

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 42nd issue of the second year of the President's News Digest. I would like to cover in this edition of the News Digest the subject of writing and publishing research papers in peer-reviewed journals.



Writing and publishing a research paper in a peer-reviewed journal may sound daunting to a novice researcher. However, once a structured approach is adopted, this may not be as overwhelming as previously anticipated. Most papers have a structure based on the following: abstract, introduction, literature review, methodology, findings, discussion, limitations, conclusions and references.

A good structure is the backbone of a peer-reviewed journal paper. The abstract should be concise and to the point with a brief summary of the research problem and methods to be used and some of the key findings. The abstract should not contain any references.

The Introduction is the first section to be read and the most important part of a paper as it should include the rationale for writing the paper and the research problem that is being addressed. The introduction section should include the subject matter and the justification for doing the research.

The literature review should be comprehensive and critical and should include an overview of the current state-of-the-art in the field of research using references to the most recent and relevant journal papers and other publications in the field and how your research will fill in the gap in the area being investigated.

The methodology section is very important and should cover the research strategy, research philosophy and methods to be employed. You should be very clear from the outset about your research being of qualitative, quantitative or mixed approach nature. You should cover as part of the research philosophy, the epistemology, ontology and axiology of your research. This will help you in positioning your research, which will allow you to select the right methods. It is also important to address the issues of reliability/repeatability and validity of research.

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The findings section of the paper presents the paper's contribution to new knowledge in relation to the specified research problem and objectives of the paper. Graphs, figures, tables, and frameworks are usually used to summarize and communicate the findings. The results have to be original and a serious contribution to knowledge should be demonstrated. The findings are usually derived following analysis of data using statistical or content analysis or other means.

The discussion section is the reflective part of the paper and how the results should be interpreted. In this part of the paper, the contribution to knowledge becomes more evident and how an identified gap in the research area has been filled in.

The limitations section should summarize the main constraints of the research study in terms of availability of data, sample size, confidentiality of information, etc.

The conclusions section is a distillation of the whole paper and the reader should understand the essence of the paper from reading its conclusions. It should not be a mere replication, but a summary of the research problems, methods, main findings and future implications.

The references section should be compiled in accordance with the journal's guidelines using Harvard or other approaches. There are no rules for the maximum or minimum number of references as this depends on the topic. As a rule of thumb an average of 25 references sounds realistic, but I have come across papers where up to 60 or even more references were quoted. For topics addressing emerging and new topics, it is expected that a smaller number of relevant references could be found

Please follow strictly the guidelines of the journal otherwise your paper can be rejected easily. If you are asked to revise and resubmit the paper, do not get demoralized, this is the norm in publishing in top peer-reviewed journals.

From my own experience, writing and publishing in a peer-reviewed journal is in part art and in part science. The art is related to the style of writing, which is different from writing reports and daily memos. The science is related to the rigor, comprehensiveness and criticality of the literature review, the research methods deployed, the data collection and analysis and interpretation of results, and finally the originality and serious contribution to knowledge.

Doing research and writing peer-reviewed journal papers is a privilege and can only be done in your spare time sacrificing evenings, Week Ends, and parts of summer breaks. Successful researchers have only made it through extra efforts, sleepless nights and determination and their publications will remain as evidence of their contributions to their fields of research. I sincerely hope that all our colleagues will make efforts to publish in top rated refereed journals as research plays an important role in the economic and social development of any nation. Our University and Kingdom will benefit from our contribution to knowledge by conducting relevant and theoretical or applied research that is publishable in top rated peer-reviewed journals.

A very final piece of advice, please ask an experienced colleague/researcher to provide you with a critical review of the paper before you submit it to a peer-reviewed journal. This will increase your chances to get it accepted.

ICCPM 2017, SAPPORO, JAPAN

Applied Science University (ASU) participated in the International Conference for Construction and Project Management (ICCPM 2017), which took place in the city of Sapporo in Japan from the 17th to 19th August 2017. Dr. Assem Al-Hajj, the VP for Academic Affairs and Development, presented his paper on the 2nd day of the conference. His paper was entitled “The Impact of Project Management Implementation on the Successful Completion of Projects in Construction”. The paper focused on the status of project management today, investigated the elements of success in projects, evaluated contemporary project management tools and techniques utilized in projects and examined the influence of project management on project success. The paper was well received by participants



POLICY OF THE WEEK

Policy main points

Library Time

The library is open during official working days, Saturday to Thursday, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm and on Friday from 2:00 pm until 8:00 pm during the main semesters.

Loaning Time

Lending operation is available during official working days, Saturday to Thursday, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm and on Friday from 2:00 pm until 8:00 pm during the main semesters.

Number of books allowed for external loan

- Faculty members: (8) books for one semester.
- Administration staff: (4) books for two weeks, renewable only once.
- Master students: (5) books for 6 weeks, renewable only once.
- Undergraduate students: (4) books for two weeks, renewable only once.

Fines

Library will collect (100 fils) per book for each day of delay.

Books Loss and Destruction Fines

- If a patron loses a library book he/she will pay double the price of it in addition to the binding cost.
- If a patron damages a library book he/she pays three times its price in addition to the binding cost.

Printing and copying services

Researchers can copy/print references, theses, periodicals and special collections that are not allowed to be taken outside the library using an electronic card that can be recharged. A patron cannot print or copy more than 10 percent of the book or any other type of information source regarding the copy right regulations.

General Instructions

- The Library timing must be respected.
- No books are allowed from outside the library.
- Mobile phones must be switched off at all times in the library.
- Users must maintain order and cleanliness in the library.
- Users must respect the library's holdings.
- Users must maintain calm and quiet in the library.
- Users must leave books on the tables after use.
- The Library prevents booking of any seats or tables in the library.
- Patrons should use computers available in the library to look up for books and information resources in the library. In case they need more help, they can seek help from the library specialist.
- Users must use computers inside the library for the purposes of scientific research only.
- Damaging or adding notes to library books and resources is forbidden.
- Eating and drinking inside the library is forbidden.
- User must have their own account in the library system in order to be eligible for borrowing library materials.
- If a student is not following the library rules and regulations, the library specialist has the right to ask them to leave.
- A library specialist is always at your service; please cooperate with him/her to provide better services.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Inspirational leaders need to have a winning mentality in order to inspire respect. It is hard to trust in the leadership of someone who is half-hearted about their purpose, or only sporadic in focus or enthusiasm

Sebastian Coe

Happy Reading

