



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

●	<b>Description</b>	<b>p.1</b>
●	<b>Audience</b>	<b>p.1</b>
●	<b>Impact Factor</b>	<b>p.1</b>
●	<b>Abstracting and Indexing</b>	<b>p.2</b>
●	<b>Editorial Board</b>	<b>p.2</b>
●	<b>Guide for Authors</b>	<b>p.5</b>



ISSN: 0378-7206

## DESCRIPTION

---

*Information & Management* serves researchers in the information systems field and managers, professionals, administrators and senior executives of organizations which design, implement and manage **Information Systems Applications**. The major aims are:

- To collect and disseminate information on new and advanced developments in the field of **information systems**;
- To provide material for training and education in information systems;
- To encourage further progress in information systems methodology and applications;
- To cover the range of information system development and usage in their use of managerial policies, strategies, and activities for business, public administration, and international organizations.

### Benefits to authors

We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our [author services](#).

Please see our [Guide for Authors](#) for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our [Support Center](#)

## AUDIENCE

---

Researchers & Practitioners involved in the management of information systems

## IMPACT FACTOR

---

2015: 2.163 © Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports 2016

## ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

---

ACM Computing Reviews  
ANBAR  
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts  
Computer & Control Abstracts  
Computer Abstracts  
Current Contents  
DP Directory  
Data Manager  
Data Processing Digest  
Information Retrieval and Library Automation  
Information Science Abstracts  
Management Contents  
Mathematical Management & Physics Abstracts  
EDP Performance Review  
EMBASE  
Engineering Index  
INSPEC  
Quarterly Bibliography of Computers and Data Processing  
Science Citation Index  
Statistical Reference Index  
UMI Data Courier

