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**UGC - ACADEMIC STAFF COLLEGE**

**RESEARCH METHODS  
IN  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**



**Bharathidasan University**

Khajamalai Campus

Tiruchirappalli - 620 023

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*Dr.M.Selvam\**

The research work is communicated by publishing it. The research task remains incomplete till the article has been written and published. The purpose of research is not well served unless the findings are made known to others. Under these circumstances, the main objectives of this write up are to explain the need for writing research article, describing the format of writing research article and publishing the same. —

**Key Words:** Research Article, Format, Review, Methodology

#### **Introduction:**

Articles can be written on topics related to a variety of fields depending upon one's interests and liking. General sciences, medicine, sports, entertainment, politics, business, literature, philosophy, astronomy are some of the diverse subjects on which articles can be written. The main aim behind writing research articles is to convey new information and findings to the readers in a systematic and precise manner. The articles are published either in the newspapers, on the Internet or in books and magazines/journals.

#### **Importance of Writing Research Article:**

The importance of research paper is that it gives its authors or researchers a chance to put forth their work, which adds value to the already established knowledge. It can lead to further deeper exploration into an existing area of study or it could be an exploration of a completely new, unexplored, never known area. The skill of writing research article is considered as superior skill.

\* Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of Commerce & Financial studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

#### **Why to Publish**

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### **Why to Publish?**

- Publishing is an important part of research communication. The foremost reason for publishing research results is to communicate the findings to fellow researchers.
- Publishing assures that new findings get known as widely as possible among a group of researchers dealing with a certain topic.
- Researchers are evaluated according to the number of publications they have produced. Funds for research projects and travel grants are allocated based on publication records. Career promotion is also dependent on publishing.
- Once research results are published, they are disclosed to the academic community and can be evaluated and judged by other experts. This helps to test the validity and reliability of research results.
- The research paper will actually help in building the successful career of the writer.
- Writing research paper is the best way to prove the capabilities and hard work of the teacher.

### **Where to Publish? :**

- Impact Factor Journal – refers to the average number of citations per paper.
- Professional Magazines
- Academic Journals
- Referred Journal – peer referred journal
- Journal with ISSN
- Online Journal (eISSN) and Websites like SSRN.
- Local Journals / Magazines without ISSN

### **Format for Writing Articles:**

The article writing format plays an important role in deciding the quality of the article. The writer of the article should be well aware of the audience, and understand the readers' expectations who would be reading the journal article.

Before writing an article on any topic, it becomes essential to undertake adequate research on the topic using all the sources available to avoid any kind of factual errors. The article writing format, along with the useful article writing tips, are given below.

### **Headline or Article Title:**

Writing a relevant and proper headline or the title of the article is one of the most important features of the article writing format. It is on reading the headline of the article, that the reader decides to read the entire article. The headline should be short, not necessarily grammatically correct and catchy to arouse the interest of the reader. Bigger and bolder font for the headline than the rest of the article can be used to grab the attention of the reader. The headline, in a single sentence or a phrase, should describe what the article is about and thus give the reader an idea of whether he/she will get the answers for his/her questions after reading the article.

### **Abstract and Key Words:**

An abstract is a statement summarizing the important points of a text. The keywords are words or phrases that describe the content. They can be used as metadata to describe images, text documents, database records, and web pages.

### **Introduction of the Article:**

The introduction of the article should give the reader, a brief idea of the subject of discussion and analysis of the article. In the introduction, one can simply define some important terms or concepts which would be discussed in detail in the main body of the article. The introduction should ideally be a few sentences and should be in a font smaller than the title or the headline.

### **Review of Literature:**

A literature review may be purely descriptive, as in an annotated bibliography, or it may provide a critical assessment of the literature in a particular field, stating where the weaknesses and gaps are, contrasting the views of particular authors, or raising questions. Such a review will evaluate

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and show relationships between different materials, so that key themes emerge. Even a descriptive review should add comment and bring out themes and trends.

#### **Methodology of the Study:**

The methodology of the study is important for research article and it may include statement of the problem, objectives of the study, hypothesis, sample selection, data collection, period of the study, tools used and limitations.

#### **Main Body of the Article:**

The main body of the research article is a very vital part of the article writing format because it is supposed to answer all the questions of the reader. The main body of the research article is that it should be relevant to the subject or the title of the article. There are many ways of writing the body of the research article. It depends largely on the topic of the article. One can write the body of the article in a research question and answer format which can act as a questionnaire for the reader.

This is one of the most popular, widely used and a rather systematic way of formatting the article. The body of the article can have multiple paragraphs and ideally one should have a subtitle for each of the paragraphs. This will enable the reader to know at a glance what a particular paragraph is talking about.

#### **Tables and Figures:**

The collected data / information are to be grouped to achieve the objectives of the study. Such a group of data are normally given in Tables and Figures, with appropriate title, to facilitate deeper interpretation. Tables and Figures are generally given at the end of the research article.

#### **Summary of the Article:**

In the summary of the article, which appears at the bottom of the body in the ideal article writing format, the writer should give a summary of the article

in brief. The writer can also give some references and links in the case of online articles for the reader to receive more relevant information on the subject.

### **Scope for Further Research:**

While undertaking research on any specific topic, researcher usually might experience the finding to be related to the topic. In addition, in some cases, the researcher may also expose some finding not related to the topic. Such experience / findings are to be listed under the scope for further research for the benefit of future researchers to make a detailed study.

### **Reference:**

Reference stands for acknowledgement of sources from which information, statement etc were collected for research. Reference of various sources consulted / used in the research should be prepared and attached.

### **Submission Fee:**

Once the article is accepted for publication in reputed journals, the author needs to pay a fee (process fee) for publication. The fee differs from journal to journal.

### **Undertaking Letter:**

The author / co authors, once the article is accepted for publication, need to send an Undertaking Letter to the Editor of the journal stating that the paper is original and it has not been published earlier nor submitted for publication elsewhere.

### **Conclusion:**

It is important that every teacher should develop the skills of writing and publishing research articles in reputed journals for professional development and satisfaction. The researcher can use simple language, without fancy expressions or sophisticated style. Clearer and more logical a paper is structured, the better it serves its academic purpose.

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\* Dr.T. Govindar