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# From Draft to Print: The Educational Journey of Publishing in Genealogy Journals

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Discover the educational journey from draft to print, mastering publication processes, and applying expert feedback to elevate the quality of your genealogical research.

## WHY PUBLISH?

- Educational Value: Learn through expert editorial feedback.
- Contribute to Scholarship: Share unique research to advance the field.
- Professional Credibility: Build your reputation as a genealogist.
- Preservation: Ensure your research is accessible .

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT VENUE:

- The “Big 5” journals are excellent choices for complex, methodology-driven studies or extensive well-research genealogies.
- State journals or magazines are best for research that is focused on local record groups or are less-complex .
- Consider attaching a proof argument to the *FamilySearch* Family Tree.

### The Big 5 Journals

- *National Genealogical Society Quarterly (NGSQ)*
- *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (The Register)*
- *The NYG&B Record (The Record)*
- *The American Genealogist (TAG)*
- *The Genealogist*

## TIPS FOR RECEIVING FEEDBACK

- Be open to constructive criticism. Don't take feedback personally—view it as an opportunity for growth.
- Take time to process feedback before responding.
- Use constructive critiques to strengthen your analysis and argument.

## TYPICAL PUBLISHING PROCESS

1. You submit your initial manuscript to a journal. Only submit to one journal at a time.
2. The editor reviews your submission to determine if it's a potential fit for their publication.
3. If it is, they send it out for double-blind peer review. Typically, two or three experts evaluate your work. They provide feedback on whether it fits the journal's standards and offer suggestions for improvement.
4. If the editor is still interested, they'll likely request revisions based on the peer review feedback—this is completely normal. After revising, you submit a second draft.
5. The editor then decides whether to move forward with publishing your article. If so, they will offer you a contract.
6. The editor will create their own edited version of your article.
7. They will collaborate with others, such as copy editors, citation specialists, and proofreaders, to refine your article. You'll likely review edits during this stage as well.
8. Finally, your work will be published, and you'll see your research in print!

## YOU CAN DO THIS!

Publishing is a journey that builds your expertise over time. Each article you write strengthens your ability to take on more ambitious projects.

The path to publication isn't always smooth. Challenges like rejections or requests for revisions are part of the process.

Growth takes time, but with each article, your skills and confidence will improve.

Most importantly, remember that your work matters. By publishing, you're not just achieving a personal milestone—you're contributing to preserving history for future generations. Your work matters!

## CHECKLIST: IS IT READY TO SUBMIT?

- ✓ **Read Recent Issues:** Familiarize yourself with the journal's style and focus.
- ✓ **Review Author Guidelines:** Ensure your manuscript aligns with submission requirements.
- ✓ **Meet the GPS:** Compare your written conclusion to the Genealogical Proof Standard.
- ✓ **Polish Your Writing:** Edit for clarity, conciseness, and logical flow.
- ✓ **Incorporate Feedback:** Consider and incorporate critiques from peers.

## MY PROCESS FOR PROCESS FEEDBACK

1. **Review feedback:** Reading through it thoroughly. Set it aside for a period of time, if needed
2. **Organize Feedback:** Copy and paste it into a spreadsheet. Categorize the comments by GPS components.
3. **Edit manuscript:** Start with additional research, then reorganization, then analysis and clarity of writing, and finish with smaller details like citations.

## REFLECT ON FEEDBACK

- What worked?
- What needed improvement?
- How can you grow?

## RESOURCES

Board for Certification of Genealogists. *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd edition revised. Nashville, Tenn.: Ancestry, 2021.

Green, Shannon. "The Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS): A Review." 17 Jan. 2024. *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*. <https://familytreewebinars.com/> : 2024.

Jones, Thomas W. "Proof Arguments & Case Studies." Elizabeth Shown Mills, ed. *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2018. Pages 475-500.

\_\_\_\_\_. "[Writing and Publishing for Genealogists](#)." Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). Offered 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. Arlington, VA : National Genealogical Society, 2013.

Joyce, Jan. "[Assemblage: Preparing, Writing, and Revising Proof Arguments](#)." Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG). Offered 2024.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. Fourth edition. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2024.

ProGen Study Groups. Virtual course. <https://progenstudygroups.com/>

**What research are you most proud of, and how could publishing it benefit you and the community?**