

Instructions for Authors

Our primary audience is senior executives in business and government, with particular emphasis on those who understand and appreciate systems-oriented perspectives. Our secondary audience is academics with similar perspectives. Since such people will seldom be specialists in the topic of an article, we require the level of writing to be comparable to journals such as *Harvard Business Review* or *Sloan Management Review*. Thus, tables and figures are encouraged, while equations are discouraged. Especially important is an orientation toward helping readers to make use of what is discussed in an article.

All articles should be submitted via email to either of the Editors-in-Chief — Andrew P. Sage (asage@gmu.edu) or William B. Rouse (brouse@ess-advisors.com). If this cannot be done, please send them by mail to one of the co-editors. Authors are encouraged to submit brief proposals — to either of the Editors-in-Chief — for quick assessments of the fit of a proposed contribution to this journal. Submit manuscripts as Microsoft Word files or equivalent. Submit figures as Microsoft PowerPoint files or equivalent. All correspondence with authors will, to the extent possible, be via E-mail. Since it will be necessary for some correspondence to be sent by post or fax, full address particulars for the corresponding author must be provided.

ORGANIZATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts must be written in English. Authors whose native language is not English are encouraged to seek the advice of a native English speaker, if possible, before submitting a manuscript.

Manuscripts should be formatted with wide margins and double spacing throughout, including the abstract, footnotes and references. This will assist in the review process. Every page of the manuscript, including the title page, references, tables, etc., should be numbered on the bottom center. However, in the text no reference should be made to page numbers; if necessary, one may refer to sections. Use bold face and italics formatting sparingly, and underline words that should be in italics if your word processor does not support this. SI units should be used, i.e. the units based on the meter, kilogram, second, etc.

Manuscripts should be organized in the following order:

- Title page
- Introduction
- Body of text (divided by headings & subheadings)
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Tables
- Figure captions
- Figures

Any information concerning research grants, etc. should be included in the acknowledgement section preceding the references.

HEADINGS & SUBHEADINGS

All headings and subheadings should be left justified and *not* numbered. Top-level headings should be bold and upper case. Subheadings should be bold and “title” case — first letter of each word (except articles) upper case and the other letters lower case. Sub-subheadings should be underlined and title case.

TITLE PAGE

The title page should provide the following information:

- Title (should be clear, descriptive and not too long)
- Name(s) of author(s)
- Full affiliation(s)
- Present address of author(s), if different from affiliation
- Complete correspondence address, including telephone number, fax number, and E-mail.
- Abstract — should be clear, descriptive, self-explanatory and not longer than 150 words. It should also be suitable for publication elsewhere.

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- Tables should be numbered according to their sequence in the text. The text should include references to all tables.
- Each table should be provided on a separate page of the manuscript. Tables should never be included in the text.
- Each table should have a brief and self-explanatory title.
- Column headings should be brief, but sufficiently explanatory. Standard abbreviations of units of measurement should be added between parentheses.
- Vertical lines should not be used to separate columns. Leave some extra space between the columns instead.
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- Illustrations should be numbered according to their sequence in the text. The text should include references to all illustrations.
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REFERENCES

References should be cited as (Smith, 1982), (Jones & Brown, 1982), and (Green et al., 1982) with semi-colons between multiple references. Reference lists should be alphabetical and conform to the following examples:

- Brown, A.A. (1982). A method for optimizing everything. *Journal of Systems Methods*. 167(4), 417–423.
- Green, B.B., & Green, C.C. (1982). *Meta-systems and their management*. New York: Systems Press.
- Jones, D.D. (1982). Why systems thinking is not a natural act. In E.E. Jones & F.F. Jones (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Systems Theology* (pp. 12–71). Boston: Essence Publishers.
- Smith, G.G. (1982). A systems study of systems studies (Rep. No. TR-82–131). Rockville, MD: Beltway Consultants.
- White, H.H. (1982). Random thoughts on systems thinking. *Proceedings of the 97th Annual Meeting of the Society of Systems Raconteurs*. 193–194.

FOOTNOTES

- Footnotes should only be used if absolutely essential. In most cases it will be possible to incorporate the information in the text.
- If used, they should be numbered in the text, indicated by superscript numbers and kept as short as possible.

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