



The Royal Society of Queensland

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PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

As scientific knowledge is recorded, it builds on past knowledge and shares new knowledge. Knowledge expands exponentially and indefinitely. Workshops and conferences are important vehicles for sharing knowledge.

Many worthy presentations made at conferences are, however, not preserved beyond the date of the event and not accessible to potential beneficiaries other than the attendees. There are many thoroughly understandable reasons, including:

- the organisers may not wish to take on the workload or financial burden of producing conference proceedings;
- the project may not be completed, and publication would be premature;
- the presentation may be in PowerPoint form not acceptable to scientific outlets;
- the presentation may require additional editing for a wider audience; ...

This paper outlines the options available for people creating original knowledge through field or laboratory studies in the natural sciences in Queensland to perpetuate their work and bring it to a wider audience.

Citizen scientists in particular are often challenged to meet the orthodox standards of scientific publication, which require skills different from those necessary to conduct – or even simply enjoy – field observations.

This brief outline is produced by [The Royal Society of Queensland](http://www.royalsocietyqld.org.au), the State's oldest scientific academy, in its capacity as host of the [Queensland Science Network](http://www.queenslandsciencenetwork.org.au), a collaboration between some 26 scientific and natural history organisations.

Publication on the Queensland Science Network Website

QSN offers a platform for publishing a wide range of knowledge materials that are not destined for a scientific journal. Material can include conference papers, reports of field excursions, PowerPoint presentations, photographs, audiovisuals, datasets and anecdotes. It does not usually re-publish material that has already appeared in a scientific journal or one of the newsletters or magazines published by a member group.

It is particularly keen to revive materials not otherwise accessible in digital form, such as the [Mulga Lands Information Hub](http://www.mulgalands.com.au) or the [University of Queensland seismology database](http://www.uq.edu.au/seismology).

QSN can establish a dedicated page for a conference. Materials published there will be lightly edited for style and expression, but need not peer-reviewed.

Publication in a scientific journal

Publication in a peer-reviewed journal gives a paper scientific status and ensures that it is indexed in international search engines like [Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com), [Scopus](http://scopus.com) and [Informit](http://informa.com). It establishes precedence and validates findings through review by others expert in the field (commonly, two anonymous referees). However, the criteria for acceptance by journal are often restrictive and difficult for a citizen scientist to satisfy. Also, fieldwork of primarily local or Queensland significance may not satisfy the editors of an international journal. Scientific journals available include:

[Proceedings of The Royal Society of Queensland](#). In continuous publication since 1884. Accepts not only research articles in traditional scientific format but also opinion pieces, short communications, historical reviews and abstracts of student dissertations.

[Sunbird](#), published by Birds Queensland, with particular reference to the birds of Queensland and adjacent northern Australia. Covers all aspects of ornithology, e.g. life history, taxonomy, distribution, behaviour and ecology.

The Entomological Society of Queensland publishes [Australian Entomologist](#) on behalf of the national entomological fraternity. It is devoted to entomology of the Australian region, including New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the south-western Pacific.

The [Australian Journal of Earth Sciences](#) is the official journal of the Geological Society of Australia.

[The Queensland Naturalist](#) is the official journal of The Queensland Naturalists' Club, covering a wide range of natural history subjects.

Key to choosing an outlet for a conference presentation

1. Does the organiser intend to publish proceedings?
 - a. If so, prepare your presentation for that outlet.
 - b. If not, or if your presentation does not meet the criteria, go to 2.
2. Is your material likely to meet the standards for scientific publication? (This requires not just substantial original data but also nesting the work within a scholarly framework including linkages to previous work by other authors).
 - a. If so, consult the Editor of a selected journal and submit if it is likely to meet the journal's criteria.
 - b. If so, but one Editor has rejected the paper because it is out of scope, revise and submit to a different journal. (Risk of rejection should not deter authors. Typically, a third of articles are rejected, but comments from reviewers can be very helpful).
 - c. If not, go to 3.
3. Can your material be prepared in narrative format rather than as data or data analysis?
 - a. If so, consider publishing the material in one of the magazines of a QSN member group such as *Wildlife Australia*.
 - b. If not, go to 4.
4. Is your material likely to be of primarily short-term interest?
 - a. If so, consider publishing on a member group's website, 26 available. (Web-publication does not imply lack of rigour or reliability. Contributions such as personal reminiscences, newspaper articles and incomplete research may all be thoroughly authoritative).
 - b. If not, consider publishing on the Queensland Science Network site.

The Queensland Science Network is available to any member of a participating society as well as publishing general science and data that are not otherwise accessible.

Browse the QSN website <https://scienceqld.org>, and in particular hover over the Resources tab to view the range of categories of material published on QSN. Then send a message to the Policy Coordinator, The Royal Society of Queensland policy@royalsocietyqld.org.au seeking advice about acceptability and format.