

Chapter 58

Rereading the Published Paper



Generally, your paper will become available on the internet as an “in press” preprint within about a month after you confirm the final printer’s proofs. Depending on how unmodern and unprofessional the publisher is, it can be up to several months before the final print version of your paper becomes available. But when it does, you should read it again. At this point, it is too late to make any further corrections to the printed version, and most publishers will therefore also not alter the electronic version (except in cases of serious ethical, safety, or legal concerns). But journals can and will print a *Corrigendum* (your fault) or an *Erratum* (their fault), even for tiny details, especially if an error has meaningful implications [1–4]. So it is worth the effort to check the quality of your final paper, because that is the only version anyone else is ever going to read. Moreover, reading the final printed version (months later) may give you a different impression and/or a feel of satisfaction for your work.

References

1. Christiansen S, Flanagan A. Correcting the Medical Literature: “To Err is Human, to Correct Divine”. *JAMA*. 2017; 318: 804-805.
2. Scarlat MM. Erratum, corrigenda et emendatio or “mistake, correction and amendment”. *Int Orthop*. 2017; 41: 1071-1072.
3. Pulverer B. When things go wrong: correcting the scientific record. *EMBO J*. 2015; 34: 2483-2485.
4. The *PLoS Medicine* Editors. Getting Closer to a Fully Correctable and Connected Research Literature. *PLoS Med*. 2013; 10: e1001408.