

## MERIT RESEARCH JOURNALS

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# **GUIDE TO AUTHORS.**

The Merit Research Journals provide rapid publication (monthly) of articles in all areas of the subject. The Journal welcomes the submission of manuscripts that meet the general criteria of significance and scientific excellence. Papers will be published one month after acceptance. Electronic submission of manuscripts is strongly encouraged, provided that the text, tables, and figures are included in a single Microsoft Word file (preferably in Arial font).

Submit manuscripts as e-mail attachment to the editorial office at: submit@meritresearchjournals.org

A manuscript number will be mailed to the corresponding author same day or within 48 hours.

The cover letter should include the corresponding author's full address and telephone/fax numbers and should be in an e-mail message sent to the editor, with the file, whose name should begin with the first author's surname, as an attachment. The author(s) may also suggest two to four reviewers for the manuscript (MRJ may designate other reviewers).

The Merit Research Journals accept manuscripts submitted as e-mail attachments.

### **Article Types**

### Three types of manuscripts may be submitted:

**Regular Articles:** These should describe new and carefully confirmed findings, and experimental procedures should be given in sufficient detail for others to verify the work. The length of a full paper should be the minimum required to describe and interpret the work clearly.

**Short Communications:** A Short Communication is suitable for recording the results of complete small investigations or giving details of new models or hypotheses, innovative methods, techniques or apparatus. The style of main sections need not conform to that of full length papers. Short communications are 2 to 4 printed pages (about 6 to 12 manuscript pages) in length.

**Reviews:** Submissions of reviews and perspectives covering topics of current interest are welcome and encouraged. Reviews should be concise and no longer than 4 to 6 printed pages (about 12 to 18 manuscript pages). Reviews are also peer-reviewed.

Letters to the Editor - Letters are published from time to time on matters of topical interest.

#### **Review Process**

All manuscripts are reviewed by an editor and members of the editorial board or qualified outside reviewers. Decisions will be made as rapidly as possible, and the journal strives to return reviewers' comments to authors within 3 weeks. The editorial board will re-review manuscripts that are accepted pending revision. It is the goal of the JHPSIR to publish manuscripts within 5 weeks after submission.

#### **Regular Articles**

All portions of the manuscript must be typed double-spaced and all pages numbered starting from the title page. The Title should be a brief phrase describing the contents of the paper. The Title Page should include the authors' full names and affiliations, the name of the corresponding author along with phone, fax and e-mail information. Present addresses of authors should appear as a footnote. The Abstract should be informative and completely self-explanatory, briefly present the topic, state the scope of the experiments, indicate significant data, and point out major findings and conclusions. The abstract should be 100 to 200 words in length. Complete sentences, active verbs, and the third person should be used, and the abstract should be written in the past tense. Standard nomenclature should be used and abbreviations should be avoided. No literature should be cited. Following the abstract, about five to 10 key words that will provide indexing references should be listed.



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A list of non-standard Abbreviations should be added. In general, non-standard abbreviations should be used only when the full term is very long and used often. Each abbreviation should be spelt out and introduced in parentheses the first time it is used in the text. Only recommended SI units should be used. Authors should use the solidus presentation (mg/ml). Standard abbreviations (such as ATP and DNA) need not be defined.

The Introduction should be brief and limited to the definition of the problem, the aims and purposes of the research and its relation with other studies in the field. Also the working hypothesis must be clearly stated. Materials and Methods should include relevant details on the experimental design and techniques so that the experiments can be repeated. However, only truly new procedures should be described in detail; previously published procedures should be cited, and important modifications of published procedures should be mentioned briefly. Capitalize trade names and include the manufacturer's name and address. Subheadings should be used. Methods in general use need not be described in detail.

Results should be presented with clarity and precision. The results should be written in the past tense when describing findings in the author(s)'s experiments. Previously published findings should be written in the present tense. Results should be explained, but largely without referring to the literature. Discussion, speculation and detailed interpretation of data should not be included in the results but should be put into the discussion section. The Discussion should interpret the findings in view of the results obtained in this and in past studies on this topic. State the conclusions in a few sentences at the end of the paper. The Results and Discussion sections can include subheadings, and when appropriate, both sections can be combined.

The Acknowledgments of people, grants, funds, etc should be brief. Tables should be kept to a minimum and be designed to be as simple as possible. Tables are to be typed double-spaced throughout, including headings and footnotes. Each table should be on a separate page, numbered consecutively in numerals and supplied with a heading and a legend. Tables should be self-explanatory without reference to the text. The details of the methods used in the experiments should preferably be described in the legend instead of in the text. The same data should not be presented in both table and graph forms or repeated in the text.

Figure legends should be typed in numerical order on a separate sheet. Graphics should be prepared using applications capable of generating high resolution GIF, TIFF, JPEG or PowerPoint before pasting in the Microsoft Word manuscript file. Tables should be prepared in Microsoft Word. Use numerals to designate figures and upper case letters for their parts (Figure 1). Begin each legend with a title and include sufficient description so that the figure is understandable without reading the text of the manuscript. Information given in legends should not be repeated in the text.

References: In the text, a reference identified by means of an author's name should be followed by the date of the reference in parentheses. When there are more than two authors, only the first author's name should be mentioned, followed by 'et al'. In the event that an author cited has had two or more works published during the same year, the reference, both in the text and in the reference list, should be identified by a lower case letter like 'a' and 'b' after the date to distinguish the works.

### **Examples:**

Victory (2008), Richard et al. (1990), (Ali, 1993), (Robeto and Luwis, 2000), (Christiano, 1989; Davids, 1990a,b; Wisdom, 1990,1992), (Adams et al., 2008)

References should be listed at the end of the paper in alphabetical order. Articles in preparation or articles submitted for publication, unpublished observations, personal communications, etc. should not be included in the reference list but should only be mentioned in the article text (e.g., G. Graham, University of Ghana, Accra,



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personal communication). Journal names are abbreviated according to Chemical Abstracts. Authors are fully responsible for the accuracy of the references.

#### **Examples:**

Nelson HG, Keita U (2000). The history of adult education in Sudan. Educ. Res. 11:44-48. Ephraim GD (2010). Parental Socio-economic Status and Attitude Towards Cultism in Delta State University, Abraka: Implication for Counseling. J. Hum. Ecol. 26(1): 65-69 Rice FD, Reid P, Hanson PH (1992). The technical student way of e-learning in Malaysia. J. Asia. 43: 314-320.

**Short Communications:** Short Communications are limited to a maximum of two figures and one table. They should present a complete study that is more limited in scope than is found in full-length papers. The items of manuscript preparation listed above apply to Short Communications with the following differences: (1) Abstracts are limited to 100 words; (2) instead of a separate Materials and Methods section, experimental procedures may be incorporated into Figure Legends and Table footnotes; (3) Results and Discussion should be combined into a single section.

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