Scientific research papers are among the most prestigious documents produced today. They are the means by which scientists report their scientific contributions. In addition, the publication of research papers is a means for scientists to establish their credibility. Each paper is counted as a product of knowledge. The number of knowledge products count toward determining a scientist’s status, an institution’s prestige and a nation’s economic well-being. In other words, in the contemporary, globalized world of science, research papers have a value beyond their scientific content.

In this part, the context for writing and publishing research articles will be examined. The contexts are identified in four chapters:

• The rise of English as the language of science;
• Measuring the impact of articles, journals and nations;
• English competence, funds for research, and publishing success; and,
• Collaborations, teams and networks.

To explicate the context, we draw on empirical research in the fields of applied linguistics, bibliometrics, sociology of science, and economics. Together, they set the foundation for understanding the backdrop of contemporary scientific article creation. At the conclusion of this part, you will have a broad understanding of how this context influences the creation of research papers.