

7-29-2019

Anatomy of a Research Article

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Recommended Citation

Wiegand, S. (2019, July 29). Anatomy of a research article [Handout]. Greeley, CO: University of Northern Colorado. Available at <https://digscholarship.unco.edu/infolit>

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Anatomy of a RESEARCH ARTICLE



Experiments and observations are the fundamental building blocks for scientific knowledge - knowledge that informs data-driven decision making and evidence-based practice. Scientists often tell each other of their experiments and observations through research articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Research articles are formatted in a very specific manner that follows the process of the research process. Below are the eight sections seen in most research articles.

Muggenthaler, H., Drobnik, S., Hubig, M., Schonpflug, M., & Mall, G. (2013). Fall from a balcony--accidental or homicidal? Reconstruction by a numerical simulation. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 58(4), 1061-4. doi: 10.1111/1556-4029.12148



2019 update
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- ## 1 Title

& publication information

author(s)
author affiliations/credentials
journal title
publication date
volume
issue
page numbers
doi or URL

5 Results

Data from the experiment or observation; often includes numerical data, charts, graphs, & stats

Sometimes this section will be labeled as:

data
or
findings
- ## 2 Abstract

A brief summary of the article, generally including 1-2 sentences on methodology, 1-2 sentences on results, and 1-2 sentences of conclusion

6 Discussion

The authors interpret the data from the experiment or observation; in this section the authors will also discuss any limitations of the study; sometimes combined with the Conclusion section
- ## 3 Intro

Includes hypothesis, literature review, definitions, and background information

This section may not have any heading; sometimes these headers are used:

objectives
background
aims
purpose

7 Conclusion

The authors consider implications of the findings; two types of implications discussed - implications for practice and implications for future research; sometimes combined with the Discussion section
- ## 4 Method

Design & description of experiment procedures and subjects

Look for headings like:

method, methods, methodology, design, procedure, materials, subjects, participants, patients, instruments, measures, interventions

8 References

A list of literature that helps place the study in context and provides documentation and attribution; this section also presents readers with more information on the same topic