

Health Care for Women International Style Guide and Guide for Authors and Reviewers

Aims of the Editors:

- Stimulate an international, multidisciplinary dialogue on women's health issues.
- Publish new research on health that concerns women around the world.
- Encourage authors to consider how topics including cultural differences, lifestyles, spousal abuse, aging, socio-psychological challenges, childrearing and childbearing, violence, ethical issues, health care diagnoses, regimens, and interventions affect women's health globally. While an examination of the journal's history may reveal a strong interest in maternal health, the scope of the journal is now considerably broader.
- Include theoretical, methodological, or practice contributions to the scientific literature on women's health issues while providing new substantive information. Add evidence-inspired recommendations for social policy in discussion sections.

Addressing Our International Interdisciplinary Audience

The requirement that all authors address our international interdisciplinary audience is what makes this journal unique. Authors should keep this requirement in mind as they write each section of their manuscript, beginning with the required introductory paragraph. While it is not essential to include all standard headings that commonly appear in scientific writing, below the editor explains how to address the audience if one chooses such common headings after the introductory paragraph.

Introductory paragraph

An introductory paragraph must be supplied, the purpose of which is to set the tone, establishing relevance of the article to an interdisciplinary international audience. This "tone" must be continued up in every section of the manuscript. In the first paragraph the author(s) must relate what the work is about, what they did and why they did it. If the study was done in one location on the globe, authors must include what an international and interdisciplinary audience can learn from reading this study that is relevant to work done elsewhere. Keep in mind that our interdisciplinary audience consists of researchers, scholars, practitioners, health care professionals, and students in public health, women's studies, social work, sociology, anthropology, psychology, health education, business, and history. Authors are asked to write a similar paragraph to explain the international appeal of their work to reviewers. Authors may consider repeating this paragraph as the introductory paragraph.

Background

Maintaining the tone of an addressing an international, interdisciplinary audience is paramount in the background section. It is insufficient to say that the study of a topic itself warrants international appeal. Authors must include international literature that is both substantively and theoretically germane. This section should be written for an

interdisciplinary audience rather than a narrow group of scholars already familiar with what an author considers to be theoretical background. Do include citations of work published previously in *Health Care for Women International* when it is available as well as literature published in other international and interdisciplinary scholarly journals. If authors' intention is to generate theory rather than to test an existing theoretical hypothesis, include in the background section the assumptions followed to honor this intention and cite the work of others who have had similar intention. The authors' purpose in this section is to place their work in the context of existing literature.

Methods

Authors must explain their epistemological assumptions. The methods employed in all quantitative, qualitative, primary, secondary meta-analysis, mixed methods, or literature reviews should be explained so that someone from outside the author's field can understand the work that was done. Methods should be detailed enough so that replication is possible in the same location or elsewhere. Our interdisciplinary audience needs the details to understand what was done when, with whom, and how. Authors must include a statement explaining how they assured that all participants provided their informed consent and a statement indicating that their work was evaluated by an ethical review board.

Results

Limit the content in this section to what you learned based on the methods you described earlier in the manuscript. Include statistical tables and theoretical diagrams in this section. Unless your manuscript is a literature review, citations to existing literature do not belong in this section.

Discussion

In the discussion section, authors should revisit ideas presented in the background section of the manuscript. Be certain the relevance for an international interdisciplinary audience is obvious. While the editor does not wish authors to generalize their location specific results to an international audience, authors should raise their work to a higher level of theoretical abstraction so readers in other geographic areas can learn something new. One way to do this is to suggest research may be replicated in the context of other countries. The authors' purpose in the discussion section should be to stimulate dialog with scholars from other countries and scholars of disparate disciplines. Always present suggestions for further research.

Stylistic Guidelines

Follow the Style & Format “Norms” of *Health Care for Women International*. In general, follow the guidelines published in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA 6th edition), but there are a few unique requirements.

First Person

In accordance with APA guidelines, *Health Care for Women International* accepts work written in first person. We also accept work written in third person, passive voice.

Anthropomorphism

Anthropomorphism involves imparting human qualities to other than humans. It is against our editorial policy to be anthropomorphic. Examples of anthropomorphism are “This paper states...” or “The literature reveals...”. To remove the anthropomorphism, authors must write, “Authors state...” and “Researchers reveal...”. Manuscripts that are not corrected to remove anthropomorphism will be rejected. The easiest way to remove most examples of anthropomorphism is to write in first person.

Research Participants

Authors should refer to the people with whom they worked and studied as research participants or informants. Authors may not call such people, “subjects.” A subject is a thing, sub-human, and unworthy of respect, like a rat in a maze. The editor believes that referring to a woman as a subject is degrading and anti-feminist. When selecting how they will refer to people, authors should consider that without the help of research participants, their work would be impossible. Manuscripts in which participants are referred to as subjects will be rejected.

Page Length

A typical manuscript in our journal should be no more than 25 pages, including references and tables. Reviewers are asked to consider whether the page length is appropriate for this manuscript based on method, research design, etc.

Literature Review Policy

A paper that is a literature review must meet one of the following conditions to be published:

- Contains new substantive information not published elsewhere
- Provides a theoretical contribution
- Provides a methodological contribution

If you have questions about this guide for authors and reviewers, Email or write the Editors.

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You may also find the HCWI Instructions for Authors helpful. Instructions can be found via the link <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/uhcwauth.html>