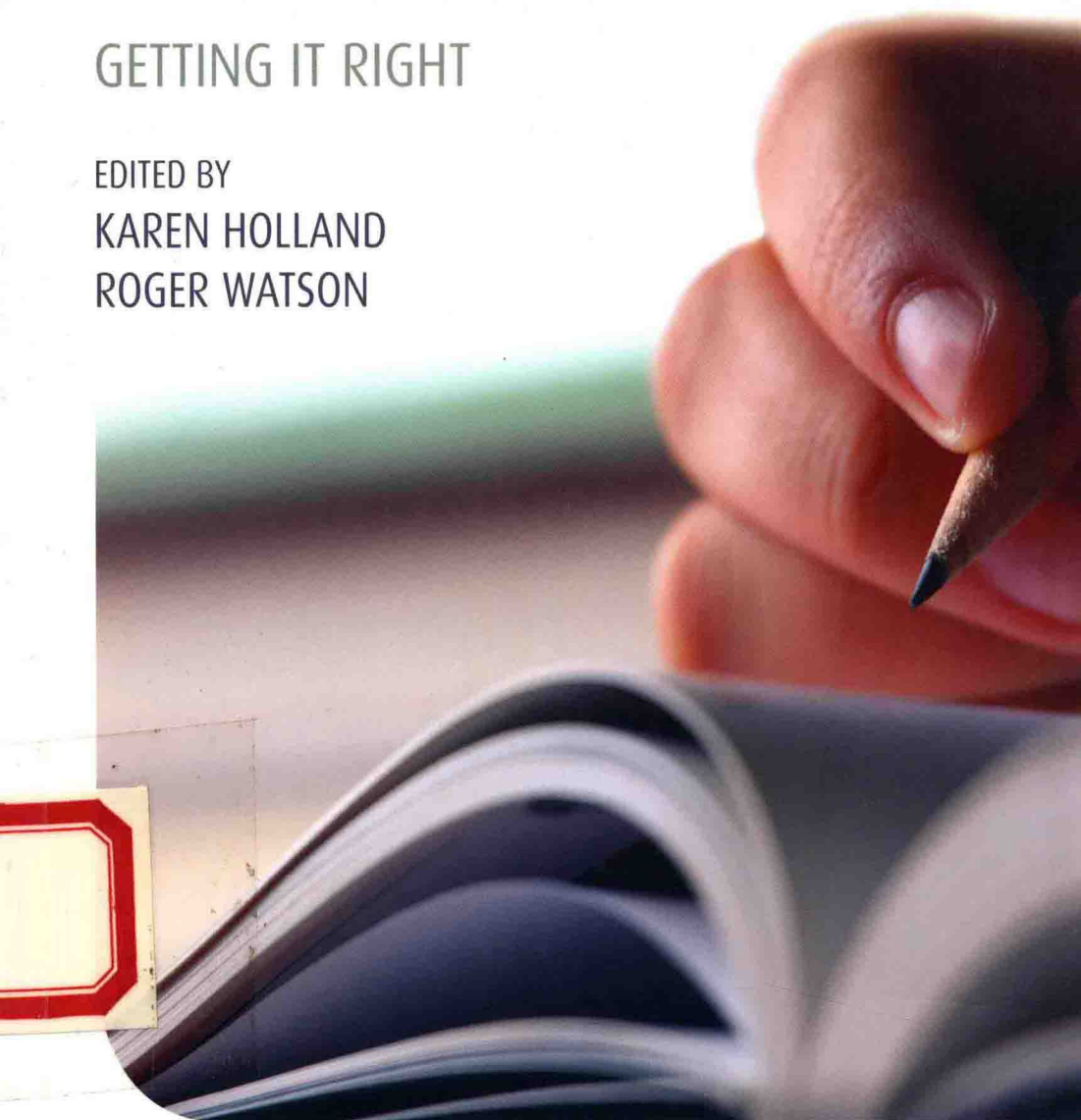




WRITING FOR PUBLICATION IN NURSING AND HEALTHCARE

GETTING IT RIGHT

EDITED BY
KAREN HOLLAND
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Writing for Publication in Nursing and Healthcare

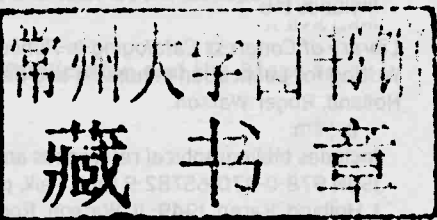
Getting It Right

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This edition first published 2012
© 2012 by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd

Wiley-Blackwell is an imprint of John Wiley & Sons, formed by the merger of Wiley's global Scientific, Technical and Medical business with Blackwell Publishing.

