IJSAA Review Article Template

First A. Author[1], Second B. Author[2], and Third C. Author[3]

The recommended sections in a paper submission are:

- Abstract
- Introduction
- The Research Question
- Methodology/Study
- Evaluation of Quality of the Study
- Formulating a Synthesis
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- References

***Abstract*—This document is a template for Microsoft Word for the submission of a review article to IJSAA.**

Keywords: up to 8 words only.

I. Headings

This template provides authors with most of the formatting specifications needed for preparing electronic versions of their papers. Author must fill in the information form under the "SUBMISSION PORTAL" tab at ijsaa.org, and upload their paper, the permission form, and accompanying figures and captions (if applicable).

Headings may be used as required. References may be included if necessary as may figures. But the overall paper (including references and figures) cannot exceed the 4-5 page limit. Margins are 0.75 on all sides, there are two columns, spacing is 0.95, and font is Times New Roman size 10. Use *italics* for emphasis; do not underline.

II. Other Formatting

Define abbreviations and acronyms the first time they are used in the text, even after they have been defined in the abstract. Do not use abbreviations in the title or heads unless they are unavoidable [7]. Use SI units.

You will need to determine whether or not your equation should be typed using either the Times New Roman or the Symbol font (please no other fonts). To create multileveled equations, it may be necessary to treat the equation as a graphic. Equation numbers, within parentheses, are to be flushed right, as in (1), using a right tab stop. Italicize Roman symbols for quantities and variables, but not Greek symbols. Use a long dash rather than a hyphen for a minus sign.

$$\alpha + \beta = \chi \qquad (1)$$

Note that the equation is centered using a center tab stop. Be sure that the symbols in your equation have been defined before or immediately following the equation.

Figure captions should be below the figures; table heads should appear above the tables. Insert figures and tables after they are cited in the text. Use the abbreviation "Fig. 1," even at the beginning of a sentence.

References should be in APA/ACS format, which is consistent with the format used by most scientific journals. Please include numerical in-text citations and keep the same order in the reference part of the paper.

TABLE I. Table Type Styles

Table Head	Table Column Head		
	Table column subhead	*Subhead*	*Subhead*
copy	More table copy[a]		

a. Sample of a Table footnote. (Table footnote)

Figure 1. Example of a figure caption. *(figure caption)*

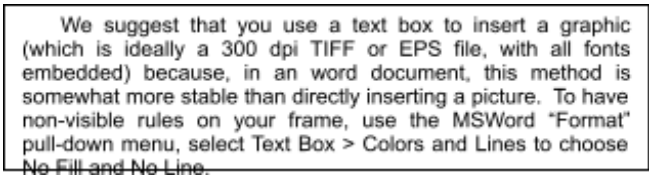

Figure labels: use 8-point Times New Roman for Figure labels. Use words rather than symbols or abbreviations when writing Figure axis labels to avoid confusing the reader. If including units in the label, present them within parentheses. Label axes with units and measurement. In the example, write "Magnetization (A/m)," not just "A/m". Do not label axes with a ratio of quantities and units. For example, write "Temperature (K)", not "Temperature/K."

III. Content Overview

A. About Review Articles

Review articles are divided into two categories: narrative and systematic reviews. Narrative reviews are written in an easily readable format and allow consideration of the subject matter within a large spectrum. However, in a systematic review, a very detailed and comprehensive literature surveying is performed on the selected topic. Since it is a result of a more detailed literature survey with relatively lesser involvement of author's bias, systematic reviews are considered as gold standard articles. Systematic reviews can be divided into qualitative, and quantitative reviews. In both of them, detailed literature surveying is performed. However, in quantitative reviews, study data are collected, and statistically evaluated (i.e. meta-analysis).

Before inquiring about the method of preparation of a review article, it is more logical to investigate the motivation behind writing the review article in question. The fundamental rationale of writing a review article is to make a readable synthesis of the best literature sources on an important research inquiry or a topic. This simple definition of a review article contains the following key elements:

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1. The question(s) to be dealt with
2. Methods used to find out, and select the best quality researches so as to respond to these questions
3. To synthetize available but quite different researches

For the specification of important questions to be answered, the number of literature references to be consulted should be more or less determined. Discussions should be conducted with colleagues in the same area of interest, and time should be reserved for the solution of the problem(s). Though starting to write the review article promptly seems to be very alluring, the time you spend for the determination of important issues won't be a waste of time.

