DESCRIPTION

Disability and Health Journal is a scientific, scholarly, and multidisciplinary journal for reporting original contributions that advance knowledge in disability and health. Topics may be related to global health, quality of life, and specific health conditions as they relate to disability. Such contributions include:

- Reports of empirical research on the characteristics of persons with disabilities, environment, health outcomes, and determinants of health
- Reports of empirical research on the Systematic or other evidence-based reviews and tightly conceived theoretical interpretations of research literature
- Reports of empirical research on the Evaluative research on new interventions, technologies, and programs
- Reports of empirical research on the Reports on issues or policies affecting the health and/or quality of life for persons with disabilities, using a scientific base.

Disability and Health Journal describes and analyzes health and health related states using conceptual frameworks, including the international classification of functioning, disability and health. The Journal provides a forum for peer reviewed articles that identify, evaluate and promote existing and emerging models of healthcare delivery and/or health promotion which contribute to the improvements of health across the lifespan.

The Journal focuses on individual health, public health, rehabilitation, health promotion, and community participation (e.g. employment, recreation, personal relationships and access to services).

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INTRODUCTION

Disability and Health Journal is a scientific, scholarly, and multidisciplinary journal for reporting original contributions that advance knowledge in disability and health. Topics may be related to global health, quality of life, and specific health conditions as they relate to disability. Such contributions include reports on:

- Empirical research on the characteristics of persons with disabilities, environment, health outcomes, and determinants of health;
- Systematic or other evidence-based reviews and tightly conceived theoretical interpretations of research literature;
- Evaluative research on new interventions, technologies, and programs;
- Issues or policies affecting the health and/or quality of life for persons with disabilities, using a scientific base.

Disability and Health Journal describes and analyzes health and health related states using conceptual frameworks, including the International Classification of Functioning (ICF), and the social and medical models of disability. The Journal provides a forum for peer reviewed articles that identify, evaluate and promote existing and emerging models of healthcare delivery and/or health promotion that contribute to the improvements of health across the lifespan.

The Journal focuses on individual health, public health, health promotion, health education, wellness, community participation (e.g., employment, recreation, personal relationships and access to services) and tertiary prevention (e.g., rehabilitation, reducing the incidence of secondary conditions).

Types of Articles

Original Research. Original Articles are scientific reports of the results of original epidemiologic (including secondary data analysis) and clinical research. The text is limited to 4000 words (not including abstract, acknowledgments, figure legends, tables, references, and ancillary online-only material), with a structured abstract of 250 words or less (see instructions below for structure), and a maximum of 6 tables and/or figures, and no more than 40 references (unless this is waived by the Editor). Research reports must contain sufficient information to allow readers to understand how a study was designed and conducted, including variable definitions, instruments and other measures, and analytic techniques. We recommend reviewing guidelines and checklists related to specific research at the EQUATOR Network to ensure sufficient detail is provided in the manuscript (http://www.equator-network.org). NEW: Submitting a checklist such as that from STROBE is now a requirement for submission (see editorials published in the April 2014 issue). Download the checklist through http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/strobe/, complete it by adding a column that specifies where in the manuscript each component has been followed, and upload it with your submission.

Brief Reports. Brief Reports can provide their results clearly in a shorter format or represent pilot work, small number of subjects (including a case report if it represents a unique circumstance or experience), new methodology, or nonstandardized measurements. The text is limited to 2500 words (not including abstract, acknowledgments, figure legends, tables, references, and ancillary online-only material) and a maximum of 3 tables and/or figures total. A structured abstract of 250 words or less is required (see instructions below for structure).

Evidence-based Review Articles. Review manuscripts are valuable within the relatively new but growing field of Disability and Health, and DHJO welcomes such submissions. DHJO supports the international agenda to advance review research that provides knowledge synthesis about the present state of research, gaps in research or implementation, evidence to support or change practice, and guidance for policy. There are many types of reviews,1-3 and the body of science and protocols to inform effective reviews is increasing.4-11 Literature or narrative reviews that cite multiple references found through a library search are not considered evidence-based reviews. Clear definitions and specific criteria for rating articles are important for the users of the review articles, be they researchers, clinicians, policy-makers, or consumers.7 To provide consistency and to maintain the expectations of our readers, DHJO has developed more specific guidance for authors.