## EDITORIAL BOARD

---

### *Editor-in-Chief*

**Patrick Chau**, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

### *Founding Editor*

**Ed Sibley**

### *Associate Editors*

**D. Avison**, ESSEC Business School, Cergy-Pontoise, France

**S.J. Barnes**, King's College London, England, UK

**J. Benitez**, University of Granada, Granada, Spain

**Gee-Woo (Gilbert) Bock**, Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU), Seoul, The Republic of Korea

**David Bodoff**, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel

**Indranil Bose**, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, India

**Kathryn Brohman**, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

**Irwin Brown**, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa

**Ashley Bush**, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA

**J. Campbell**, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

**Guoqing Chen**, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

**Rui Chen**, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, USA

**Xi Chen**, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China

**Christy Cheung**, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China

**Waiman Cheung**, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong

**Roger Chiang**, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

**Cecil Chua**, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

**Mark Chun**, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, USA

**Wendy Currie**, Audencia Nantes, Nantes, France

**Gert-Jan de Vreede**, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA

**James Denford**, Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC), Ontario, Canada

**Amitava Dutta**, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA

**P. Ein-Dor**, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel

**Patrick Fan**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

**Xianjun Geng**, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas, USA

**Sigi Goode**, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

**Gerald Grant**, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

**Carol Hsu**, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

**Jimmy Huang**, University of Warwick, Coventry, England, UK

**Ming-Hui Huang**, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC

**W. Huang**, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA  
**Shin-Yuan Hung**, National Chung Cheng University, Chia-Yi, Taiwan, ROC  
**Ghiyoung Im**, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, USA  
**Donald Jones**, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA  
**Atreyi Kankanhalli**, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore  
**Weiling Ke**, Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York, USA  
**Rajiv Kishore**, State University of New York, Buffalo, New York, USA  
**Dong-Gil Ko**, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA  
**Sherrie Komiak**, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada  
**Kevin Kuan**, The University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia  
**Sherah Kurnia**, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
**Karl Lang**, City University of New York (CUNY), New York, New York, USA  
**Jae-Nam Lee**, Korea University, Seongbuk-Gu, Seoul, The Republic of Korea  
**Dahui Li**, University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, Minnesota, USA  
**Yung-Ming Li**, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, ROC  
**Huigang Liang**, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA  
**Paul Lowry**, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China  
**Yaobin Lu**, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, Hubei, China  
**Fiona Nah**, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, Missouri, USA  
**Eric W.T. Ngai**, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
**Carol Ou**, Tilburg University, Tilburg, Netherlands  
**P. Palvia**, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA  
**Gary Pan**, Singapore Management University, Singapore  
**Shan Ling Pan**, UNSW Australia, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia  
**Chee Wai Pang**, Fudan University, Shanghai, China  
**Guy Pare**, HEC Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
**Greta Polites**, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, USA  
**Clay Posey**, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA  
**Lingyun Qiu**, Peking University, Beijing, China  
**V.V. Ractham**, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand  
**Gregory Rose**, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, USA  
**Shu Schiller**, Wright State University, USA  
**Colleen Schwarz**, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, Louisiana, USA  
**Benjamin Shao**, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, USA  
**Kil-Soo Suh**, Yonsei University, Seoul, The Republic of Korea  
**Barney Tan**, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia  
**Angsana Techatassanasoontorn**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, USA  
**Thompson Teo**, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
**Douglas R. Vogel**, Harbin Institute of Technology, China  
**C. Wagner**, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China  
**Eric Wang**, National Central University, Jung-Li, Taiwan, ROC  
**Kan-Liang Wang**, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China  
**Maggie Wang**, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong  
**Merrill Warkentin**, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi, USA  
**Mary Beth Watson-Manheim**, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA  
**C.P. Wei**, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC  
**Christopher Westland**, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA  
**Markus Westner**, Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany  
**Dongming Xu**, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia  
**David Yen**, State University of New York (SUNY) at Oneonta, Oneonta, New York, USA  
**D. Zeng**, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA  
**Dongsong Zhang**, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Baltimore, Maryland, USA  
**Han Zhang**, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA  
**Bin Zhu**, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, USA

#### ***Editorial Board***

**Ivan Aaen**, Aalborg University, Aalborg Øst, Denmark  
**Mokhtar Amami**, Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC), Kingston, Ontario, Canada  
**Yoris Au**, University of Texas at Dallas, Texas, USA  
**Joerg Becker**, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Münster, Germany  
**Edward Bernroider**, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Vienna, Austria  
**Albert Boonstra**, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands  
**Imed Boughzala**, TELECOM SudParis, Evry Cedex, France  
**Shobha Chengalur-Smith**, University of Albany, Albany, New York, USA  
**Byounggu Choi**, Kookmin University, Seoul, The Republic of Korea  
**Rahul De'**, Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru, India  
**Xiaodong Deng**, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, USA

