

EDITORIAL

A Brief Guide to Citation Practices for Authors at the *Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences* Submissions

Kit-Aun Tan

Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM, Selangor, Malaysia.
Email: tanka@upm.edu.my

Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences (2024) 20(1):1-2. doi:10.47836/mjmhs.20.1.1

INTRODUCTION

As an editorial member of the *Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences* (MJMHS), I take great pleasure in the wealth of knowledge our contributors bring. In this Editorial, I address four common issues identified during the Journal's internal triage process. In what follows, I present a brief guide to assist authors in overcoming each of these issues with the hope to enhance submission quality.

IMPROPER USE OF DIRECT QUOTATIONS

The first common issue concerns the improper use of direct quotations. Proper citation not only ensures accurate referencing but also fosters a smooth reading experience for scholars, reviewers, and readers. In compliance with Vancouver Style, for direct quotations, authors use double quotation marks to enclose the direct text and also provide the page number that the direct text was taken from.

For example:

Social interest is defined as "individuals' innate capacity to fulfill a sense of belonging and is developed from and reinforced by family atmosphere" (1, p. 807).

It was found that "Internet gaming has been reported to negatively affect undergraduate students' capability in time management" (2, p. 2).

Executive functioning impairment theory proposes "a set of neurocognitive strategies leading to the attainment of goals" (3, p. 2).

LACK OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PREPRINT VERSIONS

The second common issue involves authors not acknowledging a published preprint version and providing the link. In an era of open science, acknowledging the existence of preprints is fundamental. It

not only promotes transparency but also allows readers and reviewers to access preliminary findings. Preprints may be cited in the Acknowledgment as shown below:

Our initial findings are available as a preprint. The preprint can be accessed online at <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/40535>.

The preprint version of our initial findings is accessible online at <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/40535>.

Our study has been released as a preprint and is accessible online via <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/40535>.

LACK OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The third common issue is authors not acknowledging if their study has been presented at conferences. Recognizing conference presentations is crucial—it testifies to the collaborative nature of research and ensures the academic community is aware of preliminary findings.

See below examples of disclosures:

Portions of this study were presented previously in abstract form at the 13th International Conference on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology (Kuching, Malaysia, August 6–8, 2018).

Portions of the data and conclusions described in this article were presented in abstract form at the following conference: the 5th International Society of Internet Addiction Annual Conference, October 2016 (Putrajaya, Malaysia).

Parts of this study were presented to the 5th USIM International Health Conference, Nilai, Malaysia, September 13–14, 2022, and were published in abstract form (*Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine* 2022; 22[Suppl. 2]: 18).

LACK OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL SUBMISSIONS

The fourth common issue involves authors not acknowledging whether portions of their study have been submitted for institutional requirements for academic degrees. Acknowledging submissions for academic degrees promotes transparency about the development and context of the research, aligning with ethical research practices.

See below examples of disclosures:

This paper is based on a thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the PhD degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Based on a portion of a dissertation submitted in partial

fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Medicine in Psychiatry at Universiti Putra Malaysia, under the direction of Normala Ibrahim, PhD.

This study is based on portions of a doctoral thesis submitted by the first author, under the direction of the second author, to Universiti Putra Malaysia.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, meticulous adherence to proper citation practices not only aligns manuscripts with established writing standards but also contributes to the overall integrity and credibility of the scholarly work. By embracing these practices, authors contribute to the excellence of the manuscripts published in MJMHS, and in turn, to the advancement of medical knowledge.