



NAVIGATING THE REALM OF ACADEMIC JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS: AN OVERVIEW OF THE DIFFERENT ARTICLE TYPES

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ABSTRACT

This article provides an overview of the different types of article publication commonly found in the academic and research settings of journals. Its main objective is to enhance the understanding of authors and readers on the various forms of scholarly communication, including their characteristics and roles in the dissemination of scientific knowledge. This article will provide an overview of research articles, review articles, case studies, short communications, letter to editors, reflective writing, conference reports and other types of journal publications. It aims to provide novice researchers with valuable insights into the purposes and advantages associated with each type.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the world of academia and research, journal publications hold a pivotal role in the dissemination of knowledge, facilitating the exchange of scientific ideas, and advancing the frontiers of various academic disciplines. The field of research requires persistence, and most researchers devote themselves conducting research using vigorous research methodologies and analyzing the results with meticulous documentation of the findings. It is essential to recognize that not all journal publication types are created equally. For instance, a clinical trial is possible only in the field of medicine, while an empirical study is more common in the field of social sciences. This article seeks to explore the diverse landscape of journal publications by offering an analysis of various categories. It provides an overview of each type, highlights their unique characteristics, identifies the suitability of specific article types for different studies, and evaluates their importance in the academic sphere through the dissemination of this knowledge.

2.0 EXPERT CONTRIBUTION

Below are the various article types publishable in academic journals:

2.1 Original Articles

Original research articles often considered the gold standard of academic publishing and are the backbone of scholarly communication. They are classified as primary literature that provide comprehensive reports on new research findings, following a structured format typically comprising : Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion (IMRAD) [1]. An original research article provides an extensive account of the methodologies employed for conducting the research and the outcomes . These outcomes are frequently derived from the analytical and experimental investigations focused on well-defined research inquiries and hypotheses. The study's discoveries are elaborated upon in the discussion section, including the

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implications arising from whether the findings confirm or refute the initial hypotheses [2]. Original articles are rigorous and detailed, making them invaluable for those seeking to contribute new knowledge to their field. It can utilize both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Depending on the journal, they are also referred to as original articles, research articles, or sometimes just articles.

2.2 Review articles

Common types of reviews include systematic reviews, meta analysis, narrative reviews and scoping reviews [3].

Systematic reviews are focused, comprehensive and methodical examinations that adhere rigorously to a specific methodology on collecting, analysing, and combining all available evidence on a particular topic [4-5]. This approach aims to minimize bias and ensure that a systematic and exhaustive search is conducted to identify all relevant studies, leading to a more reliable and robust synthesis of the evidence. It adheres strictly to guidelines such as The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA), Meta-analysis of observational studies in epidemiology (MOOSE) or other relevant directives for systematic reviews that are crucial. Systematic reviews are considered the gold standard for searching, gathering, evaluating, and summarizing the highest-quality evidence related to a clinical question [6]. They are conducted to synthesize international evidence, validate current practices or highlight variations, explore new practices, resolve conflicting findings, identify future research priorities, and provide guidance for decision-making [7]. By identifying gaps in existing literature, systematic reviews make a valuable contribution to an impactful research project.

A meta-analysis is generally an extension of systematic review by examining the results of multiple comparable studies on essentially the same subject. The combined data is then analysed using standardized statistical techniques. This approach is beneficial when smaller sample sizes are pooled together, increasing the likelihood of achieving a statistically (and ideally, clinically) significant result [8].

A narrative review provides a non-systematic overview and analysis of existing literature on a specific topic. It does not adhere to a strict, predefined methodology and offers a more subjective and interpretative approach to summarizing information. A narrative review generally incorporates the author's personal perspectives, insights, and analyses of the specific topic. It allows authors to utilize diverse sources including books, articles, and other literature to construct a narrative that provides a comprehensive understanding of the topic [9].

A scoping review is a form of research review that offers a wide and exploratory summary of existing literature on a topic. It is defined as “a type of evidence synthesis that aims to systematically identify and map the breadth of evidence available on a particular topic, field, concept, or issue, often irrespective of source (ie, primary research, reviews, non-empirical evidence) within or across contexts”. Scoping reviews are a valuable evidence synthesis tool, particularly useful for identifying knowledge gaps, clarifying concepts, investigating research conduct, and informing systematic reviews. Although they serve different purposes than systematic reviews, scoping reviews still require rigorous and transparent methodologies to ensure trustworthy results [5].