**Peter Duchessi**, State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, New York, New York, USA  
**Amany Elbanna**, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, England, UK  
**Ahmed Elragal**, German University in Cairo, New Cairo City, Egypt  
**Hajime Eto**  
**Inas Ezz**, Sadat Academy for Management Sciences, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt  
**Nitza Geri**, Open University of Israel, Raanana, Israel  
**Oeter Green**, University of Queensland, Brisbane St Lucia, Queensland, Australia  
**Milena Head**, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada  
**Esperanza Huerta**, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas, USA  
**Hurtado Torres**, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain  
**Zahir Irani**, Brunel University London, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UK  
**Gary Klein**, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA  
**Ralf Klischewski**, German University in Cairo, New Cairo, Egypt  
**Kee-hung Lai**, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
**Frank Land**, Stowford Barton, Devon, UK  
**J.-L. Le Moigne**, Université Aix-Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, France  
**Tom Lee**, Hanyang University, Seongdong-Gu, Seoul, The Republic of Korea  
**Eldon Li**, National Chengchi University, Taipei City, Taiwan, ROC  
**Wenhong Luo**, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania, USA  
**Ronald Maier**, Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria  
**Marcelo Mejía**, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Del. Álvaro Obregón, Mexico  
**Alemayehu Molla**, RMIT University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
**Konrad Peszynski**, RMIT, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
**Nancy Pouloudi**, Athens University of Economics & Business, Athens, Greece  
**Angeliki Poulymenakou**, Athens University of Economics & Business, Athens, Greece  
**N. Reinhard**, Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Sao Paulo, Brazil  
**Ulrich Remus**, University of Canterbury, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand  
**Tapio Reponen**, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, Turku, Finland  
**Pieter Ribbers**, Tilburg University, Tilburg, Netherlands  
**Michael Rosemann**, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia  
**Jia-Lang Seng**, National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC  
**Choon Ling Sia**, City University of Hong Kong, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
**H.G. Sol**, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands  
**Abdullah Uz Tansel**, Baruch College, New York, New York, USA  
**Monideepa Tarafdar**, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio, USA  
**Hubert Tardieu**, ATOS ORIGIN, Nanterre, France  
**G.K. Tayi**, State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, New York, New York, USA  
**Reza Torkzadeh**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA  
**Virpi Kristiina Tuunainen**, Aalto University, Espoo, Finland  
**R.T. Vidgen**, UNSW Australia, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia  
**Robin Wakefield**, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, USA  
**Rita Walczuch**, University of Maastricht, Maastricht, Netherlands  
**Eric Wang**, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania, USA  
**Nilmini Wickramasinghe**, RMIT University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
**M. Wiener**, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany  
**Rob Wilson**, Newcastle University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, UK  
**Jen-Her Wu**, National Sun Yat-Sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, ROC  
**Benjamin Yen**, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

---

### *Your Paper Your Way*

We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.

**To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.**

Authors in Japan please note: Upon request, Elsevier Japan will provide authors with a list of people who can check and improve the English of their paper (before submission). Please contact our Tokyo office: Elsevier Japan, 1-9-15 Higashi-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044; Tel. (03)5561 5033; fax (03)5561 5047.

### *Submission checklist*

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

#### **Ensure that the following items are present:**

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

*Manuscript:*

- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

*Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files* (where applicable)

*Supplemental files* (where applicable)

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- Relevant declarations of interest have been made
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our [Support Center](#).

#### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

##### *Ethics in publishing*

Please see our information pages on [Ethics in publishing](#) and [Ethical guidelines for journal publication](#).

##### *Declaration of interest*

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. If there are no conflicts of interest then please state this: 'Conflicts of interest: none'. [More information](#).

##### *Submission declaration and verification*

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see '[Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#)' section of our ethics policy for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was

carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service [CrossCheck](#).

### **Changes to authorship**

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors **before** submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only **before** the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the **corresponding author**: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors **after** the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

### **Copyright**

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see [more information](#) on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. [Permission](#) of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has [preprinted forms](#) for use by authors in these cases.

For open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' ([more information](#)). Permitted third party reuse of open access articles is determined by the author's choice of [user license](#).

### **Author rights**

As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. [More information](#).

#### *Elsevier supports responsible sharing*

Find out how you can [share your research](#) published in Elsevier journals.

### **Role of the funding source**

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

#### *Funding body agreements and policies*

Elsevier has established a number of agreements with funding bodies which allow authors to comply with their funder's open access policies. Some funding bodies will reimburse the author for the Open Access Publication Fee. Details of [existing agreements](#) are available online.

### **Open access**

This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

#### **Open access**

- Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
- An open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution.

#### **Subscription**

- Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our [universal access programs](#).
- No open access publication fee payable by authors.

Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

For open access articles, permitted third party (re)use is defined by the following [Creative Commons user licenses](#):

#### *Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY)*

Lets others distribute and copy the article, create extracts, abstracts, and other revised versions, adaptations or derivative works of or from an article (such as a translation), include in a collective work (such as an anthology), text or data mine the article, even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit the author(s), do not represent the author as endorsing their adaptation of the article, and do not modify the article in such a way as to damage the author's honor or reputation.

#### *Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)*

For non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

The open access publication fee for this journal is **USD 1800**, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: <http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing>.

