

[BOOK REVIEW]**How to Write a Scholarly Book Review- Guidelines with Do's and Don'ts****Dr. Shyam D. Ganvir, PhD¹, Dr. Aboli Deshmukh (MPT, PhD Scholar)²**¹Principal, D.V.V.P.F's College of Physiotherapy, Ahmednagar² Assistant Professor, Motiwala college of Physiotherapy, Nashik**ABSTRACT :**

Aim : To generate step wise scholarly writing skills, involved in writing book reviews for publication, as well as to provide key notes on conducting book reviews.

Methodology : In order to search literature articles pertinent to writing scholarly book reviews for publication, a scientific search was carried out across MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, PubMed and SCOPUS.

Results : The initial search yielded 650 articles. After applying filters as articles published in 2000-2022, English language & after duplicates were removed, a total of 21 articles were included in this review for guidelines.

Conclusions : The scholarly book review serves several functions and has the potential to be a powerful literary form. To publish a successful scholarly book review, the reviewer must understand the book review publication process as well as the strategies involved in writing a successful review.

Keywords: Manuscript, Publications, Book review, Book critique.

Introduction-

There are plenty of books written for the busy health care practitioner or academic professional in today's publishing market.⁽¹⁾ The scholarly book reviewer serves an important role in informing readers about new books and guiding their reading preferences. With the expectations of the many stakeholders in the book review process (readers, authors, journal editors, and publishers) bearing down on the reviewer, producing a well-balanced, engaging, and informative critique within the confines of a predetermined word limit is no easy task. Book reviewing is described as a fine art by some book review editors.⁽²⁾

Some consider the scholarly book review to be a type of academic writing that serves to critically evaluate the content, quality, meaning, and significance of a book.⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾

There are a number of expert opinions in the biomedical literature that describe strategies for evaluating books and writing book reviews.⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾ However, we were unable to find a step wise approach for authors. As a result, we carried out a

structured literature search and narrative review of the literature in order to provide the book reviewer with understanding of all aspects of the book review process.

Methodology-

In order to search literature articles pertinent to writing scholarly book reviews for publication, a scientific search was carried out across MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, PubMed and SCOPUS.

Search strategy- 'AND' & 'OR'

Articles included in the review had to be published in a peer-reviewed journal and report on one or more of the following criteria: strategies for conducting scholarly book reviews, recommendations on academic writing focusing on book reviews

Above criteria and Inclusion criteria (Articles published from 2000-2022 and English language) assisted in including value adding articles for this review.

Discussion & conclusion-

This article along with all the review of literature emphasizes on dividing book review process in steps. For the reviewers, the book review serves

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several purposes. Publishing a scholarly book review allows the reviewer to contribute to the professional literature by acting as an entrusted critic charged with informing the readership of seminal works and alerting it to incorrect scholarship.⁽⁷⁾ Publishing book reviews is also an exercise in self-education. Many reviewers appreciate the opportunity to stay updated by reading a newly released text and enjoy exercising their critical faculties.⁽⁸⁾ Academic authorities have proposed that writing a book review may be an excellent first publication experience for the novice writer.⁽⁹⁾ However, for experienced book reviewers, it may be their altruistic commitment to scholarship and the honour of being asked to review a book that motivates them.⁽⁷⁾

Recommendations for writing a book review-

Steps to follow-

1. Introduce the field and general topic of book review
This will determine the potential readers of this book as per reader's topic of interest in the field and it captures the reader's attention.⁽¹⁰⁾
2. Describe in short above book contents and the areas it has covered.
This gives a reader. Clear idea about the subfields of the topic the book has touched and covered.
3. Evaluation points and highlighted areas of book.
This clears an idea on purchase preference of a reader with respect to Topic, Cost, Publication format, Value for time and money the reader is spending.

Following details should be mentioned in a book review-⁽¹¹⁾

- Author's and Editor's detailed Name, Address designation etc.
 - Publishers and previous books they have published.
 - Date and Place of publication
 - Edition of book, ISBN number
 - Number of pages, binding style and other language it has translated etc.
 - Price and availability address.
- Benefits for book reviewer are – it improves language skills, writing skills, analytical

thinking, and understanding of publication procedure for novice researchers.

Key points-

- Book review should be somewhere between 600-2000 words.
- Book review/ critique should be in correspondence to book's argument.
- Book review should be a good balance of praise and constructive criticism.
- Book review should give suggestions for reprints/next edition rather than defaming the book.
- Book review should conclude generally on how reading this book can add value to readers knowledge, interest, vocabulary, writing skills, academic progress etc.

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