Chapter 3 - Research Article/Paper Writing

Research Article

A research article reports the results of original research, assesses its contribution to the body of knowledge in a given area, and is published in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. A given academic field will likely have dozens of peer-reviewed journals. For university professors, publishing their research plays a key role in determining whether they are granted tenure. Once, research articles had only a limited audience consisting mainly of other scholars and graduate students. Today, websites such as Google Scholar and the proliferation of electronic academic journals have broadened the potential audience for research articles.

Research articles generally consist of the following components: a title and abstract, an introduction, a methodology, results, discussion, and references. Before they are published, the editor of the journal to which the manuscript was submitted sends it to experts in the same field for review. These scholars will review the article for, among other things, the appropriateness of its methodology and its relevance to the field. They may suggest revisions. The peer review process is lengthy. It may be a year or longer between the time an article is submitted and its publication.

Guidelines for preparing a research article include:

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Methods and Tools
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion

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- References

1) **Title**

- The title is key factors in determining whether the entire article will be read. A title should be descriptive, giving the reader an idea of the focus of the study.
- A title should contain enough keywords for an interested reader to find the article
- The title should be as explicit as possible and transparent.
- It should be clear and short.
- It should capture and reflect the content of the proposal.
- It should enable the readers to understand the concepts of the study
- Try to write title in one or two line.

2) **Abstract**

The abstract serves as a mini-summary of the study. Many readers will review the abstract and based on the findings and will decide whether to read the entire article. It is a summary, which reflects the whole content of the proposal (most of the time less than 300 words). Abstract should be concise, informative and should provide brief information about the whole problem to be investigated.

The abstract of a proposal should contain the following points

- Title or topic of the research
- Statement of the problem and objective
- Methodology of investigation
- Expected result

3) **Introduction**

The introduction of a research article should state the problem being studied and the reason for the study. To place the research in proper context, the introduction

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should contain a brief summary of the previous research in the area covered by the study. This literature review should include references, which should be listed in the references section at the end of the article. By presenting an overview of the previous research, the article's author(s) can explain how the study presented in the article will contribute to and advance the body of knowledge.

Some question to be addressed in Introduction part may include:

- What are current and previous studies that have been made on the issues to be studied?
- What is the present gap in knowledge and current trend?
- What makes worth studying?
- Why has the problem not been solved yet?
- What do we intend to fill the gap or solve the problem?

4) Methods

This section of the research article should outline the methodology the author(s) used in conducting the study. Including information on methods used allows readers to determine whether the study used appropriate research methods for the question being investigated. It also makes it possible for other researchers to replicate the study and see if they obtain the same results.

5) Results

The results section will present the data, the meat of the study. It is easy to confuse the results section with the discussion section that follows, in which the article's author interprets the results of the study. The results section should only report the results from the data analysis, regardless of whether the study is qualitative or quantitative.

6) Discussion

The discussion section presents an interpretation of the results of the study. The authors will summarize the findings and assess them in the larger context of the existing knowledge, pointing out the ways in which their findings relate to those from prior studies. Any unusual or unexpected results will be discussed in this

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section as well. Finally, the authors will consider the larger theoretical implications of the study's results.

7) **References/Citations/Bibliography**

This part comes at the end of the article and should list all books, articles, and other resources used and cited in the article. All works cited in the proposal are listed either alphabetically or numerically at the end of the document usually under the heading of **"References or Bibliography".**

Some conservative authors would like to make distinction between references and bibliography as mentioned below.

- **References:** are lists of literature, which have been cited in the text of a document
- **Bibliography:** includes also items, which were not cited but are relevant to the document.

There are several ways of making citation and recording references. The three main systems of referring are:

- **Harvard System:**
- **Vancouver System**
- **American Psychological Association (APA)**

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Chapter 4 - Journal

A journal is a magazine that focuses on a particular discipline or subject matter. Journals are sometimes referred to as magazines, periodicals, or serials.

Journals:

- Concern a particular discipline or subject area.
- Are published regularly (weekly, monthly, quarterly).
- Contain articles, book reviews and editorial content.

Types of Journals

There are many types of journals, including:

- Peer-reviewed
- Scholarly and academic journals
- Trade journals
- Professional journal
- Current affairs journals.

You may use articles from a range of different journal types in the course of your studies.

Scholarly, Scientific and Peer Revived Journals

You may be asked to only use articles from a peer-reviewed or refereed journal. This is because peer-reviewed articles go through an extensive editorial process before publication, and are therefore of a very high quality.