Registered office: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, UK

Editorial offices: 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 2DQ, UK
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Writing for publication in nursing and healthcare : getting it right / edited by Karen Holland, Roger Watson.

p. : cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-470-65782-9 (pbk. : alk. paper)

I. Holland, Karen, 1949- II. Watson, Roger, 1955-

[DNLM: 1. Writing-Nurses' Instruction. 2. Publishing-Nurses' Instruction. WZ 345]

808.06'661-dc23

2012011412

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Cover images: main image - iStockphoto.com/© DNY59; patient/nurse image - iStockphoto.com/© deanm1974

Cover design by Meaden Creative

Set in 9/12.5 pt Interstate Light by Aptara® Inc., New Delhi, India
Printed in Singapore by Ho Printing Singapore Pte Ltd

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Foreword

It is a pleasure and privilege to be asked to write the foreword for this important book. It has arrived at an opportune time when there is a growing interest among health professionals in writing about their work and in understanding the mechanics of publishing.

Nurses and health professionals generally are members of applied disciplines, and the generation of knowledge is of little use if it is not disseminated. Our continued existence as a profession is based entirely on how we can improve the health and well-being of patients, their families and communities. The link between our knowledge base and our practice stands at the core of our survival as a discipline. As a result, we are extending our research and scholarly roles so as to provide evidence that underpins our practice and teaching. However, to produce such evidence without sharing it with others through publication and presentation is a fruitless exercise.

There are many reasons why health professionals publish. These include personal satisfaction, peer recognition or promotion of their career. Increasingly, health professionals in academia are expected to publish to promote scholarship or to have their research assessed. Currently, there are research assessment exercises in Australia, Finland, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom. In each of these, the main element for consideration is publication. The old adage 'publish or perish' is more of a truism now than ever.

Publications take many forms, including everything from books, book chapters, book reviews, journal articles, editorials, conference papers, commentaries and letters. Both Karen Holland and Roger Watson have many years of experience in this field. Not only have they published extensively in all of the formats outlined above, they are also experienced editors and have boundless insight into the editorial process. They have assembled a number of high-profile contributors for this text from across the globe. Chapters cover everything from the basics of starting to write, to how publications are reviewed, to ethical and legal issues. I have always believed that the true experts in a subject are so comfortable with it that they can make it easily understandable. These contributors have this uncanny ability of simplifying the most complex of subjects. They do not have to dress the topic up in jargon and complicated terminology. They are also good storytellers and their stories of how ideas and research findings can be developed into publishable works will make readers come back to this text again and again.

The book is expertly crafted and its easy style and 'readability' are some of its most pleasing features. The activity boxes and key points give structure to the book as well as help engage its readers. Its slim volume will be acceptable to many health professionals who are turned off by some of the more heavier tomes on the subject. The short chapters are interesting and authoritative and can be read on a 'stand-alone' basis, allowing readers to 'dip in and out'.

So to my concluding remarks: I recommend with enthusiasm this text to would-be readers. It is a solid and significant contribution to the on-going development of our professions as generators and disseminators of knowledge.

Professor Hugh McKenna, CBE, PhD, BSc (Hons), RMN, RGN, RNT,
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Preface

This book focuses on all aspects of writing for publication. It will help the reader to develop skills in writing articles, book reviews and other forms of publications but could also be viewed as an aide-memoire for editors and journal/book reviewers. 'Writing for publication' has become one of the most challenging phrases in nursing and midwifery language and practice, and is now seen as one of the essential prerequisites to a successful career in these professions. From personal experience of supporting colleagues to engage in the process of writing and to succeed in achieving their goal of a publication, we have developed various techniques and guidance that we use in workshops, study days and teaching and research activities.

