



Author Guidelines – Theoretical Research

How to submit your paper online:

1. Registered authors must login to submit a paper
 - [REGISTER HERE](#) if you do not have a username and password
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2. Select Author
3. Click on [CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW THE FIVE STEPS TO SUBMIT YOUR MANUSCRIPT](#)
4. Follow the five steps to submit your paper
5. To view a video on how to submit a paper online [CLICK HERE](#)
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Review policy and timelines

1. Immediate notification if submitted successfully
2. Notification within 3 weeks if not accepted for further review
3. Notification within 3 months if accepted for publication, if revisions are required or if rejected by both reviewers.
4. Publication within 6 months after submission.

Aims, scope and review policy

Health SA Gesondheid is an interdisciplinary research journal in which only select articles of the highest scientific standard with human health as the main theme are published. The journal also aims to facilitate the gathering and critical testing of insights and viewpoints on knowledge from different disciplines involved in health service delivery. Articles on research work or review articles with the same theme shall also be considered for publication. Papers are peer reviewed to ensure that the contents are understandable, valid, important, interesting and enjoyed. All manuscripts must be submitted online. All articles in Health SA Gesondheid will undergo a double-blinded peer review.

The following contributions are accepted (word counts exclude abstracts, tables and references):

1. Original research (Between 3500 – 7000 words)
2. Book Reviews (Between 700-900 words)

Please see the journal's [section policies](#) for further details.

Manuscript Specifications:

Font Type: Times New Roman
Font Size: 12
Line Spacing: 1.5
Page Margins: Bottom & Top = 2.5cm
Left & Right = 2 cm

Length of Manuscript:

About 20 pages text only (maximum), excluding tables, figures and the list of references.

Manuscript Guidelines

Title: Informative but concise, In small capital letters, centered and in bold, font size 14, eg.: Names of questionnaires, countries, and or authors start with capital letters.

- Author:** Name(s), include full first name, e.g. Gert P. Roux, not G.P. Roux. Include the name of the department and the University of each author. The e-mail address, postal and phone number of the corresponding author should be included.
- Abstract:** Not more than 200 words, and should state concisely the scope of the work and the principal findings:
- the objective of the study
 - the population size, sampling strategy, sample size and response rate
 - main statistical procedures used for analyzing the data
 - most significant results of the study.
- Opsomming:** Always include an Afrikaans abstract of the article, please follow the same format and structure as indicate within the heading 'abstract'.
- Key words:** Use five [5] words not already included in the title, separated by a semi-colon.
- Synopsis:** Afrikaans articles (or articles in any other official SA language) must also have a synopsis of the article of between 500-600 words in English (the entire synopsis appears in italics).

We also ask that you upload a brief biographical note (entered into the 'Bio statement' box during the submission process). This note will appear online in our 'About the Author' section should your article be published with us.

Manuscript Contents

The manuscript contains five sections, namely the introduction, research design, results, discussion and the references. All these first-level headings appear in bold capital letters and are centered.

CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

The author(s) provide a provocative and thought-provoking introduction to the theoretical discourse/debate that will attract the attention of potential readers. In this section the author(s) provide the context or background to the discourse or argument by high-lighting or emphasizing specific aspects relevant or contributing to the discourse or debate. The context or setting of the problem provides the décor against which the problem unfolds. Wherever possible, relevant literature should be cited to provide support for your arguments.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Against the background or context (explained earlier), in which this debate/discourse unfolds, the purpose of the study should be stated clearly and convincingly (but briefly) in this section of the manuscript.

CURRENT THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

A complete and a high-level, critical review of the current literature should be provided that illustrates the different theoretical perspectives/ controversies/ limitations on the theory/methodology in a clear, comprehensive and in a balanced (objective) way. The review should reflect a high quality of scientific argumentation and logic in the identification of the limitations/deficiencies in existing theory/methodology. The arguments around these deficiencies/limitations should be presented in a coherent/systematic manner. Existing theoretical perspectives on these problem/issues should be fully and clearly presented.

PROBLEM STATEMENT AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES (including preliminary literature review)

When introducing the problem it should convince the reader that the problem is relevant and topical. The decision to address a particular research problem can either be triggered by some need identified in practice, some theoretical problem or by some incompatibilities in opposing academic/theoretical viewpoints. Theoretical or practical evidence should be provided to verify the existence of the problem. The evidence should be focused and specific, yet sufficiently extensive on a theoretical level to warrant further research. Care should be taken not to create straw dolls (pseudo-problems) that might come apart at a later stage. The researchability of the problem from a practical and ethical point of view should be considered.

A high-level, preliminary literature review should substantiate the existence of the problem. It should also indicate the extent of one's knowledge on each of the sub-problems or sub-goals of the study. A clear void in existing knowledge must be indicated. This preliminary literature review will not only indicate the current extent of knowledge, but it will also indicate the potential contribution of the resolution of the problem.

