

Guide to Writing a Good Paper for the Abasyn Journal of Social Sciences



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Abayn Journal of Social Sciences is a biannual publication of Abasyn University. The journal is a dedicated publication for scholarly work in the field of business and management, and covers areas of marketing, human resource management, finance, entrepreneurship, business ethics, administration, corporate governance, organizational behavior and IT in business

This guide proposes a model for writing a good paper and gives some advice on writing style. It should be used in conjunction with the separate AJSS “Guide for authors” (Provided at the end of this guide) which describes the format and structure requirements for submitting a paper to the journal.

A good paper in the AJSS contributes significantly to knowledge and theory by providing insights into the field of business and management that will be useful to scholars, researchers, and practitioners. The paper can be qualitative or quantitative in nature but must always be supported by sound theoretical knowledge. Following are detailed guidelines for each section of the research paper. A scholar must take into consideration these guidelines before submission.

1. How to write an introduction

- I. Value of your topic in general
- II. Value of your topic in your field/Area, why is there a need to study the concept?
- III. Existing research on your variables and why they should be further studied**
- IV. Limitations/Gaps/Future Research directions on your topic based on previous studies on the variables, MUST be LATEST past 1 year**
- V. How would your research fill the gaps?**
- VI. Contribution of your study to the body of knowledge/Theory**
- VII. Proposed structure of your paper

Points in Bold (III-VI are extremely important)

2. Literature Review

Independent/Individual Discussion on Variables

- I. The concept of the variable (Definitions – Preferably in chronological order)
- II. Is there any conceptualization of the variable in the area of your study (for Instance Higher Education)
- III. How the definitions evolved, changed over time
- IV. What are the key facets/traits/characteristics that emerge from the definitions
- V. What do these definitions agree on?
- VI. What does the variable do for the organizations – How it facilitates their working (Discuss in general and also in particular to your industry scope)
- VII. Why studying the concept is important in your field of study? Discuss the general consequences (If it’s a predictor variable) – If it is a criterion, why studying the antecedents is important in your field of study.
- VIII. Status of literature on the variable in the field of study (Is it limited. What are its limitations?)
- IX. How, will assessment of the variable help in field of study?

- X. What are common measurements of the variable, what are the common dimensions, which one are you using?
- XI. What conceptualization/operational definition are you using in your study? Does conceptualization reflect in instrument/measurement. Why use a particular conceptualization, is it very close to your area of study?
- XII. How can the variable/concept be established in the organization?
- XIII. Your literature should not look like annotated bibliography, but rather a story where ideas/concepts are linked
- XIV. Try using latest references wherever possible in particular when highlighting the importance of the concept/its value/its benefits

3. How to write when developing framework to establish relationships

- I. Has previous studies linked the two concepts? If yes what were their findings
- II. Are the variables in any way linked to each other?
- III. Were the findings of the previous studies unanimous? On the other hand, contradictory?
- IV. Why studying the linkage between variables is significant/Important
- V. Why studying the linkage between variables is significant in your area/field of study
- VI. How the independent variable affects/influences/impacts the dependent variable
- VII. Do the dimensions/traits of independent variable link to the dependent variable

4. Research Methodology

- I. Nature of Study (Qualitative or Quantitative)
- II. Population
- III. Sample (Sample Size & Sampling Technique)
- IV. Questionnaire sources
- V. Data Collection Techniques
- VI. Analysis Techniques

5. Data Analysis and Results

- I. Descriptive Statistics (in Summary with results presented in a single table)
- II. Reliability, Convergent, and Discriminant Validity (for Survey based research)
- III. Hypotheses Testing

6. Discussion

- I. How your results compare to results from previous research?
- II. Why a certain relationship may be significant or insignificant in your research?
- III. What does the significance and insignificance of relationship show in your field of study?

7. Conclusion

- I. **An overall conclusion from your research in light of the research objectives**

8. Limitations

- I. What are the limitations of your research in terms of sample, data collection, measurement, and analysis?
- II. Are there any conceptual limitations?

9. Future Research Directions

- I. What would you recommend for future research to do related to your study, how can they take your study forward?
- II. Would you recommend adding any variables to the model you propose in future?
- III. Would you like future research to change the conceptual scope?
- IV. Any changes or recommendations to analytical techniques?

10. Implications

- I. How can your research benefit at individual, management, and organizational level?
- II. What are the policy implications of your study?

Guidelines for Contributors

1. Abasyn Journal of Social Sciences invites the following types of contributions
 - a. Research Papers
 - b. Case Studies and Discussion Papers
 - c. Literature Reviews
2. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor/Deputy Editor or on the website of Abasyn Journal of Social Sciences.
3. Text should be double spaced with normal margins
4. All figures and tables should be placed within the text, with clear numbering for tables and figures.
5. The first page of the manuscript should contain the following information
 - a. Title of the Paper
 - b. The Name(s), affiliations(s) of the author(s) and Email Address
6. The Second Page shall contain the Abstract not exceeding 300 words and a maximum of 5 keywords
7. Manuscripts shall only contain references cited in the text.
8. The research paper shall follow proper APA 6th Edition Guidelines, The guidelines shall be followed both for the text and references at the end of the Paper. Detailed Guidelines for APA are available on the Journal Website (<http://ajss.abasyn.edu.pk>)
9. It is assumed that the paper submitted is an original unpublished work and it has not already been published or submitted for publication elsewhere
10. The articles submitted will be checked for Plagiarism
11. Initially the article will be reviewed internally, after initial review the article will be sent for review to external referees. Papers will be reviewed through anonymous peer reviews.

For submission of the Research Work via Email

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