

## BOOK REVIEW

Dinu V., Săvoiu G. and Dabija D.-C. (2016). *A conceive, a redacta și a publica un articol științific. O abordare în contextul cercetării științifice* [Conceiving, Writing and Publishing a Scientific Paper. An approach in the context of economic research], București, Editura ASE

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The structure of the book comprises five chapters, each of which addresses fundamental aspects concerning scientific research and the publication of its results:

Chapter I (authored by Gheorghe SĂVOIU) – *Economic research and communicating its results in the general context of scientific research*

Chapter II (authored by Vasile DINU) – *Structure of, and optimization of citation in a scientific paper*

Chapter III (authored by Vasile DINU) – *Writing a scientific article*

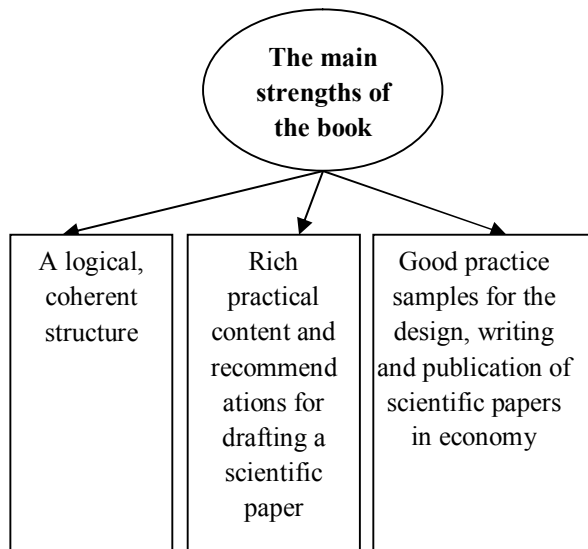
Chapter IV (authored by Gheorghe SĂVOIU) – *Plagiarism, anti-plagiarism legislation and research ethics*

Chapter V (authored by Dan-Cristian DABIJA) – *Publishing a paper in the field of economic sciences*

One can identify several categories of users, as well as the situations where the information in this book can be particularly useful.

- a) For students in economics, who aim to develop the themes / projects involving a practical approach, and their dissertations.
- b) To MA students, who aim to acquire the skills needed in basic scientific research, and for the elaboration of their dissertations.
- c) For doctoral students, who aim to develop their PhD drafts, the related scientific articles, and the PhD thesis in experimental research;
- d) For teachers and scientists, helping them to design, draft and publish their scientific articles in the field of economics.

The main strengths of this book are summarized in Fig. 1



**Fig. 1 – The main strengths of the book**

**Chapter 1 – *Economic research and communicating its results in the general context of scientific research*** is an introductory, and yet essential chapter, because the authors address the elements necessary for knowing the environment of scientific research (insisting on the peculiarities of

research in economics), including the steps of scientific research and categories of scientific papers.

The stages of scientific research are defined as follows:

- I. The preliminary stage, or observation (which brings together unites the preparatory stages of research);
- II. The stage of formulating the hypothesis (investigation proper);
- III. The stage of tests and experiments (validating / invalidating the hypotheses);
- IV. The stage of predictions (which shows the finality of the research for it to be put to best use).

The four main categories of scientific materials referred to are:

- a). Pre-doctoral and doctoral students' scientific papers, as well as postdoctoral professorial papers: graduation papers, dissertations, PhD theses, habilitation dissertations.
- b). Papers or scientific publications related to education and discipline-related teaching research: project proposals, grants and research contracts, studies, articles, papers, textbooks, university courses, books, essays and monographs, etc.
- c). Academic papers or publications meant to popularize scientific aspects in a classical manner: project proposals, grants and research contracts, final research reports, studies, papers, articles, treatises, academic courses, dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.
- d). Modern scientific papers and publications referring to the results of research: scientific papers that exploit new technologies exemplified in e-books, international databases, virtual encyclopedias, etc.

**Chapter 2 – Structure of, and optimization of citation in a scientific paper** presents the basic requirements of writing a scientific article.

A scientific paper or article must contain:

- pre-text elements (title, author / authors, abstract, keywords, JEL classification);
- textual elements (introduction, the main body of the paper, conclusions);
- post-text elements (bibliography / references, annexes).

These structural elements are described in detail and illustrated, as the authors include both recommendations on organization, logic, style and expression, and certain rules that can represent a strategy to optimize the citation, so as to increase the visibility of scientific work.

**Chapter 3 – Writing a scientific article** presents a number of issues to be considered in writing and formulating any scientific paper or article. Compliance with these basic rules ensures, on the one hand, a successful form of the paper, and, on the other hand, helps to eliminate the risks of plagiarism. Writing a scientific article essentially requires the author to know: the academic style of writing, the methodology of scientific research, and who are the readers it addresses.

The scientific style used in writing a paper or article should facilitate the correct understanding of the text by the readers. In this chapter the principles are presented that have to be taken into account by the author in writing a scientific article in the field of economics.

Citing and writing the literature references or bibliography is an important part of writing a paper since the relevance of

the works consulted by the author is publicly recognized. Common practice has imposed several variants of bibliography writing, two of which are detailed in this book: the author-number system, and the author-date system (or the Harvard system). In this chapter concrete examples are presented of how to write the citations, thus increasing its usefulness to researchers.

**Chapter 4 – Plagiarism, anti-plagiarism legislation and research ethics** starts from conceptual delimitations concerning the original work and plagiarism, and presents a number of issues concerning the legislation designed to combat plagiarism, and the typological diversity of plagiarism. Since it is generally preferable to prevent problems appearing, the paper presents a series of recommendations meant to prevent and avoid plagiarism. Any discussion of plagiarism cannot exclude the people involved. Thus one can distinguish the plagiarist, the author whose work was plagiarized, and the accomplice to plagiarism or the promotant of plagiarism. In this chapter are also presented the main types of plagiarism, so the paper is useful to both those who write scientific articles, and the reviewers.

**Chapter 5 – Publishing a paper in the field of economic sciences** starts from the evaluation of scientific performance in the economics academia. The evaluation criteria generally guide the behaviour of academics and researchers who are trying to fulfill the standards of performance in current assessments and with a view to get professional promotion. One of the main evaluation criteria is represented by the scientific research conducted and the papers published. Any human activity has a quantitative and a qualitative side. The evaluation criteria should favour the qualitative side of scientific research. Promoting quantity instead of quality can generate "production" of papers having little scientific value, or even plagiarized papers.

This chapter guides researchers wishing to publish a scientific article in the economic field by presenting:

- the main international databases that index journals in the field of economics;
- key aspects concerning the scientific profile of a journal;
- publishers and publishing groups in the field of economic sciences;
- relevant criteria in choosing economics journals.

## Conclusions

The results of scientific research are widely disseminated for both the public and the scientific community, essentially through being published in the scientific literature. Technological developments in the domain of communication of information have caused an increased importance of scientific papers or articles in disseminating research results to the detriment of their publication in books. When envisioning and preparing the publication of a scientific paper a number of basic rules must be respected, which concern, on the one hand, the style of writing, and, on the other hand, the ethics of research.

In the current context, where academia is marked by scandals of plagiarism, the paper presented is characterized by both utility and uniqueness, and represents a genuine

guide for researchers. The paper is useful to both young researchers (doctoral students, MA students, and BA students), and academics.

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