Tips and Tricks in Writing Review Article

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ABSTRACT

Review article or literature review actually is the simplest form of writing compared to a case report or study report. The writing process begins at pointing out topics to be written and informed to readers. The next step after the topic has been selected is to find literatures related to the article review writing. Principally, article writing plays an essential part in a doctor’s life, whether as a specialist or consultant. And the most important is the desire to publish the article review.

Key words: review article, topic, literature.

INTRODUCTION

Writing an article, whether scientific or non-scientific, is an activity that requires particular time and place. In fact, a doctor, especially who has completed his/her Specialist Training, is used to writing activities. These writing activities are related with the assignments that must be done, so there is a coercive aspect here. Apart from the coercive aspect, for doctors writing is not an issue.

Review article or literature review actually is the simplest form of writing compared with a case report or research report. All you have to do is finding the reference that will be reviewed. Generally in composing a review article about a disease, the composition is clear. Acknowledgement from article writing, whichever the form, is whether the article has published in a scientific journal or mass media, hence more people read your article. Basically, every doctor or specialist has gone through a writing process during his/her studies and every article created during the study process actually might be sent and published on a scientific journal. Sometimes these things are neglected. After finishing the literature review, it is presented not more than as an assignment. As a matter of fact, literature reviews might be published on a scientific journal.

TYPES OF REVIEW ARTICLE

A review article always has a part in every journal, either in local or international journals. When we take a glimpse on prominent medical journals, such as New England Journal of Medicine, British Medical Journal, and Lancet, they always give a place for article reviews.

There are three types of article reviews, i.e. the literature review, evidence based clinical review, and meta-analysis. A literature review discusses recent diagnosis or therapy. Literature reviews usually are completed by residents as part of their specialist training. The topics are usually general, such as diagnosis and management of Leptospirosis, diagnosis and management of Helicobacter pylori, etc. The construction of literature review by and large consists of epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestation, diagnosis, complication and management, and prognosis.

The next type of review article is the evidence-based clinical review. This kind of review judges the quality of a trial and answers questions about clinical issues. The questions are not only analyzing the effectiveness of a medicine but also the proper diagnosis based on evidence based medicine.

The last one is the meta-analysis. A meta-analysis is a method to explore study results and summarize it in a conclusion.

From all the forms of review articles, the literature review is the simplest form of review article to be composed. In composing a review article, take into considerations the latest articles acquired in writing your article. The internet by far helps us in browsing certain topics that we need. A few journal websites allow you to download articles free of charge.

STEPS IN COMPOSING REVIEW ARTICLES

Topic Assessment

Before we start to write a review article, we must first decide on the topic of the review article. Topics might arise either from an interesting case or a series of cases occurred in daily practices. There are certain aspects we want to explore more. At this stage, actually we are
able to start literature analysis considering literature browsing through the internet is very easy nowadays. By means of WiFi or cellular phone provider which provides internet connections, internet browsing for writing resources is not a problem.

Several accessible websites are PubMed, MDConsult, Google. Nowadays the PAPDI official website is accessible via PubMed. Other than several websites mentioned previously, several recognized journals provide full text articles for free of charge, namely New England Journal Medicine, British Medical Journal, Free Medical Journal, etc.

We can learn a lot from topic browsing, such as how other scientists deal with a problem.

**How to Transform a Topic Into an Article**

A topic has been accepted and the literatures have been reviewed, the next step is to start writing. As a first step, we can ponder how those writers give their explanations on the topic. At this step, we could take some review article related to our topic.

After we get the construction of our article, we start to complete these structures. In the writing process, we should try to combine with local data so that we can have a comprehensive discussion on the topic.

**SOME REVIEW ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY THIS AUTHOR**

2. Pathogenesis and diagnosis of Leptospirosis. MKI December 1997
3. Pneumonia in geriatrics. MKI 1999
8. Organic dyspepsia does not affect fasting rites. Medical Tribune 2002
9. *Helicobacter pylori*: Diagnosis and treatment, Medical progress July 2001

**CONCLUSION**

For a doctor, especially a specialist, writing a review article is not an issue. Because during the whole education process, from general practitioner through specialist training, a doctor is exposed to the writing process as part of their assignments. As a consultant who sometimes is asked to deliver a speech in scientific meetings, preparing a review article is also not a big deal. While preparing a paper for a conference or seminar, those papers actually might be prepared as if they are going to be published on a scientific journal. Enjoy your writing!

**REFERENCES**