IRRODL Research Article Guidelines

The International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning (IRRODL) adheres to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (Sixth Edition).

Article Title

State the main topic of the manuscript in the title. Include relevant information about the design of the study. Capitalize all words except prepositions, articles, and conjunctions.

Authors and Affiliations

Do not include authors' names in the submission. Rather, enter author information in Open Journal Systems (OJS) during the submission process. In the relevant fields, provide the first names or initials (if used), middle names or initials (if used), and surnames for all authors in the order that they should appear if published. As well, provide university or organization affiliations, email addresses, and brief biographical statements. **NOTE**: Please remove author identification information from the submitted document (e.g., remove names/institutions from file properties and from headers).

Abstract

Summarize the paper in 150 to 250 words. Include the following:

- a statement of the main research question or problem under investigation;

- the essential features of the study method and the basic findings; and

- the conclusions, significance, and recommendations.

Introduction

Introduce the problem and state why it is important, include a relevant literature review, and "state the hypotheses and their correspondence to research design."

Method

Describe how the study was conducted. Provide sufficient detail to allow readers to evaluate the appropriateness of the research design and the reliability and validity of the results.

Divide the Method section into labeled subsections that describe the participants or subjects and the procedures used.

Results

Summarize the data and the analysis performed on the data. Provide sufficient detail to support the paper's conclusions.

Discussion/Conclusion

Evaluate and interpret the implications of the data. State whether the results support the original hypotheses. Emphasize the practical and theoretical consequences. Compare and contrast the study's results with the work of others if possible. Provide a summary of the importance of the findings.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledge nonauthors who contributed to the work. Ensure that those listed agree to have their contributions acknowledged.

References

Prepare an unnumbered reference list in alphabetical order by author. Include the names of all contributing authors. Ensure that all references are accurate and that only references cited in the text appear in the reference section. When there is more than one article by the same author(s), list the most recent paper first. Below are examples of reference formats.

For more information on citing sources, visit APA Style Help at http://www.apastyle.org/apa-style-help.aspx

Figures

Include figures (e.g., a graph, chart, map, drawing, photograph) only if they augment the text and do not duplicate information. Provide a sufficiently descriptive caption beneath each figure that serves as a title and explains the figure. Italicize the term *Figure #* and place a period after it (e.g., *Figure 1*.). Capitalize the first word and place a period at the end of the caption.

Example

Figure 1. Illustration of the unbundling of the traditional faculty role.

Explain the symbols in a figure in a legend. Use the same font and font size in the legend as in the figure. Refer to a figure as closely as possible to its appearance in the text. Number figures consecutively using Arabic numbers.

Tables

Place a concise title below the table number. Capitalize the table title. Do not place a colon or period after the table number and title. Number tables consecutively using Arabic numbers.

Example

Table 1

The Cultural Dimensions of Learning Framework

Produce cell-based tables using a spreadsheet program or the tables feature in a word- processing program. Do not produce tables as graphic objects.

In the text, refer to the table by its number, not by its placement (e.g., above, below). In table headings, capitalize the first letter of the first word only (e.g., Course goal) unless capitalization is required (e.g., proper nouns, acronyms).

Style

Headings

IRRODL uses APA headings one, two, and three.

Heading One	Centered, Boldface, Uppercase and Lowercase
Heading Two	Flush Left, Boldface, Uppercase and Lowercase
Heading three.	Indented, boldface, lowercase paragraph heading ending with a period.

Italics

Use italics for titles of books and periodicals; a letter, word, or phrase cited as a linguistic example; words that could be misread; introduction of a new, technical, or key term (after a term has been used once, do not italicize it); letters used as statistical symbols or algebraic variables; periodical volume numbers in reference lists; and anchors of a scale.

Do not use italics for foreign phrases and abbreviations common in English (e.g., et al.), Greek letters, letters used as abbreviations, or mere emphasis.

Capitals

Capitalize proper nouns, names of specific university departments and specific university courses, acronyms, major words in titles of books and articles within the body of the paper, major words in headings one and two, major words in table titles and figure legends, references to titles of sections within the article, trade and brand names, and nouns followed by numerals or letters that denote a specific place in a numbered series.

Do not capitalize names of laws, theories, models, statistical procedures, or hypotheses, nouns that denote common parts of books or tables followed by numerals or letters, and nouns that precede a variable.

Commas

Use commas between elements in a series of three or more items (e.g., x, y, and z), to set apart a nonessential or nonrestrictive clause, to separate two independent clauses joined by a conjunction, to set off the year in exact dates and in parenthetical reference citations, and to separate groups of three digits in most numbers of 1,000 or more.

For detailed information about the mechanics of style, refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (Sixth Edition).

Peer Review Assessment Grid

Below is the grid that peer reviewers use when assessing a research paper submitted to IR-RODL.

Criteria to be Rated	Assessment
Complete, clear and well-organized presentation	
Comments:	
Significance of the problem	
Comments:	
Applicability and interest to the field (relevance beyond case presented)	
Comments:	
Original contribution to open and distance learning	
Comments:	
Description of the problem within a theoretical framework (where appropriate)	
Comments:	
Literature review demonstrates a clear relationship between problem and ODL and other relevant literature	
Comments:	
Appropriateness of research design and method	
Comments:	
Accurate and useful interpretation	
Comments:	
Sound argument and analysis	
Comments:	
Conclusion describes implications for distance education theory, research and/ or practice	
Comments:	
Additional comments:	