#### *Green open access*

Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our [green open access page](#) for further information. Authors can also self-archive their manuscripts immediately and enable public access from their institution's repository after an embargo period. This is the version that has been accepted for publication and which typically includes author-incorporated changes suggested during submission, peer review and in editor-author communications. Embargo period: For subscription articles, an appropriate amount of time is needed for journals to deliver value to subscribing customers before an article becomes freely available to the public. This is the embargo period and it begins from the date the article is formally published online in its final and fully citable form. [Find out more](#).

This journal has an embargo period of 36 months.

#### *Elsevier Publishing Campus*

The Elsevier Publishing Campus ([www.publishingcampus.com](http://www.publishingcampus.com)) is an online platform offering free lectures, interactive training and professional advice to support you in publishing your research. The College of Skills training offers modules on how to prepare, write and structure your article and explains how editors will look at your paper when it is submitted for publication. Use these resources, and more, to ensure that your submission will be the best that you can make it.

#### *Language (usage and editing services)*

Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the [English Language Editing service](#) available from Elsevier's WebShop.

#### *Submission*

Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts source files to a single PDF file of the article, which is used in the peer-review process. Please note that even though manuscript source files are converted to PDF files at submission for the review process, these source files are needed for further processing after acceptance. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail removing the need for a paper trail.

#### **Submit your article**

Please submit your article via: <http://ees.elsevier.com/infman/>

## **PREPARATION**



## **NEW SUBMISSIONS**

Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.

As part of the Your Paper Your Way service, you may choose to submit your manuscript as a single file to be used in the refereeing process. This can be a PDF file or a Word document, in any format or layout that can be used by referees to evaluate your manuscript. It should contain high enough quality figures for refereeing. If you prefer to do so, you may still provide all or some of the source files at the initial submission. Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be uploaded separately.

### *References*

There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.

### *Formatting requirements*

There are no strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.

If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.

Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

### *Figures and tables embedded in text*

Please ensure the figures and the tables included in the single file are placed next to the relevant text in the manuscript, rather than at the bottom or the top of the file. The corresponding caption should be placed directly below the figure or table.

## **Double-blind review**

This journal uses double-blind review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. [More information](#) is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

*Title page (with author details):* This should include the title, authors' names, affiliations, acknowledgements and any Declaration of Interest statement, and a complete address for the corresponding author including an e-mail address.

*Blinded manuscript (no author details):* The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

## **Peer review**

This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. [More information on types of peer review](#).

## **REVISED SUBMISSIONS**

### *Use of word processing software*

Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the [Guide to Publishing with Elsevier](#)). See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.



## Article structure

Authors should use a scientific/engineering attitude towards their analyses. The numbers computed should have the appropriate number of significant figures. Please do not use more significant figures than the observations allow (i.e., for most surveys 2 or 3 are sufficient). Decimal fractions should have a leading zero, e.g. 0.001 rather than .001

Authors are encouraged to look at the articles recently published in the journal to understand the aims of the journal.

## Essential title page information

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.**
- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

## Abstract

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

The abstract should not be more than 100 words.

## Keywords

The first page of the manuscript should also contain a short list of carefully chosen keywords or content indicators.

## Acknowledgements

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

## Formatting of funding sources

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

## Footnotes

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article.

## Artwork

### Electronic artwork

#### General points

- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Preferred fonts: Arial (or Helvetica), Times New Roman (or Times), Symbol, Courier.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Indicate per figure if it is a single, 1.5 or 2-column fitting image.
- For Word submissions only, you may still provide figures and their captions, and tables within a single file at the revision stage.
- Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be provided in separate source files. A detailed [guide on electronic artwork](#) is available.

**You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.**

#### Formats

Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as 'graphics'.

TIFF (or JPG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.

TIFF (or JPG): Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.

TIFF (or JPG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required.

#### Please do not:

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low.
- Supply files that are too low in resolution.
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

#### Color artwork

Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF), or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. [Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.](#)

#### Figure captions

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. A caption should comprise a brief title (**not** on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

#### Text graphics

Text graphics may be embedded in the text at the appropriate position. See further under Electronic artwork.

