



DJ Publications

REVIEW ARTICLE GUIDELINES

A review article is a scientific text relying on previously published literature or data. New data from the author's experiments are not presented (with exceptions: some reviews contain new data).

The following are the three types of review article.

- Narrative review

Selected studies are compared and summarized on the basis of the author's experience, existing theories and models. Results are based on a qualitative level rather than a quantitative level.

- Best evidence review

A focus on selected studies is combined with systematic methods of study-selection and result exploration.

- Systematic review

Findings from various individual studies are analyzed statistically by strict procedures. Meta-Analyses are used to pool the results of individual studies.

Length of the review article

The length of the review article should be the minimum required to describe and interpret the work clearly

ELEMENTS OF A REVIEW ARTICLE

Title

- The title must be informative, short and include important terms.
- It has to indicate that the text is a review article.
- It may include the message of the article.

Abstract

Informs about the main objectives and result of the review article or indicates the text structure .

1) Objectives: One or two sentences describe the context and intention of the review.

2) Material and methods: One or a few sentences provide a general picture of the methodological approach.

3) Results: A few sentences describe main outcomes.

4) Conclusions: One or two sentences present the conclusion which is linked to the objectives. Length should be between 200 to 250 words.

Introduction

Provides information about the context, indicates the motivation for the review, defines the focus, the research question and explains the text structure.

1) Subject background. The general topic, issue, or area of concern is given to illustrate the context.

2) Problems. Trends, new perspectives, gaps, conflicts, or a single problem is indicated.

3) Motivation/justification. The author's reason for reviewing the literature, the approach and the organisation of the text are described. Length should be between 10% and 20% of the core text (introduction, body, conclusions).

Body: Material and Methods

Systematic and best evidence reviews have a methods section. This section enables motivated researchers to repeat the review. Narrative reviews do not have a methods section but should include some information about applied methods at the end of the introduction. The material and methods section contains for example information about: data sources (e.g. bibliographic databases), search terms and search strategies, selection criteria (inclusion/exclusion of studies), the number of studies screened and the number of studies included, statistical methods of metaanalysis etc. Length should be approximately 5% of the core text (introduction, body, conclusions).

Paragraph structure

- Cover one idea, aspect or topic per paragraph.
- Avoid referring to only one study per paragraph; consider several studies per paragraph instead.
- Link the studies to one another. Compare and discuss these relationships.

Length should be 70 to 90% of the core text (introduction, body, conclusions).

Conclusions

Answers the research question set in the introduction. It should provide the following

- implications of the findings
- interpretations by the authors
- identification of unresolved questions

Length should be 5 to 10% of the core text (introduction, body, conclusions).

Make sure your conclusions are not simply a repeat of the abstract!

Acknowledgements

- Expresses gratitude to people who helped with the literature search, the structuring of the material or in the writing process.
- Expresses gratitude to funding organisation and specifies the funding program .
- Full names of people and their specific contributions to the project are given.
- The name of the funding agency and program as well as the grant number and the person to whom it was awarded are mentioned.

References

- Acknowledges the work of other scientists.
- Compulsory to avoid charges of plagiarism

Include every reference cited in the text. Do not include additional references. Avoid internet sources. If internet sources must be used, find the original source for the internet reference, check it has been correctly cited and cite it directly.