

Tips on writing and reviewing for the Journal of Transport and Health

Now that the journal has published two full volumes, we are aware of a number of recurrent themes in queries from and to authors. I hope this is useful, particularly for new authors.

Is this the right journal for the manuscript?

Almost anything to do with transport does, or can, affect health but we cannot consider all research on transport for this particular journal. As the number of manuscripts we receive increases, we are becoming more strict on our inclusion criteria.

- Check that your article really falls within the scope of the *Journal of Transport and Health* (see www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-transport-and-health/ for the full scope of the journal).
- Check whether another transportation journal would be more appropriate (for example, see <http://journalfinder.elsevier.com/> for a tool to suggest an appropriate Elsevier journal, and <https://www.elsevier.com/social-sciences/transportation/elsevier-transportation-journals> for a list of Elsevier's Transportation journals)

If in doubt, ask advice from experienced colleagues or from the editor of the journal you are considering.

What type of article should be submitted?

In general, we prefer to publish articles that contain results rather than descriptions of forthcoming studies or pilot studies. The latter two are sometimes appropriate to publish but authors need to make the case in their covering letter. In general, these would be more likely to be considered if submitted as a short report than as a full original research article.

The study found nothing positive. Is it appropriate to submit an article?

It is just as important for studies with negative findings or finding no effect to be published as studies with positive findings, to prevent both bias in reviews of the topic and other researchers or practitioners wasting time and other resources. However, we would want to be convinced that the study had been designed and conducted to a sufficiently high standard to warrant publication. For example, an under-powered study (with too small a sample size or running for too short a period) finding no effect is not informative.

Plagiarism

All manuscripts are checked for the existence of content already published or otherwise available on the internet. In general, we will not publish work that overlaps to an important extent with other peer-reviewed work.

- If the only peer-reviewed publication is a conference abstract, we will not consider that to be duplicate publication but please mention this in the covering letter

- If your manuscript is based on a report you have published, please ensure that the covering letter explains what that report is and in what way(s) your manuscript differs from the report. Please reword your text, even if it is 'self-plagiarism'.
- We understand that some technical terms and study methods and definitions need to be explained in a specific way but never copy paragraphs from other documents (even if you were the author) and avoid using identical sentences, except where you indicate that it is a direct quote. Even where you paraphrase, not copy, ensure you attribute the work to the original researchers or authors.
- For further advice, please look at:
 - <https://www.elsevier.com/editors/perk/questions-and-answers#plagiarism>
 - <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/ethics-and-plagiarism-what-every-editor-should-know>
 - <https://www.elsevier.com/editors/perk/plagiarism-complaints/identify-2>

If you have concerns on what or what is not considered plagiarism, a helpful website to check is http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/TM/curr390_guide.shtml.

Language – and writing a scientific paper

We will accept articles written in English or American, but one or the other must be used consistently throughout the manuscript (except of course in the titles of cited references, where the original spelling must be used).

The journal is a scientific publication, so informal language is not appropriate. For example, contractions such as it's or doesn't must not be used in your text: these should be written in full (it is and does not). This rule does not apply when quoting speech, for example in a qualitative study.

If English is not your first language, you may find it helpful to ask a native English speaker to read your draft manuscript before you submit it. Elsevier has a service to improve the English (usually for a fee) but this deals with the clarity and accuracy of the English and not with the scientific aspects of writing a paper.

Elsevier also has an increasing online, free to access, Publishing College that provides advice on writing – and reviewing – manuscripts for scientific journals. See <https://www.publishingcampus.elsevier.com/pages/3/Colleges/College-of-Skills-Training.html>

Having problems with the submission website, e.g. in logging on?

Rather than emailing the editor, please contact the Elsevier Help team, via the Help hyperlink at the top right of the EVISE pages. The staff there are more likely to be able to help you than I am, and they generally respond almost immediately.

Dr. Jennifer Mindell
 Editor-in-Chief
 31st October 2016