At a minimum, the submission should include the following key components:
A manuscript title that reflects the review type
Clear definition of the review aims and the reason the review type was chosen
Systematized search/selection process description
Flowchart of search/selection process
Appraisal of the articles at some level (recognizing inherent difficulties)
and acknowledging the biases within studies with appropriate descriptions
Table of selected and reviewed articles (including extracted data) with some organization based on study design, condition, utility, or other relevant factor
Table (may be the same Table as above) that includes a summary of articles' elements: research design, sample size, study method, and statistical approach as appropriate
Additional tables or graphs may portray reference to unifying concepts and underlying framework; narrative reporting of results should summarize the findings related to study aims or other defined concepts
Interpretation of results in the Discussion should consider quality, strength of evidence, applicability, relevance to stakeholders, support/refutation in existing literature, and limitations
Whenever possible a rating system should be used to quantify the importance of each manuscript in the final review
Conclusions should be carefully derived

A structured abstract of 250 words or less is required (see instructions below). The text is limited to a maximum of 5000 words of text (not including abstract, acknowledgments, figure legends, tables, references, and ancillary online-only material), with no more than a total of 6 tables and/or figures.

Systematic reviews must have PRISMA4 completed and submitted. If Tables of selected articles are large/long, they may be published as ancillary online-only appendices.


**Commentary.** Manuscripts are editor-solicited or negotiated after correspondence with Editors.

Topics relate to articles within the issue, timely perspectives on emerging issues in the field, or opinions and judgments on trends or new perceptions. Presentations may cover such areas as policy, ethics, current events, or controversies. A point/counterpoint format would also be of interest. The text is limited to a maximum of 3000 words of text (not including abstract and references). It is expected that there will be references to support the manuscript content. An Abstract that is a brief narrative summary without subheadings that does not exceed 150 words is required.

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Editorial. Editorials are solicited by the Editors.

Letters to the Editor. Letters discussing a recently published article in the Journal should be received within 4 weeks of the article's publication. The text is limited to a maximum of 500 words of text, one table and/or figure, and 5 references; no abstract is needed. Ensure that the article about which you are writing is included in the list of references. Letters not meeting these specifications are generally not considered.

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Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

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The corresponding author will be required to indicate that this information has been fully included in the manuscript at the time of submission. In addition, corresponding authors are required to acknowledge that the conflict of interest disclosures are complete for both themselves and their co-authors, to the best of their knowledge. Omission of relevant information may lead to rejection of the submission at any stage in the process.

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PREPARATION

Use of Word Processing Software

NEW: At initial submission, the manuscript file (without author identifying information) may be submitted as a single Word or PDF file, including references, figure legends, figures, and tables; the Title Page with author identifying information must be uploaded separately. All manuscript components need to be included to allow for evaluation of your manuscript. If the editors determine that the work is potentially publishable, source files of the manuscript, figures, and tables will be required as well as other submission elements such as permissions as needed (see below). Include a cover letter and a title page with counts as specified below. Authors are urged to use appropriate guidelines when preparing a manuscript (http://www.equator-network.org), and completion of a guideline checklist is now required for original research submissions. Please note that most manuscripts submitted to Disability and Health Journal will likely use the STROBE guideline.

For revised manuscripts, it is important that the file be saved in the native format of the wordprocessor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the wordprocessor’s options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier: http://www.elsevier.com/guidepublication). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

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The title page must include a word count for the abstract, a complete manuscript word count (to include body text and figure legends), number of references, and number of figures/tables. Please see below for the maximum length of submissions by article type.

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**Abstract**

For Original Research, Brief Reports, and Review Articles, abstracts should not exceed 250 words and should be written in the form of:

**Background.** This is a concise statement of why this research was done, placing it in the context of current knowledge or controversies.

**Objective/Hypothesis.** This is a clear statement of the precise objective or question addressed in the paper. If a hypothesis was tested, it should be stated.

**Methods.** The basic design of the study and its duration should be described. The methods used should be stated and the statistical data/methods provided.

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**Conclusions.** Conclusions of the study that are directly supported by the evidence reported should be given along with the clinical application, and speculation about the potential impact on current thinking.

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