As editors of two international nursing journals, we have also gained insight into and experience in the world of publishing, an experience that most of you reading this book will not have. This role has helped us to develop a range of skills to support individuals in writing for journals and attempting other forms of writing such as books, editorials or other forms of publication. By participating in these activities, it became clear that, despite the fact that there are textbooks that focus on certain aspects of writing for publication, there are few we could use that cover key aspects of both novice and expert needs. This book emerged from this need for a practical rather than theoretical approach to ensuring that, in using its content, individuals would be successful in writing for publication in different ways. This does not mean, however, that the book is without a strong evidence base, and there are many links to additional resources that can be accessed to support the writing and dissemination process. One of the fundamental aspects of any publication activity is also included: the ethical and legal aspects of publishing, which offers an invaluable guide to the pitfalls to avoid in developing good writing for publication practice.

The chapters are written by experts in the field: editors of journals, book authors and reviewers, article authors and reviewers, publishers and end-users of the academic and practice endeavours. They are also from the wider international scholarly community, bringing an added dimension of regional as well as international needs to be considered by the reader and user of the book.

The book offers the following unique aspects of knowledge and skills for successful publication:

- (1) It covers the practical 'how to do it' with the theoretical principles and rules that govern academic writing, publishing and dissemination.

- (2) It can be used by readers worldwide not only in the disciplines of nursing and midwifery but also in other healthcare professions.
- (3) It uses examples to illustrate the practical ways in which abstracts, papers, book reviews and other sorts of publications can be written and disseminated.
- (4) Helpful tips on what to do and what not to do are also included.
- (5) It offers key principles of writing for publication, which can be adapted to different scenarios and opportunities.

There are 16 chapters, each written by colleagues who have achieved varying degrees of success in writing for publication and most importantly the dissemination of knowledge, which has an impact on the various fields of clinical practice as well as education, management and further research. The chapters cover most types of writing for publication activities, and the content can be adapted to suit other forms of writing for publication not covered in depth in this book. A bibliography is offered at the end of the book for more specific reading and guidance.

Chapter 1 offers an explanation of why these chapters are included and our philosophy in writing the book itself, the title of which (*Writing for Publication in Nursing and Healthcare: Getting It Right*) illustrates what we hope will be an invaluable resource for both new and experienced authors in their quest for successful publication activity.

Karen Holland, Editor of *Nurse Education in Practice*
Roger Watson, Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Advanced Nursing*
January 2012

Chapter 1

Acknowledgements

Karen Holland¹ and Roger Watson²

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Our own journey in *Writing for Publication in Nursing and Healthcare* has been one of many challenges in our professional careers, but we have both been fortunate to encounter mentors and support along the way. It is opportune, therefore, that this book especially enables us to thank particular individuals who have been instrumental in promoting the field of nursing and midwifery scholarship internationally.

²Introduction

Roger would like to thank Dr James P. Smith OBE, founding Editor of *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, for the opportunity to become involved with academic publishing and his early and continuing guidance on his career and progress. He would also like to thank Wiley-Blackwell for their continued tolerance and indulgence in his career as an editor.

Karen would like to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the support given by Professor Peter Birchenall in giving her the opportunity 12 years ago to learn alongside him how to become an editor. His support and guidance enabled her to have the confidence to promote the development of *Nurse Education in Practice* (an Elsevier journal) and become its first editor.

We would both like to thank all our chapter contributors who have also been on their own 'writing journeys', and also make a significant contribution to the promotion of good practice in various forms of publications and scholarship. We are grateful that they have been able to find the time to share their knowledge and experience with us and you, the reader of this book.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge Magenta Styles from Wiley-Blackwell who has given us this opportunity to be self-indulgent and edit a book on a topic close to our interests and enjoyment, and to the whole of the publication team, especially Sarah Claridge (Editorial Assistant) for her patience and support, Nick and Amit for their support with the 'finishing touches' of editing and proof reading processes, and also Liz Lyons for the fabulous book cover design.

Karen Holland, Editor of *Nurse Education in Practice*
Roger Watson, Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Advanced Nursing*

Writing for Publication in Nursing and Healthcare: Writing a Book, 2013 Edition.

Edited by Karen Holland and Roger Watson.

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