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20 pieces of advice for young academics

Based on my humble experience, here are 20 pieces of advice for young academics, emphasizing the importance of quality over quantity in publications:

1. **Prioritize Quality:** Focus on producing high-quality research that contributes meaningfully to your field.
2. **Choose Your Topics Wisely:** Select research topics that genuinely interest you and have significant relevance.
3. **Engage with Your Community:** Collaborate with peers and mentors to gain diverse perspectives and enhance your work.
4. **Seek Feedback:** Actively seek constructive criticism from colleagues and advisors to improve your writing and research.
5. **Understand Your Audience:** Tailor your publications to the audience of the journals you are targeting.
6. **Be Selective with Journals:** Choose reputable journals that align with your research scope and have high impact factors.
7. **Invest in Writing Skills:** Take workshops or courses to enhance your academic writing and clarity.
8. **Develop a Research Agenda:** Create a long-term plan that outlines your research goals and interests.
9. **Stay Organized:** Keep track of your research materials, deadlines, and publication submissions systematically.
10. **Network Strategically:** Attend conferences and seminars to build connections that can lead to collaborative opportunities.
11. **Balance Teaching and Research:** Allocate time efficiently between teaching responsibilities and research projects.
12. **Be Patient with the Process:** Understand that high-quality research takes time to develop and publish.
13. **Stay Informed:** Keep up with the latest research and trends in your field to remain relevant.
14. **Cultivate Resilience:** Prepare for rejections and setbacks; they are part of the academic journey.
15. **Engage with Public Scholarship:** Consider writing for broader audiences to disseminate your research beyond academia.
16. **Use Technology Wisely:** Leverage tools like reference managers and collaboration software to streamline your research process.
17. **Mentor Others:** Share your knowledge and experiences with younger colleagues or students to foster a supportive academic community.
18. **Focus on Impact:** Aim to make a difference with your research rather than just accumulating publications.
19. **Maintain Work-Life Balance:** Ensure that you take care of your mental and physical well-being to sustain long-term productivity.
20. **Reflect Regularly:** Periodically assess your research goals, strategies, and achievements to ensure alignment with your values and aspirations.

By following these tips, young academics can build a robust and impactful research portfolio that emphasizes quality over quantity.

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