Desire: the psychological barrier (get over it – get over the barrier, that is...)
Do you really not want to publish? - Don’t publish: figure out some other strategy.
Do you feel like you have to publish? - Get started, and you may even enjoy it.
Do you want to publish? - You’re halfway there.

Opportunity: How do you get the opportunity to publish? Try TNT – it’s dynamite!
Time: Your work is piling up, and you can’t take the time?
Talk to your supervisor and see if some time allowances can be made.
If not, do it on your own time. Really.
Network: Not a “member” of the right “club?”
Work at establishing a list of people and associations that might share your interests (local, regional, SALALM, publishers). Start researching and writing (or indexing and reviewing) where you can volunteer, then “escalate” from there. Apply for grants to write, to travel, to research. It will be a piece of cake after the first grant, since your vita will sparkle by then.
Topic: You can’t think of anything you have to offer?
Ask yourself a number of questions. Consider what types of publications are acceptable for tenure or rank advancement (if that’s all you’re after). What has tweaked you in your daily work? Write about it. Do you disagree with a library article you read? Write it the way you think it should be. What have you discovered? Tell the world. Can you translate? Index? Give a talk? Report on a conference? Work with a colleague? Write a book fair travelogue? Be opinionated? Do It!

Inspiration: The adjunct to perspiration.
Use your database searching skills to look up readings on a topic of interest. Read, read, read. Get passionate about what you find. Think of things from your own angle, an aspect you think of that hasn’t been mentioned. Show a rough draft to a friend or, better yet, an enemy. Fix things. Ask for help. Ask for suggestions. Ask for ideas. Ask for grammar help. Finish it. Put it on the shelf two weeks. Look at it again. Fix it again. Send it in. If it is rejected, ask for specific reasons. Fix it again. Do it again. Send it to the same place. Send it some other place. Try for the best publication. Try for the next-best publication. Start all over again.

Tenacity: Do not take “No” for an answer.
Take “I Need to Know” for an answer, and then figure out if you need to (a) change the topic; (b) do spicier thinking about the topic; (c) make the content more controversial (or less controversial); (d) change the potential publishing venue; or (e) all of the above.

Executive Summary: “DO IT”

Desire (Ya gotta wanna)
Opportunity (TNT = Time + Network + Topic)
Inspiration (Add your own insights to the topic)
Tenacity (“illegitimi non carborundum”)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: "DO IT"
TOP TEN FAVORITE WAYS I GOT STUFF PUBLISHED:

10. Saying “yes” to abstracting for a Casalini libri review journal:
   English-language abstracting from the German journal Informationsmittel: IFB for Reference Reviews Europe (1995 to the present).

9. Writing on topics of interest that came (a) from a library school assignment, (b & c) from the work assignment, (d) from an RLG study in which I had participated, and (e) from reactions to other professional articles (and submitting to journals):
   (c) Central European Economic History from Waterloo to OPEC, 1815-1975: A Bibliography (New York: Greenwood Press, 1987).

8. Networking with (a) my former professor, (b) a German library journal editor in Dresden, (c) a book review editor in Wisconsin; and (d & e) joining an obscure society:
      Translations from German of 14 novellas and stories with a general introduction and author-specific prefaces.
   (b) “Körperlich gesunde Tage.” BuB: Forum Bibliothek und Information 58, no. 7/8 (July 2006): 540. (reporting on a German library conference)
   (c) Book reviews in Monatshefte, 1979-1992.

7. Being asked to speak at a conference, and the proceedings were published:

6. Being asked to speak at a preconference, and I submitted the talk for publication:

5. Recognizing unique collections of European history sources within our library (and elsewhere) and digitizing or linking them (with library grants):
   - Letters of Philip II, King of Spain, 1592-1597, including facsimiles of Special Collection holdings and transcriptions. http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/phil2/.
   - EuroDocs: Online Sources for European History. http://eurodocs.lib.byu.edu

4. Taking examples from digitization work (as well as from activities of the Global Resources Network) for talks and articles:
      Later put on the Internet: http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wess/torontotalk.html

3. Contacting and collaborating with a European librarian interested in a common topic, in order to co-author a bibliography (using NEH Travel to Collections monies):

2. Visiting a synagogue in 1986 and learning of its history in World War II, then researching the synagogue library’s history a decade later (with a Nijhoff grant):

1. Sending an e-mail to Norman D. Stevens, a librarian specializing in wit.
   He published it and made me a Fellow of the Molesworth Institute (for library humor).