

Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEW . . .

How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper, 2nd Ed., Robert A. Day. ISI Press, 3501 Market St., University City Sciences Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, U.S.A. 1983. 175 pp. 11 tables. 14 illus. Paper \$11.95, cloth \$17.95 US.

Plainly and simply, if you write scientific papers or teach a technical writing course, get/adopt this book. It is great! This edition is slightly expanded over edition one (three new chapters and other new material), but if your old copy has been used as much as mine, it's time to replace it anyway.

Day's writing is clear, concise, organized, and funny. The 29 short chapters will guide you in virtually every detail of getting your papers published. Here are some chapter highlights: Ch. 1. What is a Scientific Paper? ("... if the ingredients are properly organized, the paper will virtually write itself"). Ch. 2. How to Prepare the Title (most are too long). Ch. 5. How to Prepare the Abstract (not over 250 words. "Usually, a good Abstract is followed by a good paper ..."). Ch. 6. How to Write the Introduction (among other rules, "it should state the principal results ..."). Ch. 7. How to ... Materials and Methods ("give a copy of your finished manuscript to a colleague and ask if he or she could repeat the experiments"). Ch. 8. Results ("present representative data rather than

endlessly *repetitive* data"). Ch. 9. Discussion (heed Day's six injunctions that will keep "the clear stream of the discussion" from ending "in a swampy delta"). Ch. 11. Literature Cited (contains an interesting section on the pros, cons and realities of various citation systems). Ch. 12. How to Design Effective Tables and (Ch. 13) Illustrations ("If the numbers just sit there with no exciting trend in evidence," ... use the table approach). Ch. 15. Where and How to Submit the Manuscript ("If you submit ... to a wrong journal, one of three things can happen, all bad"). Ch. 17. The Publishing Process ("... if you read proof ... at the same speed that you read scientific papers, you ... miss 90% of the typographical errors"). Ch. 23. How to Write a Thesis ("Most 200-page theses I have seen are composed of maybe 50 pages of good science"). Ch. 26. Use and Misuse of English (read the "Ten Commandments of Good Writing"). Ch. 27. Avoiding Jargon ("Writers never *use* anything—they *utilize*").

Many anonymous reviewers have taken me to task, sometimes quite bluntly (seldom with humor), for vagaries in my writing. Thanks to Day, I'm improving. You can too. Buy the book.

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BOOK REVIEW . . .

The Red Fox: Symposium on Behavior and Ecology, E. Zimen, ed. Dr. W. Junk B.V. Publishers, P.O. Box 13713, 2501 ES, The Hague, The Netherlands. 1980. 292 pp. \$73.50 US; 140 Dutch Guilders.

The continued threat of fox rabies in Europe prompted the gathering of the leading fox biologists and rabies experts in Europe to the Saarbrücken Fox Colloquium in January 1979. Eighteen papers presented at that meeting are included in this book along with introductory and closing remarks by the editor. Two of the papers are not in English.

Fourteen papers dealing with fox biology make up 235 of the 285 pages. The final five chapters discuss the role of the fox in rabies in Europe.

Good data on fox habitat requirements are presented by H. G. Lloyd. Three chapters on food habits include one paper by D. Sequiera that has an excellent bibliography of 119 references. Population dynamics is discussed in three papers while social factors affecting reproduction is presented in the longest chapter of 52 pages. This latter paper, although detailed, suggests more questions than answers. Two chapters deal with incomplete research projects which could have been omitted.

The papers on rabies are adequate reference material for those interested in the European

rabies problem. Dr. Wandelaar presents a good review of the epidemiology of fox rabies with 76 references. Drs. Bogel and Moegle discuss the spread of the wildlife epizootic in Germany with the fox population dynamics in respect to rabies given for France by Drs. Artois and Andral. One paper dealing with the epizootiology and control of rabies in Central Europe suggests that rabies infection does not continue in European mustelids in the absence of fox rabies because mustelids excrete significantly less infectious virus in their saliva. A further postulate is that European hamsters are not important in the epizootiology of rabies due to their resistance to infection and lack of high infectious titers in the salivary glands. These two theories, both contrary to North American studies, make for interesting, albeit conjectural, reading.

In reading the papers, one has the feeling that studies on fox biology remain a fertile field for investigation. Since all wildlife disease studies require a team approach involving but not limited to the biologist and the health scientist, this book would be interesting to the wildlife disease student and investigator, irrespective of their interest in rabies.

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