

ARTICLE VERSIONS: ARE YOU READING WHAT YOU THINK YOU'RE READING?

Have you clicked on a link to view an article and found yourself looking at a manuscript?

What's Going On?

There was a time when an article had one version—a finished, published article. The only manuscripts you saw were probably those you wrote or were asked to review.

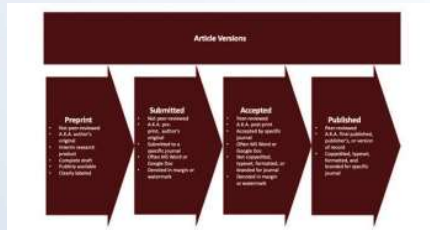
That time has passed. Now several stages of manuscript may be available to you. These are called versions of the article.

Why Does This Matter to You?

- You may have free access to more articles because authors can share them at several stages in the research, publication and review process.
- It can add a layer of complexity when you use free online copies of articles.
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Versions



Preprint

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By Heather K. Moberly and L.M. Rey
Coordinator of Veterinary Services, Medical
Sciences Library, Texas A&M University

the author's website or an online repository. In mid-2020, PubMed began to add records for preprints of National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research. Including records to research not yet peer-reviewed is a major change in philosophy.



Submitted

Beginning at this stage, the journal publisher has a say in what may be shared. They often allow the author to post this version. Find them at the author's website or in an online repository.

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These are nonprofit websites that host online articles. Universities have them to host their employees' work. Some, like PubMed Central (PMC), host specific journals or funding agencies. Others, like Open Science Framework (OSF), host anyone.

- Texas A&M University—OAKTrust: <https://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu>
- Texas Tech University—ThinkTech: <https://ttu-ir.tdl.org/handle/2346/468>
- PMC: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>
- OSF: <https://osf.io/>

What's the Bottom Line?

As a reader, you may encounter several versions of the same article online. Be aware of which are peer-reviewed and which aren't. As an author, consider sharing the accepted versions of your articles so more colleagues can read your work. Not sure if you're allowed to share? Ask us, and we'll help you figure it out! **TV**

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