

## Re: Publication not so important in mathematics

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**From:** Michael J Hardy ([mjhardy\\_at\\_mit.edu](mailto:mjhardy_at_mit.edu))

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I wrote:

- > *I wonder if you misunderstand the purpose of publication.*
- >
- > *The purpose is NOT to use publication as a sort of assurance*
- > *of correctness, on the theory that published papers have been*
- > *checked for correctness. That's not even a small part of the*
- > *purpose.*
- >
- > *The main purpose is to acquaint readers with the material.*
- > *A secondary purpose is that math faculty members are judged*
- > *in part by their publication records.*

[jstevh@msn.com](mailto:jstevh@msn.com) answered:

- > *Which basically is saying that math people believe that it's all about*
- > *their needs and interests, and others are just outside of the process.*

Huh? Maybe the part about the `_secondary_` purpose says that.

But I said the MAIN purpose is to acquaint readers with the material.

You wrote something; it gets published; readers read it.  
Making your work available for others to read is the purpose.

Is that wrong? -- Mike Hardy