



Editorial

How to write your first research article

B.Govindarajan

Guidelines on just how to present the outcomes of a research and give it the finest chance of publication. An article is a description describing research results. The result of this progression is that virtually every research paper has a title, abstract, keywords, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion and conclusion.

Title

A title should be the least conceivable words that exactly define the content of the article. Neglect all excess words such as "A study of ...", "Investigations of ...", "Observations on ...", etc. Abstracting and Indexing facilities depend on the accuracy of the research paper title.

Abstract

A well-prepared abstract permits the reader to recognize the basic content of a research accurately. The abstract in brief states the objectives and scope of the study where these are not obvious from the title. More important, it concisely summarises the results and conclusions.

The abstract must be brief; most journals specify a length, typically not exceeding 250 to 300 words. Neglect references, abbreviations and acronyms even though they may be defined in main body of the article.

Keyword list

The keyword list offers the opportunity to add keywords, used by the abstracting and indexing services. Sensible use of keywords may increase the comfort with which interested public can locate your article.

Introduction

First write the manuscript without references so that it reads smoothly, then add in the references at the end of sentences so they do not interrupt your flow. Check the journal's style when you are ready to submit your article. Avoid a list of points or bullets; use prose.

Materials and methods

The main purpose of the 'Materials and Methods' section is to provide enough detail for a competent researcher to repeat your research and reproduce the results. The procedure used to prepare reagents, fixatives and stains should be stated exactly, though often reference to standard recipes in other works will do.

Results

In the results unit you present your research findings: display items (tables and figures) are central in this section. The results should be short and sweet. In doing so be sure to refer to the rules for making tables and figures.

Discussion

In the discussion you should discuss your findings compare to the findings of others or to expectations based on previous work.

Conclusion

The conclusion is considered to assistance your reader out of the article's dispute, giving them a sense of finality.

References

Every time you draw upon information contained in another article; you must acknowledge the source. Arrangements vary from journal to journal, so when you are preparing a research paper for an assignment, choose a journal in your field of interest and follow its format for the reference list.

Formatting conventions

Most journals have guidelines about submission and document preparation, for online or mailed submissions. Most journals require the manuscript to be typed with 1.5 spacing throughout and reasonable margins.

It is time to publish

Give it a final read-through. After you have read your research paper for a ultimate time and double checked that your article does everything the assignment is asking for, it is time to publish.