

# Publishing Your Research

Lori A. Clarke  
University of  
Massachusetts Amherst

Meredith Ringel Morris  
Google  
Research



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Computing Research Association  
Widening Participation

# Meredith Ringel Morris

- PhD in CS from Stanford in 2006 (focus = HCI)
- 14+ years at Microsoft Research, now Google
- Affiliate Prof. at UW CSE & iSchool
- ACM Fellow, SIGCHI Academy
- Program Chair for CHI, CSCW, ASSETS, etc.
- TOCHI Editorial Board
- 100+ papers including several Best Paper and Lasting Impact Awards



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# Lori A. Clarke

- Academic career: U. of Massachusetts Amherst
- Professional service: vice chair CRA, co-chair CRA-W, ACM SigSOFT Chair, General Chair ICSE, Prog Ch ICSE, ISSTA, etc.
- University Service: Chair 2011-2015, Assoc Chair 1981-1985
- Research: Software Engineering (Current focus on Medical Safety)
- Fellow ACM and IEEE, SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award

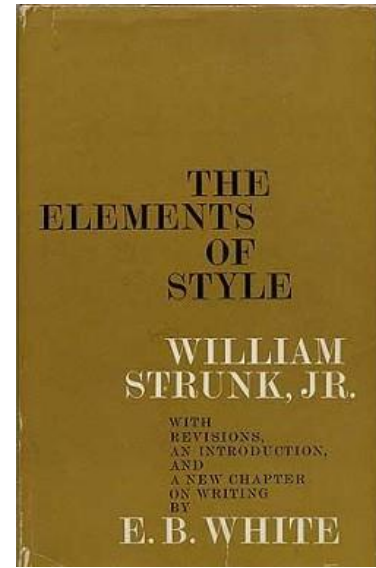


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# Writing Resources

- writing courses at your university
- reference books (Strunk & White)
- professional or pro bono proofreaders
  - Can you or your advisor apply for funding for this type of resource?
  - Free resources often include paper mentoring programs offered by conferences & professional societies



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# Building Publishing Muscle

- Non-Archival Publications
  - Doctoral Symposia
  - Poster Abstracts
  - Workshop papers
- Archival Publications
  - Full-length Conference and Journal Papers



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# Choosing Among Publishing Venues

- Non-Archival Publications
  - Doctoral Symposia
  - Poster Abstracts
  - Workshop papers
- Archival Publications
  - Full-length Conference and Journal Papers

- Maturity of the work
- Rigor of reviewing
- Prestige of the venue
- Opportunities for networking



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# Know Your Audience

- Read lots of papers from the target venue
- Attend the venue (if a conference)
- Review for the venue if possible (ask your advisor to recommend you for this)
- Program Committee meetings
  - Senior students may get invited if their advisor pulls strings
  - You may be able to observe as a student volunteer



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# Start Early

- The more iterations, the stronger the paper
- Set an internal deadline with your advisor
- When is a draft “advisor ready”? Perfection isn’t expected
- Leave ample time for advisor and peer feedback, making submissions accessible, creation of video or other supplementary materials



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# Communicate with Co-Authors

- Agree on deadlines (for outline, drafts of sections, full draft, feedback, etc.)
- Agree on division of labor
- Be explicit about authorship (who & in what order)
  - For interdisciplinary work, be aware that different communities have different customs



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# Make an Outline

- Iterate and agree on the outline with your advisor before you start writing
- You don't need to fill in the sections in order!
  - Sections I often find easier to write first: Related Work, Methods, Results
  - Sections I often save until later: Introduction, Discussion



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# Revise, Revise, Revise

- Easier to revise an outline than carefully crafted text
- Can save the Introduction to later, but agree on the major points: problem being addressed, weaknesses of previous work, contributions of this paper, ensuing sections
- Nail down terminology
- Create figures to be included



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# But, things might change

- Writing a paper sometimes helps you see the work in a new light
  - Need to be explicit about underlying assumptions
  - Often, need to explain work to non-experts in this area
  - Need to flesh out details that “seemed” clear
- Might lead to changes in the outline, the figures, even the authorship



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# About Deadlines

- What to do if the submission site crashes near the deadline...
- When is it OK to request an extension?



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# Metadata Matters

- Abstract Pre-Registration
- Keywords = Reviewer Matching
- What name should you publish under?



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# Rebuttals

- Sleep on it!
- What if your scores are very low or high?
- Prioritize reviewers' comments & group by themes
- As with all writing, start early, get feedback, iterate
- More at [aka.ms/rebuttals](https://aka.ms/rebuttals)



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# Things to Avoid

- Plagiarism (including self-plagiarism)
- Dual submissions
- All-nighters (start early, iterate often!)
- Complaining about reviews on social media
- Submitting without knowledge of advisor/co-authors



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# Questions?



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