in your field/organization?*

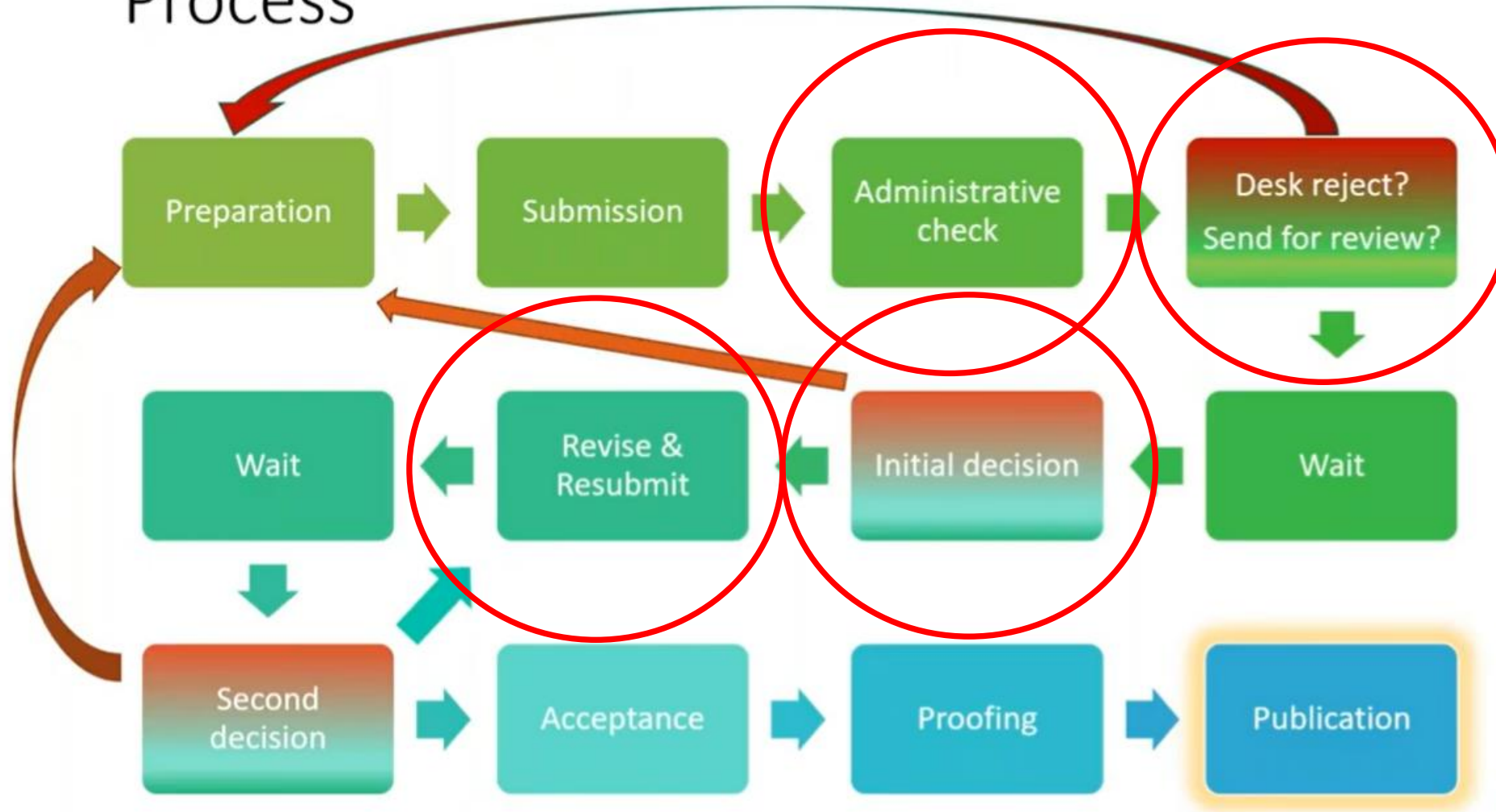
- *How long can you wait for your publication?*
- *Check requirements (ethics clearance, data management, acceptability of publishing post working or conference papers, etc.)*
- *Open access*

Avoid predatory journals!

Submission process

- Carefully read journal requirements and be ready to provide all information when submitting:
 - Authors, title, abstract, key words, highlights
 - Cover letter
 - Dear Editor, this paper is about X, it is important because..., it is XX words long, it has not been submitted to another journal, ...
 - Anonymized manuscript
 - Follow journal structure, length
 - Check references
 - Acknowledgements
 - Tables, figures, annexes, datasets
 - Possible reviewers