## Tables

Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

## References

### *Citation in text*

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

Citations to well known facts, statistical and psychological documents, mathematical techniques or articles more than eight years old should, in general, be avoided.

### *Reference links*

Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, CrossRef and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is encouraged.

A DOI can be used to cite and link to electronic articles where an article is in-press and full citation details are not yet known, but the article is available online. A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambeh W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884>. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.

### *Web references*

As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

Please only refer to peer reviewed articles.

### *Data references*

This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

### *References in a special issue*

Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

### *Reference management software*

Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support [Citation Style Language styles](#), such as [Mendeley](#) and [Zotero](#), as well as [EndNote](#). Using the word processor plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:

<http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/information-and-management>

When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

### Reference formatting

There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct. If you do wish to format the references yourself they should be arranged according to the following examples:

### Reference style

**Text:** Indicate references by number(s) in square brackets in line with the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given.

Example: '..... as demonstrated [3,6]. Barnaby and Jones [8] obtained a different result ....'

**List:** Number the references (numbers in square brackets) in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

### Examples:

Reference to a journal publication:

[1] J. van der Geer, J.A.J. Hanraads, R.A. Lupton, The art of writing a scientific article, *J. Sci. Commun.* 163 (2010) 51–59.

Reference to a book:

[2] W. Strunk Jr., E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*, fourth ed., Longman, New York, 2000.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

[3] G.R. Mettam, L.B. Adams, How to prepare an electronic version of your article, in: B.S. Jones, R.Z. Smith (Eds.), *Introduction to the Electronic Age*, E-Publishing Inc., New York, 2009, pp. 281–304.

Reference to a website:

[4] Cancer Research UK, Cancer statistics reports for the UK. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/statistics/cancerstatsreport/>, 2003 (accessed 13.03.03).

Reference to a dataset:

[dataset] [5] M. Oguro, S. Imahiro, S. Saito, T. Nakashizuka, Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions, *Mendeley Data*, v1, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1>.

### Journal abbreviations source

Journal names should be abbreviated according to the [List of Title Word Abbreviations](#).

### Video

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the files in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including [ScienceDirect](#). Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our [video instruction pages](#). Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

### Supplementary material

Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

### *Data in Brief*

You have the option of converting any or all parts of your supplementary or additional raw data into one or multiple data articles, a new kind of article that houses and describes your data. Data articles ensure that your data is actively reviewed, curated, formatted, indexed, given a DOI and publicly available to all upon publication. You are encouraged to submit your article for *Data in Brief* as an additional item directly alongside the revised version of your manuscript. If your research article is accepted, your data article will automatically be transferred over to *Data in Brief* where it will be editorially reviewed and published in the open access data journal, *Data in Brief*. Please note an open access fee is payable for publication in *Data in Brief*. Full details can be found on the [Data in Brief website](#). Please use [this template](#) to write your Data in Brief.

### **AudioSlides**

The journal encourages authors to create an AudioSlides presentation with their published article. AudioSlides are brief, webinar-style presentations that are shown next to the online article on ScienceDirect. This gives authors the opportunity to summarize their research in their own words and to help readers understand what the paper is about. [More information and examples are available](#). Authors of this journal will automatically receive an invitation e-mail to create an AudioSlides presentation after acceptance of their paper.

### **Interactive plots**

This journal enables you to show an Interactive Plot with your article by simply submitting a data file. [Full instructions](#).

## **AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

As per the style of this journal, biographies of the authors are mandatory. Please include a short biography for all the authors.

### **Online proof correction**

Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.

If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

### **Offprints**

The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized [Share Link](#) providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on [ScienceDirect](#). The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's [Webshop](#). Corresponding authors who have published their article open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

## **AUTHOR INQUIRIES**

Visit the [Elsevier Support Center](#) to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.

You can also [check the status of your submitted article](#) or find out [when your accepted article will be published](#).

© Copyright 2014 Elsevier | <http://www.elsevier.com>