Factors Influencing Manuscript Development Time

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Abstract

Objective: We aimed to determine factors affecting manuscript development time to maximize efficiency and minimize cost.

Research Design and Methods: Data were collected from 27 manuscripts developed by Nucleus Global in conjunction with external clients for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Mean number of hours was calculated, and predictors were examined. 2-tailed tests were used to determine the relationship between key predictors and development time. For continuous predictors, a median split was performed prior to conducting the test.

Results: Results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Factors Impacting Manuscript Development Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Availability Prior to Initiation of Writing</th>
<th>Number of External Authors</th>
<th>Number of Internal Authors</th>
<th>Communication of Detailed Outline</th>
<th>Production of Detailed Outline (≥5 Pages and Including References)</th>
<th>Median (10 quartiles)</th>
<th>Median (10 quartiles)</th>
<th>Median (10 quartiles)</th>
<th>Median (10 quartiles)</th>
<th>Median (10 quartiles)</th>
<th>Median (10 quartiles)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>117.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>120.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consistent with our previous findings, having a kickoff call was associated with shorter development time, as was having more internal (client) authors. Resubmitting to multiple journals resulted in longer development time, as did producing a more detailed outline. Most factors had a larger impact on project management time vs content development.

Background

Medical communications agencies are involved in the development of primary scientific manuscripts in conjunction with pharmaceutical clients and external authors.

Methods

Data were collected from primary manuscripts developed by Nucleus Global (N = 27) in conjunction with external pharmaceutical clients for publication in scientific journals.

Results are presented in Table 1.

Objective

To scientifically analyze data from a selection of projects to better understand factors that can increase or decrease development time for a primary scientific manuscript.

Methods

Data were collected from primary manuscripts developed by Nucleus Global (N = 27) in conjunction with external pharmaceutical clients for publication in scientific journals.

Results

Most factors studied had a larger impact on project management time vs content development.

Conclusions

New factors studied had a larger impact on project management time vs content development.

Consistent with our previous findings on factors influencing abstract development time, having more internal authors was associated with shorter development time, including significantly fewer project management hours.

Production of a detailed outline resulted in significantly more project management time.

Trends were observed with regard to fewer project management hours logged when a kickoff call was held.

Study limitations included the following:

A relatively small convenience sample was retrospectively collected.

Manuscript length and journal requirements were not included as variables.

Future directions may include:

Collection of prospective data on a larger sample size of manuscripts.

Collection of prospective data on review or other types of manuscripts.