A publication is considered to be peer reviewed if its articles go through an official editorial process that involves review and approval by the author's peers (people who are experts in the same subject area). Most (but not all) scholarly publications are peer reviewed.

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A scholarly journal article is written by someone with academic qualifications or expert knowledge, is evidence-based (and include references), and aimed at a scholarly audience. Not all scholarly journals are peer-reviewed.

Scientific journals contain articles that report on new research. The articles tend to be highly technical as they represent the latest theoretical research and experimental results. They should supply enough information so that an independent researcher could repeat the experiment or calculation to verify the results. Scientific journal articles are peer-reviewed to ensure that they meet the journal's standards of quality and scientific validity.

Why use Journal Articles

There are many advantages to using journal articles for your research. Information found in journals is:

- Authoritative and often peer-reviewed.
- Current.
- Digestible (with an easily understandable structure: Abstract, introduction, methodology, discussion and conclusion).
- Provides information on a specific topic.
- Answers a specific question (presents findings).

At the same time, journal articles are not suitable for all occasions. Journals articles generally do not provide:

- An introduction to a subject area.
- A broad overview of a particular topic.

How can I tell if a journal is peer-reviewed?

You can check the journal by visiting the journal website, which may include peer-review information.

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Some databases will let you restrict your search to peer-reviewed articles, while other databases will lack this feature. To find out more about a particular database, read the database help page.

Chapter 5 - Ethical Issues in Research Publication

Plagiarism

Plagiarism means:-

- To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own.
- To use (another's production) without crediting the source.
- To commit literary theft.
- To present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

Types of plagiarism

Anyone who has written or graded a paper knows that plagiarism is not always a black and white issue. The boundary between plagiarism and research is often unclear. Learning to recognize the various forms of plagiarism, especially the more ambiguous ones, is an important step towards effective prevention. Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense.

- **Sources Not Cited**

1. **The Ghost Writer**

   The writer turns in another's work, word-for-word, as his or her own.

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2. **The Photocopy**
   The writer copies significant portions of text straight from a single source, without alteration.
3. **The Potluck Paper**
   The writer tries to disguise plagiarism by copying from several different sources, tweaking the sentences to make them fit together while retaining most of the original phrasing.
4. **The Poor Disguise**
   Although the writer has retained the essential content of the source, he or she has altered the paper's appearance slightly by changing key words and phrases.
5. **The Labor of Laziness**
   The writer takes the time to paraphrase most of the paper from other sources and make it all fit together, instead of spending the same effort on original work.
6. **The Self-Stealer**
   The writer "borrows" generously from his or her previous work, violating policies concerning the expectation of originality adopted by most academic institutions.

- **Sources Cited (But Still Plagiarized)**

1. **The Forgotten Footnote**
   The writer mentions an author's name for a source, but neglects to include specific information on the location of the material referenced. This often masks other forms of plagiarism by obscuring source locations.
2. **The Misinformer**
   The writer provides inaccurate information regarding the sources, making it impossible to find them.

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3. **The Too-Perfect Paraphrase**

   The writer properly cites a source, but neglects to put in quotation marks text that has been copied word-for-word, or close to it. Although attributing the basic ideas to the source, the writer is falsely claiming original presentation and interpretation of the information.

4. **The Resourceful Citer**

   The writer properly cites all sources, paraphrasing and using quotations appropriately. The paper contains almost no original work! It is sometimes difficult to spot this form of plagiarism because it looks like any other well-researched document.

5. **The Perfect Crime**

   Well, we all know it doesn't exist. In this case, the writer properly quotes and cites sources in some places, but goes on to paraphrase other arguments from those sources without citation. This way, the writer tries to pass off the paraphrased material as his or her own analysis of the cited material.

Copyright

Copyright is a legal concept, enacted by most governments, giving the creator of an original work exclusive rights to it, usually for a limited time. Generally, it is referred as "the right to copy", but also gives the copyright holder the right to be credited for the work, to determine who may adapt the work to other forms, who may perform the work, who may financially benefit from it, and other related rights. Copyright initially was conceived as a way for government to restrict printing; the contemporary intent of copyright is to promote the creation of new works by giving authors control of and profit from them. Copyrights are said to be territorial, which means that they do not extend beyond the territory of a specific state unless that state is a party to an international agreement.

Patents A patent is a form of intellectual property. It consists of a set of exclusive rights granted by a sovereign state to an inventor or their assignee for a limited period of time in exchange for the public disclosure of an invention.

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