

ISVS

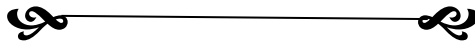
International Society for the Study of Vernacular Settlements

ISVS e-journal

Asian School of Knowledge, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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General Guidelines for preparing papers to be submitted to the ISVS e-journal

Preamble

ISVS e-journal is a research journal. What this means is that it publishes papers reporting research generated after conducting research; in other words, research papers. Please note that research papers are different from essays. ISVS e-journal cannot publish essays. Therefore, please submit a research paper, if you want your paper to be published in the ISVS e-journal.

Components of a research paper are as follows.

Abstract: This should start with an introduction to the issue and the context that gave rise to this issue. Say what the research specifically investigates in this context. Then explain the methodology employed for collecting data. It is not enough to just say quantitative or qualitative. Briefly state what the tools and techniques employed. Finally say what the conclusions of the research are. Please do not write extensive details of any of the above. Please also do not include quotations or references. Statements must be straightforward. Do not write in a roundabout way. This should be succinct; brief. Confine the abstract to about 300 words and stay within the first page of the template.

Keywords: At the bottom of the abstract a list of keywords must be provided. They should relate to the issues examined, main theoretical ideas explored and the city or country.

Introduction: This should explain what the issue is, and how this issue has arisen; in other words, the background to the issue. Be brief. Do not discuss all the theoretical ideas related to this issue or the complexity of previous research. End this with the aims and objectives of the study. Always, aims and objectives must be written starting with 'To' (bulleted) and say what the research aims to achieve in the long term and the short term. Please note that aims are noble, long-term intentions almost impossible to be achieved fully while the objectives are practical, short-term, immediately achievable intentions.

The theoretical basis: Every research is buttressed by theoretical ideas, which have specific meanings. In this section, introduce these complex theoretical ideas and their relationships employing the voices of the authors. Do not refer to books or papers. However, this is not always necessary. It is required only if your paper deals with complex theoretical ideas. If the theoretical ideas related to the research are well known, then there is no need for an extensive discussion here.

A review of literature: You will find that any the issue examined by a researcher has somehow been examined previously although exceptions may exist. In most cases, a critical review must discuss these previous research conducted by the most noteworthy researchers, and compare and contrast their research findings. This must be a discussion: not a list, not a table. It should go beyond saying this person did this and the other person did that. Use the voices of the researchers, such as by saying, "Rapoport (1969) says...". Research findings must be presented in the present tense and not in the past tense. This should present an outline of the current knowledge related to the issue and highlight the gaps of knowledge. The review must also discuss the research conducted into the particular local context referred to in the paper, at the end. This is the context in which your paper will reside. The next person investigating this issue will refer to you as an extension of such a review, if your findings are significant. That is how knowledge will be continuously constructed. This is the context of your paper.

Research methodology: This should explain how the data was collected. Tools and techniques must be presented and the basis must be explained in selecting samples, sample populations, case studies etc. Extensive theoretical explanations about methodologies are not needed, such as explaining what qualitative research is. In a way, the details presented must enable another researcher to repeat your research and ascertain if similar findings can be obtained. This is the test of science.

Findings: (Do not use the titles such as materials and methods or results unless you had done a scientific experiment. Only experiments have results.)

Data and Analysis: If you are presenting a case study, introduce the case study first. Otherwise present the data and present the outcomes of the analysis of that data. Data from all the data gathering techniques mentioned previously must be presented here. Relate these findings to the issues examined and the aims and objectives. Present tables, figures, charts and other means of organizing data to uncover patterns of their existence. Always, acknowledge sources of the diagrams, figures and tables. Titles should be brief. Do not say the obvious. Do not write titles such as 'a photo showing ...' it is clear if it is an image; no need to say it; 'showing' is an unnecessary word. It is clear. Do not use the word photos for images.

Please note that ISVS e-journal has standards for these in the template; follow them. It uses Fig. 7: (dot and a colon) instead of Figure. 7. (Two dots). Table titles are on top. Fig. titles are at the bottom.

End the findings with a list of the significant findings:

Discussion: if the findings are different from what others have found before, please discuss why they are different. If similar, say so.

Conclusions: Please ensure that the conclusions are derived from the data and analysis. This should not be 'concluding remarks' that are made in an essay to finish the writing. Do not repeat a summary of what was done. Do not express personal opinions here. Remain focused with the aims and objectives and confine the findings to what was actually found out related to the issue investigated. End the conclusion with statements about strengths and weaknesses of the research presented.

References: Produce all the references as per the Harvard system (ISVS e-journal uses a slight variation: there is no dot after the bracket) and organize them according to the alphabetical order. All the listed references must have been cited in the text. Follow the template to the last dot.

Stylistic Compatibility

Please download the template from the ISVS e-journal site and format as per this template. Do not use old templates such as 2022. Use the 2024 template available at the website.

If you follow these guidelines and if your paper is within the scope of the ISVS e-journal, you will have a good chance of publishing it in the ISVS e-journal. Our intention is to help you develop your paper to the standards expected of a good scientific journal. Papers are extensively reviewed and you will receive good instructions as to how to develop it. This may take more than one round of reviews sometimes. As you know, ISVS e-journal is highly recognized and we maintain the highest standards. The Editor-in-Chief often personally communicates with you while you develop your paper, and that is why we do not have an automated, mechanical submission and review system.

Thank you for your interest in the ISVS e-journal. We look forward to help you publish your work

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