Process

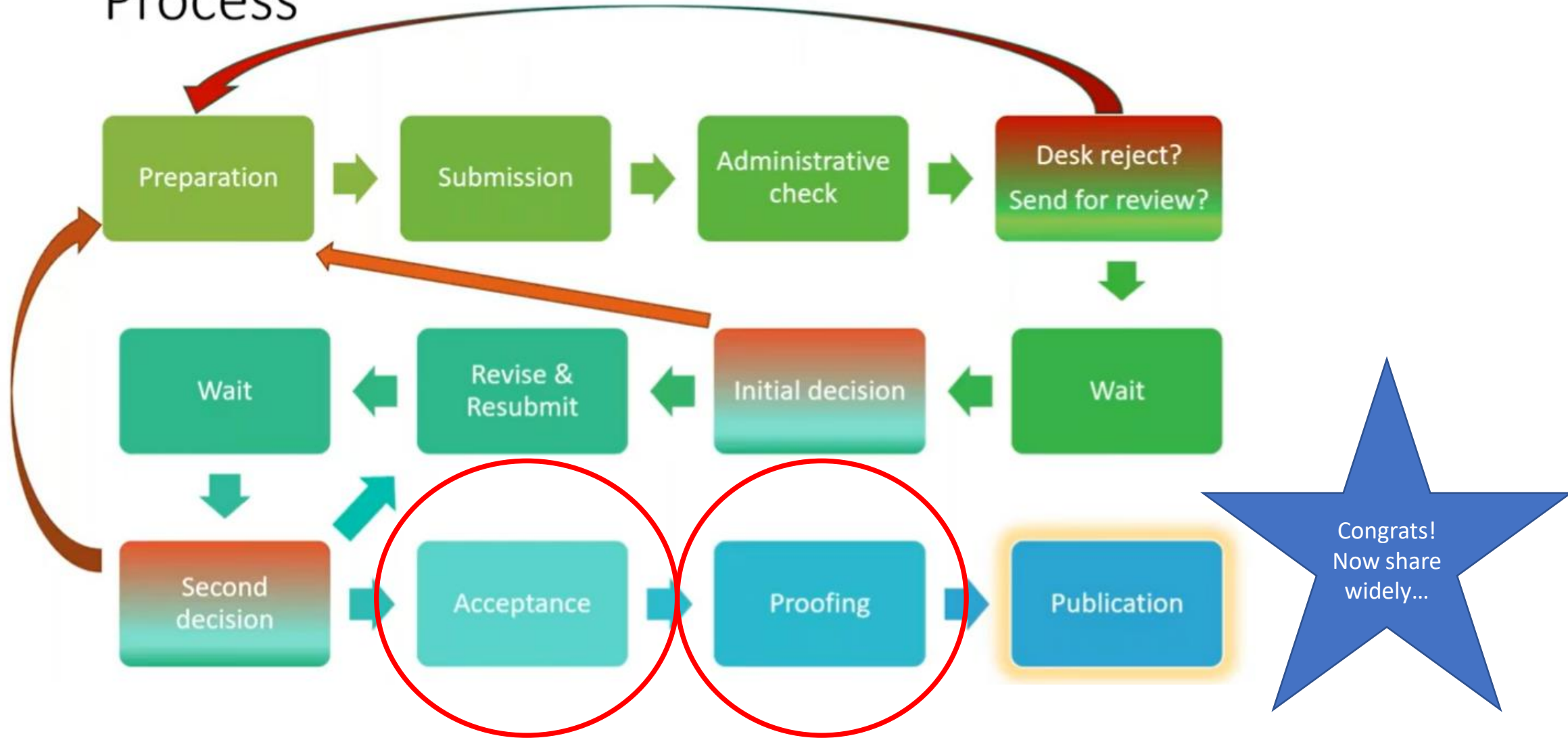


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Journal decision

- Desk reject OR send for review AND
- Reject, accept OR...
 - Revise and resubmit
 - Major revisions
 - Minor revisions
- Address reviewer comments carefully
 - Most substantive critiques
 - Minor critiques
- Response letter
 - Respectfully address each comment, referencing page and line numbers for ease of finding revisions by editors and reviewers
 - Take revisions seriously!

Process



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Resources

From Ruth Meinzen-Dick and Cheryl Doss:

<https://pim.cgiar.org/2020/11/11/publishing-agricultural-development-research-in-social-science-journals/>

Webinar #1: THE JOURNAL PUBLICATION LANDSCAPE

Webinar #2: ADVICE FROM JOURNAL EDITORS

Webinar #3: WRITING AND RESPONDING TO REFEREE REPORTS

Navigating the peer review process:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/Technical-Training/Core-Center-Training/training-modules>

From Els Lecoutere:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-02404-4>

<https://www.elsevier.com/connect/11-steps-to-structuring-a-science-paper-editors-will-take-seriously>

<https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-your-research/writing-your-paper/>

Additional resources

- Writing for Change – Fahamubooks.org
- David K. Evans: The Introduction Formula
- David K. Evans: Journals that Publish Short Papers in Economics (lists word limit of each journal)
- Marc Bellemare: The Conclusion Formula

What support would be most useful to you?



Possible directions for support in 2023

- Peer to peer learning groups
 - Behavior and psychology of writing
 - Technical writing skills
 - Publication process (submission, reviews, etc.)