2.3 Case Reports / Clinical case Studies

A case report is a narrative designed for medical, scientific, or educational purposes, detailing a medical issue from clinical practice. It describes the patient's medical history, presenting symptoms, clinical examinations, diagnostic procedures, treatment methods, and the patient's response to treatment. In general, all case reports include the following components: an abstract, an introduction, a case, and a discussion. Recently, there has been an emphasis on consensus-based guidelines for clinical case reports reporting. Authors planning to write a case report should familiarize themselves with the 13-item checklist provided in the CAsE REport (CARE) guidelines [10].

2.4 Clinical Trial

Clinical trials are specific to the field of medicine that consists of methodology, implementation, and results of controlled/clinical studies, usually undertaken with large patient groups [1-5]. Clinical trials investigate the safety and efficacy of interventions and procedures in relation to human health. Interventions

encompass medications, radiation, foods, or behaviours like exercise. Successful participation in clinical trials necessitates practical work experience, along with adherence to rigorous standards of ethics and reliability.

2.5 Short Communications

Short communications refer to concise research papers that convey important preliminary observations, findings, or data. These communications often serve to extend or build upon previously published research. They may include small-scale clinical studies, clinical audits, or information that doesn't warrant a full-length paper. Despite their brevity, short communications follow a structured format like standard articles, and there is usually a suggested minimum word count, such as 2500 words. These articles are typically shorter in length than regular research papers and are designed to rapidly communicate important findings or novel ideas to the scientific community [11].

2.6 Letters To The Editor

Letters to the editor are a forum for readers and experts to engage with published content. They offer a space for commentary, criticism, and the exchange of additional insights related to the journal's content, fostering academic discourse and community interaction. The main reason for writing a letter to the editor is to comment on a published article. The comments should be short, contain objective, constructive interpretations, or discussions on medical, scientific, or general areas of interest [12].

2.7 Reflective Writing

Reflective writing is an enriching and introspective practice that enriches self-awareness, critical thinking, and personal development [13]. It is widely used in educational and professional settings to encourage individuals to learn from their experiences, enhance their decision-making skills, and ultimately become more self-aware and effective individuals. Reflective writing in academic journals serves as a bridge between personal experiences and scholarly discourse, contributing to self-improvement, knowledge development, and the overall advancement of academic and professional fields.

2.8 Perspective, Opinion, And Commentary

Perspectives share a fundamental structure and length similar to review articles. They explore current advancements and prospective directions of a topic, encompassing both original data and personal viewpoints. A perspective article is a scholarly piece of writing that presents the author's viewpoint, insights, and opinions on a specific topic within a particular field of study. Authors contributing to perspectives need to have an in-depth knowledge of the topic and are actively encouraged to express strong opinions [14-15].

Opinion articles present the author's viewpoint on the interpretation, analysis, or methods used in a particular study. It allows the author to comment on the strength and weakness of a theory or hypothesis. Opinion articles are usually based on constructive criticism and should be backed by evidence [13]. Such articles promote discussion on current issues concerning science. These are also relatively short articles.

In contrast, commentaries are short articles that draw attention to or present a criticism of a previously published article, book, or report, explaining why it interested them and how it might be illuminating for readers. Although perspectives, opinions, and commentaries lack original research, they are classified as secondary literature. Nevertheless, they contribute significantly to the extensive body of scientific literature, offering substantial value.

2.9 Book Review

Most academic journals include book reviews, which aim to offer insight and opinions on scholarly books. These reviews should feature evaluative comments rather than providing a chapter-by-chapter summary of the book.

2.10 Conference Reports/ Proceedings

Conference reports are short and concise documents present at conferences. They are sometimes presented in conferences and sometimes published in the conference proceedings. These are open access peer-reviewed and citable publications within the journal. Conference materials complement the documentation of research centred on a shared theme, showcased at workshops, congresses, or scientific conferences. They encompass diverse content types, such as poster summaries, conference abstracts, and excerpts from presentations, contributing to the comprehensive scientific record.

2.11 Other Types of Journal Publications

In addition to the main article types discussed, there are various other types of journal publications, including editorials, data papers, methodology papers. Each type serves a specific purpose in the scholarly ecosystem and understanding them can aid the researchers and authors in effectively navigating the academic landscape.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the landscape of journal publication is intricate, offering researchers and scholars numerous options to disseminate their work and stay updated in their respective fields. Understanding the intricacies of each type of journal publication is crucial for both the authors and readers, hence fostering effective communication, disseminating the body of knowledge, and establishing the pathway to augment the evolution of academia.

4.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

5.0 AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

Abu Hassan, H. (Methodology; Formal analysis; Data curation; Formal analysis; Investigation; Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing)
 Krishnapillai, A. Abu Hassan, H. (Methodology; Formal analysis; Writing - review & editing ; Resources)
 Shaharuddin, S. (Conceptualisation; Methodology; Software; Funding acquisition; Supervision)

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