

PUBLISH OR PERISH?

Initiating, Maintaining, and Growing a Publication History within an SRL Role

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ABSTRACT

In general, Shared Resource Lab (SRL) staff that hold a primarily technical, service-orientated role do not have the same pressures or expectations to publish compared to their academic counterparts. With this, however, comes the misconception that SRL staff should not be encouraged to seek named acknowledgment or even authorship in the publication output of their user base. In addition, many SRLs have the opportunity to develop or innovate which may result in publications independent of their user-base.

Publications involving cytometry increase year on year, with a good proportion of the work being done in SRLs. All SRLs are subject to review and the criteria for success of an SRL should be that they provide a service, are involved in development work, and are proactive in knowledge sharing. Publications are an excellent metric for SRLs, showing the utility of the facility and building the local, national and international reputation for the SRL. They are also an excellent way to promote staff engagement, linking heavily to personal development, career advancement and staff retention.

WHY SHOULD SRL STAFF CARE?

- Excellent metric for Facility output
- Builds credibility
- Sense of personal achievement and individual professional development
- Promote staff engagement
- Chance to attend internal or external meetings to speak about work
- Builds local, national, and international reputation for institute, facility, and staff

COMMON OBSTACLES

- FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS**
No access to funds/ limited funds/ justifying budget for
- ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT**
You have the flow cytometers but what about the sample prep, cell culture, etc.?
- OPINIONS**
"It's not your job to publish!"/ "How does it help the SRL services?"
- IDEAS**
Former research ideas may not longer be appropriate or benefit your user base
- TIME**
How to fit it around your other time commitments and unpredictability?

WORK WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

- FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS**
Offset or share costs with a lab; speak with a company
- ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT**
Think institutionally
- OPINIONS/ IDEAS**
Benefit to the user's research and/ or expand core capabilities
Engage with users- assess unmet needs
- TIME**
Fit around (or within) core commitments
Partner with a keen user

THE PUBLICATION PYRAMID

FACILITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Should be standard

- Any data generated from any core machine that is included in any publication must formally acknowledge the SRL
- Relevant even without "Special help"
- Have a prepared statement that you can distribute to Facility users

Hard to enforce

NAMED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
A way to give extra acknowledgement to a staff member for "extra" work

- May have done frequent sorts
- May have spent extra time training on a special technique

AUTHORSHIP
Given to show scientific input to the study

- Should be for ANY scientific input
- Remains subjective- what is "enough"?

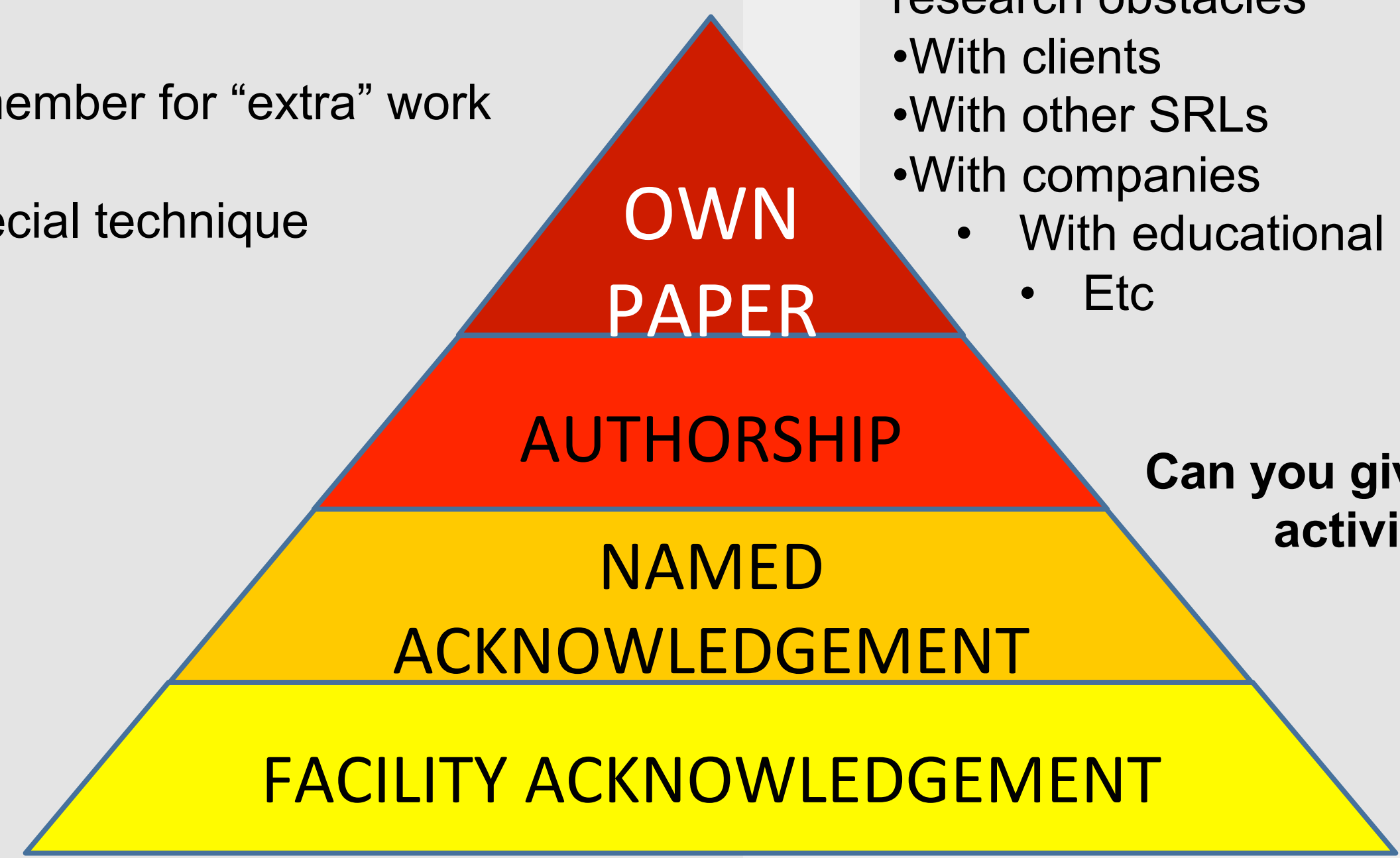
A conversation best had early in a project

- With a supervisor, not the student
- If offence is taken, why?
- Avoids miscommunication

OWN PAPER
Publish your own work
Can take many forms

- Technical Note
- Primary Research
- SRL Communication to Cytometry Part A

If you have no budget for reagents, consider partnering with a company



EFFORT
LOW HIGH
BENEFIT

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Publishing as SRL staff is possible but can take some creativity

Collaborations are essential to overcome research obstacles

- With clients
- With other SRLs
- With companies
 - With educational providers
 - Etc

Can you give your current, daily activities publishable potential?

A CIRCULAR BENEFIT

