



中國地質大學
CHINA UNIVERSITY OF GEOSCIENCES

“国际学生学术能力提升工程”系列讲座

丝路博士论坛

SILK ROAD DOCTOR FORUM

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Host:

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SILK ROAD DOCTOR FORUM

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH THE JOURNAL'S EDITOR

- **Presenter:** **Dr. Innocent Ndikubwimana**
- **Faculty:** **Environmental Studies**
- **Speciality :** **Environmental Science and Engineering**
- **Supervisor:** **Prof. Mao Xumei**

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Introduction

- Effective communication with the journal's editor is very important in the publication process.
- The editors of the highly ranked journals are experts in our targeted domains and have tight schedules (if I may say so)
- It is therefore very crucial to clearly express the importance of our work and/or the novelty or contribution
- Cover letters and abstracts should be composed in a way that neatly summarize the whole work and be attractive

Parts of the manuscripts' cover letter

Manuscripts cover letters are made of three main parts:

- 1.The Introduction
- 2.Main body of the letter
- 3.Conclusion

The introduction part

- In this part it is advised to find a way to state:
 - ❖ The title of the manuscript
 - ❖ The journal you are submitting to
 - ❖ The originality of the work
 - ❖ And why you think the journal should consider your work

Main body

- This part is much similar to the abstract of the manuscript, therefore clearly talk about:
 - ❖ The objectives/importance of the work
 - ❖ the methodology
 - ❖ important results/observations
 - ❖ Comparison to previous publications

Concluding part

- Make sure to finish your letter with some phrases that recalls why the journal should consider your work
- Insist on the novelty or contribution your work is bringing to the audience of the journal

Example:

We think that the scientific novelty of analysing the differences in estimated temperature when various geothermometers are applied to same geothermal water sample together with hydrochemical and isotopic studies that revealed the geofluid evolution is meaningful to the audience of *hydrogeology Journal*. We hope that you will find this manuscript suitable for publication. We appreciate your consideration of this manuscript and look forward to hearing from you regarding its acceptance for publication

Abstracts

- Be precise, concise and make sure that you shortly tell:
 - The gap in the past-researches you work is going to cover (Why did you do the work?)
 - What methodology you used
 - What are the results (important ones)
 - What to learn from your work
 - Finish by reminding the importance of the work

The abstract and main body of the cover letter may have similar contents, find different wording to express your work.

Reviewers and Editor comments

- After the manuscript has been reviewed, we often receive comments and suggestions. Answering to the comments in proper way quickens the acceptance of the manuscripts.
 1. Respond in a timely and organized manner
 2. Show your appreciation: When responding to the reviews, make it a priority to thank the reviewer
 3. Respond professionally with authenticity
 4. Take action. Correct any organizational/technical problems in reviews

5. Even If the Reviewer Is Wrong, It Does Not Mean You Are Right

So, look first at what you can do to improve the paper and satisfy the reviewer, not explain to the reviewer how he or she is wrong.

Reviewers and Editor comments

6. Choose Your Battles Wisely

If your scientific paper is typical, the reviewers will ask you to make more than one modification. Some changes you will agree are worthwhile, some you will think are irrelevant, and some you will disagree with. Even if you do not fully agree with the reviewers on some points, you need to choose your battles wisely. If a change to a sentence or paragraph requested by the reviewer does not affect the intended meaning, do your best to make the change.

Some examples

Introduction

Please find enclosed the electronic version of our manuscript “Geothermal evolution of deep parent geofluid with geothermometers in west Guangdong, China: Evidence of water chemistry and stable isotopes” to be considered for publication in *hydrogeology Journal*. This manuscript is an original work that has not been published elsewhere or under consideration for publication elsewhere. The manuscript reveals that the evolution of geothermal fluids can be evaluated using observed discrepancies in estimated temperature when various solutes geothermometers are applied.

Same examples

- Body

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) play a crucial role in contaminants transformation in aqueous environment. In addition to the photolytic production, ROS in dark environments has attracted great interests in recent years. It has been documented that perturbation of anoxic environments by O_2 is an important mechanism of abiotic $\bullet OH$ production under dark conditions. In addition to the perturbation of anoxic environments by O_2 , perturbation of oxic systems by reduced species is very common in both natural and engineered systems. However, whether $\bullet OH$ can be produced when oxic systems is perturbed by reduced species remains unexplored. To fill this gap, we employed sulfide as a model reduced species, reacted sulfide with Fe(III) oxyhydroxides under neutral and oxic condition, and measured $\bullet OH$ production in the suspension. The mechanisms of $\bullet OH$ production were elucidated. Our key findings are: (1) sulfide can drive $\bullet OH$ production in Fe(III) oxyhydroxides suspension under oxic and neutral conditions; (2) $\bullet OH$ production was attributed to the generation of surface-bound Fe(II), most likely in the form of $>Fe(II)-OH_2^+$, and FeS from the reactions between sulfide and Fe(III), followed by activation of O_2 by the Fe(II) species; and (3) the generated $\bullet OH$ can oxidize the coexisting organic contaminants under certain conditions.

Understanding of $\bullet OH$ production in Fe(III)/ O_2 systems perturbed by reduced species may improve the fundamental knowledge on abiotic $\bullet OH$ production as well as contaminants transformation in dark systems. Such systems include shallow aquifers, soils/sediments, hot springs and oxic environments connected to engineered systems.

Same examples

- Conclusion

We think that the scientific novelty of hydroxyl radicals production from sulfide reaction with Fe(III)/O₂ systems and related mechanism is meaningful to the audience of *Water Research*. We hope that you will find this manuscript suitable for publication. We appreciate your consideration of this manuscript and look forward to hearing from you regarding its acceptance for publication.

To conclude

- Effective way of writing a cover letter has been discussed
 - A good abstract has been introduced
 - Reviewer comments and how to handle them has been shared
- “Publishing is a priority” Wish each everyone success

Thank you for your Attention