B. Contents of a Review Article

Important differences exist between systematic, and non-systematic reviews which especially arise from methodologies used in the description of the literature sources. A non-systematic review means use of articles collected for years with the recommendations of your colleagues, while systematic review is based on struggles to search for and find the best possible research which will respond to the questions predetermined at the start of the review.

Though a consensus has been reached about the systematic design of the review articles, studies revealed that most of them had not been written in a systematic format. McAlister et al. analyzed review articles in six medical journals, and disclosed that in less than one-fourth of the review articles, methods of description, evaluation or synthesis of evidence had been provided, one-third of them had focused on a clinical topic, and only half of them had provided quantitative data about the extent of the potential benefits.

Use of proper methodologies in review articles is important in that readers assume an objective attitude towards updated information. We can confront two problems while we are using data from research in order to answer certain questions. Firstly, we can be prejudiced during selection of research articles or these articles might be biased. To minimize this risk, methodologies used in our reviews should allow us to define, and use research with minimal degree of bias. The second problem is that most of the research has been performed with small sample sizes. In statistical methods in meta-analyses, available research is combined to increase the statistical power of the study. The problematic aspect of a non-systematic review is our tendency to give biased responses to the questions; in other words, we are apt to select the studies with known or favorite results, rather than the best quality investigations among them.

As is the case with many research articles, the general format of a systematic review on a single subject includes sections of Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion (Table 2).

TABLE II. STRUCTURE OF A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Section	Contents
Introduction	Presents the problem and certain issues dealt in the review article
Methods	Describes research, and evaluation process Specifies the number of studies evaluated or selected
Results	Describes the quality, and outcomes of the selected studies
Discussion	Summarizes results, limitations, and outcomes of the procedure and research

C. Preparation of Review Article

Steps, and targets of constructing a good review article are listed in Table 3. To write a good review article, the items in Table 3 should be implemented step-by-step.

TABLE III. STEPS OF A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Step	Processes
Formulation of researchable questions	Select answerable questions
Disclosure of studies	Databases and key words
Evaluation of its quality	Quality criteria during selection of studies
Synthesis	Methods interpretation and synthesis of outcomes

D. The Research Question

It might be helpful to divide the research question into components. The most prevalently used format for questions related to the treatment is PICO:

1. P: patient, problem, or population
2. I: intervention
3. C: (appropriate) comparisons
4. O: outcome measures

An example: in female patients (P) with stress urinary incontinence, comparisons (C) between transobturator, and retropubic midurethral tension-free band surgery (I) as patients' satisfaction (O).

E. Finding Studies

In a systematic review on a focused question, methods of investigation used should be clearly specified. Ideally, research methods, investigated databases, and key words should be described in the final report. Different databases are used depending on the topic analyzed.

While determining appropriate terms for surveying, PICO elements of the issue to be sought may guide the process.

Since in general we are interested in more than one outcome, P and I can be key elements. In this case we should think about synonyms of P and I elements, and combine them with a conjunction AND.

One method which might alleviate the workload of the surveying process is a "methodological filter," which aims to find the best investigation method for each research question. A good example of this method can be found in the PubMed interface of Medline. The Clinical Queries tool offers empirically developed filters for five different inquiries as guidelines for etiology, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis or clinical prediction.

F. Evaluation of the Quality of the Study

An indispensable component of the review process is to discriminate good and bad quality research from each other, and the outcomes should be based on better qualified research, as far as possible. To achieve this goal, you should know the best possible evidence for each type of question. The first component of the quality is its general planning/design of the study. General planning/design of a cohort study, a case series, or normal study demonstrates variations.

G. Formulating a Synthesis

Rarely does all research arrive at the same conclusion. In this case, a solution should be found. However, it is risky to make a decision based on the votes of absolute majority. Indeed, a well-performed large scale study, and a weakly designed one are weighed on the same scale. Therefore, ideally a meta-analysis should be performed to solve apparent differences. Ideally, first of all, one should be focused on the largest and higher quality study, then other studies should be compared with this basic study.

H. Conclusions

In conclusion, during the writing process of a review article, the procedures to be achieved can be indicated as follows:

1. Get rid of fixed ideas, and obsessions from your head, and view the subject from a large perspective
2. Research articles in the literature should be approached with a methodological and critical attitude
3. Finally, data should be explained in an attractive way

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Put sponsor acknowledgments in the footnote (optional).

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