The problem statement needs to be formulated carefully so that it includes all major variables/ constructs. It is good practice to state a central research goal/objective. The research goal/objective can then be sub-divided into specific research questions or sub-goals. That will dissect the problem into 'chewable chunks'. These 'chunks' should, when combined again, revert to the problem statement, the central goal, and the research question(s). This is only a device to check whether there are any visible gaps or limitations in the problem statement.

MOTIVATION FOR THE STUDY

A convincing motivation for the study should be presented. The problem should be substantial or comprehensive in nature and a pressing need must exist to address the problem. Evidence should be presented on the extent and actuality of the problem (e.g. in well-being terms) and what impact it would have on, for example, world one, world two or world three knowledge if

RESEARCH DESIGN

With the problem now properly defined and goals of the study clearly specified, the purpose of the next section is to describe how one would go about in addressing the research question(s) by selecting the appropriate research design (approach and methodology).

Research approach

This section serves to explicate the specific theoretical perspective or school of thought followed in the study:

- If applicable, state the perspective or school of thought that serves as paradigmatic approach to the article. Motivate the reason(s) for this perspective.
- If specific presuppositions support the perspective, these should also be stated.

Research method

Specify which of the following non-empirical methods have been used and why this method was chosen. Also indicate where and how this method was used in the study:

- Philosophical analysis
- Literature review
- Conceptual analysis
- Theory-building/Model Building

The application of any of these research methods takes the form of a substantive literature analysis. Depending on the choice of non-empirical methods, the literature analysis should achieve the following in each of following non-empirical methods:

Philosophical analysis

The literature analysis for the philosophical analysis aims at analysing arguments or debates in favour or against a particular position. One can distinguish, e.g. normative analysis, ideology critique, phenomenological analysis or deconstruction applications of philosophical analysis.

Literature Review

A comprehensive and a critical analysis of the literature should be provided that illustrates the different theoretical perspectives, trends or debates with regard to the phenomenon under investigation. The literature review should be presented in a clear, comprehensive and balanced (objective) way. The literature analysis should reflect a high quality of scientific argumentation and logic in the identification of the limitations/deficiencies in existing theory/methodology. The arguments around these deficiencies/limitations should be presented in a coherent/systematic manner. Existing theoretical perspectives on these problem/issues should be fully and clearly presented.

Conceptual analysis

The literature analysis for conceptual analysis should be characterised by clarification and elaboration of the meaning of words and concepts through either generic differentiation or conditional type of conceptual analysis.

Theory or model building

In the case of theory or model building, the literature study will be characterised by a search for linkages between theoretical ideas or concepts in order to find coherence, an explanation for or a causal link between theoretical propositions. It is aimed at explaining phenomena through a new theory, hypothesis or model.

DISCUSSION

The next heading is **DISCUSSION**, which appears in capital letters, bold and is centered.

This section normally contains the following eight elements:

- restate the main objective of the study;
- reaffirm the importance of the study by restating its main contributions;
- summarise the results in relation to each stated research objective or research postulate;
- link the findings back to the literature and to the results reported by other researchers;
- provide explanations for unexpected results;
- provide the conclusion and recommendations (implications for practice);
- point out the possible limitations of the study; and
- provide suggestions for future research

TABLES AND FIGURES

Tables and Figures are each presented on a separate page after the section **REFERENCES** and appear in the same numerical order as they appear in the text. The positions of tables or figures are indicated in the text in the following way: <include Table 1 about here>

Therefore, no tables or figures appear in the text of an article, but are each displayed on a separate page for the type setter to see as a whole. If the sizes of the table or figure are too large it can be uploaded as supplementary files in Step 4 of the submission process. It is essential that all table and figures are clearly labelled.

REFERENCES

References begin on a separate page. References cited in the text should all be included in the list at the end of the paper. Full references at the end of the paper, arranged alphabetically by surname, chronologically within each name, with suffixes a, b, c, etc. to the year for more than one per year by the same author. Note that the second and subsequent lines are indented.

This journal makes use of the Harvard reference style.

Submissions and correspondence

All submissions must be made online at www.hsag.co.za and correspondence regarding manuscripts should be addressed to:

The Editor, HSAG. E-mail: editor@hsag.co.za

Note: Ensure that the article ID [reference] number is included in the subject of your email correspondence.

Electronic submissions by post

Authors with no e-mail or internet connection can mail their submissions on a CD to: HSAG, Postnet Suite #55, Private Bag X22, Tygervalley, Cape Town, South Africa.

All manuscripts will be processed online. Submissions by post or by e-mail must be accompanied by a signed copy of the following indemnity and copyright form. [CLICK HERE](#) to download and save it to your computer. Please include a signed copy with your submission.