Paper Submission Guide

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Submission:

- 1. Authors are cordially invited to submit their manuscripts via email to <u>editor.erj2019@gmail.com</u>
- 2. Acknowledgement will be sent to the corresponding author as early as possible upon receiving of the manuscript.
- 3. The manuscripts submitted to ERJ are subject to plagiarism checking through Turnitin and peer review. The manuscript is evaluated by external reviewers (anonymous to authors) and refereed within one month.

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Important Notes:

- 1. A paper which is going to be submitted to this journal should be according to the journal Paper Submission Guideline as explained below.
- 2. The submission must not have been previously published, nor should it be under consideration for publication elsewhere. We also have a strict policy against plagiarism. The plagiarism is checked through two methods: reviewer check and plagiarism prevention tool Turnitin. All submissions will be checked by online software before being sent to reviewers.

General Requirements:

1. Language: Please write your text in proper English; American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of both. We only accept manuscripts written in English.

- 2. Length of Paper: There is no word/page limit in a manuscript, but the manuscript should not exceed 35 pages (Single space, Times New Roman 12).
- **3.** Word Processing Formats: The manuscript file should be provided in Microsoft Word format only.
- 4. **Organization of Manuscript:** The manuscript should follow the following order:
 - i. Title
 - ii. List of authors, their affiliations and email addresses
 - iii. Keywords
 - iv. Abstract
 - v. Introduction
 - vi. Literature review
 - vii. Methodology
 - viii. Results & Discussion
 - ix. Conclusion
 - x. Recommendations (if required)
 - xi. Acknowledgements (optional)
 - xii. References

Tables and Figures may be put inside the paper text or at the end of paper, Footnotes/Endnotes may be used according to the flow of ideas and spontaneity.

- 5. **Title:** The title should be a concise and informative description of the work that accurately reflect the main scope and content of the paper. It should not contain abbreviations.
- 6. List of authors, their affiliations and email addresses: Please indicate the full names and affiliations of all the authors clearly. Affiliations should include department, university, country, and preferably the e-mail address. One of the authors should be designated as the corresponding author, whose email address needs to be included.
- 7. **Keywords:** The author should provide appropriate and short keywords Immediately after the abstract. The maximum number of the keywords is 7.
- **8. Abstract:** Abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, design/methodology/approach, the main results and major conclusions. It should not ideally exceed 350 words. No citations should be included in the abstract.
- **9. Introduction:** This section should be concise and define the background and significance of the research by considering the relevant literature, particularly the most recent publications. When preparing the introduction, please bear in mind that some readers will not be experts in your field of research.
- **10.** Literature Review: This section is dedicated to the significant literature resources that contributed to the research. The author should survey scholarly articles, books and other sources relevant to the area of research, providing a description, summary, and critical evaluation of each work.
- **11. Methodology:** This section should contain detailed information about the procedures and steps followed in the study. It can be divided into subsections if several methods are described.
- 12. **Results and Discussion:** This section is a comparative or descriptive analysis of the study based on the results/findings, previous literature, etc. The results should be offered in a logical sequence, given the most important findings first and addressing the stated objectives of the study. The author should deal only with new or important aspects of the results obtained. The relevance of the findings in the context of existing literature or contemporary practice should be addressed as well.
- **13. Conclusion:** The author should clearly explain the important conclusions of the research highlighting its significance and relevance.

- **14. Acknowledgments:** The author is free to include acknowledgments or not. This section may include the names of people who in one way or another contributed to the work. It can also include information about supporting grants, funding sources, and so forth.
- **15. About the Author(s):** The author can present own activities, research interests, memberships and affiliations, published research, etc. or a link to their personal website.
- **16. References:** References used in the paper should follow the APA/MLA style and carefully checked for accuracy and consistency. Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list and vice versa.
- 17. **Tables and Figures:** The tables and figures should be presented at the end of the research.
- 18. Manuscript Selection: The peer review process for journal publication is essentially a quality control mechanism. It is a process by which experts evaluate scholarly works, and its objective is to ensure a high quality of published work. The Journal follows a blind peer review system, wherein the names of the authors and reviewers' identity are not disclosed. The Journal employs a three-stage review process basic check, double blind peer review and the acceptance/rejection decision:

Basic Check: The first stage of the review process takes place in the editorial office. On submission, a manuscript is reviewed to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements of the journal before it is sent to external reviewers. At this stage, the manuscript is reviewed for the following:

Plagiarism: The manuscript is evaluated to compare the level of similarity with other published works. The Journal uses Turnitin plagiarism detection system to achieve this goal. Manuscripts that have high level of similarity with other works (including the author(s) previous works) are rejected at this stage. Authors are provided with the similarity report together with the decision to reject the manuscript.

Scope: After a manuscript has undergone similarity check and the level of similarity is judged to be appropriate, the content of the manuscript is checked to ensure that it fits within the scope of the journal selected by the author(s). In situations where the content of the manuscript does not fit the scope of the journal, the author's consent is sought for the manuscript to be transferred to a more suitable journal. A transferred manuscript does not automatically translate to an accepted manuscript in the receiving journal. The manuscript still undergoes the usual peer review and may be accepted or reject if it is not suitable.

Language: The Journal currently publishes full text of articles only in English and Urdu languages. Manuscripts are checked for the structure, organization, correctness and clarity of the languages as it adheres to the journal's Instructions for Authors. The editorial office usually makes correction to minor grammatical errors in such a manner that it does not alter the manuscript. However, in situations where language is substantially difficult to comprehend, the manuscript is returned to the author to improve clarity of the language. Manuscripts that fails in this first stage of the review process are returned to the author(s) for modification and resubmission. This first stage of the review is very important as it enables the author(s) improve the manuscript at an early stage. This first stage of the manuscript review is usually completed within a week.

Double Blind Peer Review: Once a manuscript successfully completes the editorial office review process, it proceeds to the second stage. The second stage of the review process employs the double-blind review system. A minimum of two external reviewers are selected from our database, editorial board of the journal or other sources. These reviewers have expert knowledge of the subject area of the manuscript. The reviewers are invited to review the manuscript by sending them the abstract of the manuscript. Upon acceptance to review the manuscript, the full text of the manuscript is sent to the reviewers after the author(s) have been concealed. Reviewers are required to evaluate the manuscripts and provide useful comments to enable the author(s) improve the quality of the manuscript. Reviewers also score the manuscript in terms of originality, contribution to the field, technical quality, clarity of presentation and depth of research. Finally, reviewers make one of the following suggestion about the manuscript;

- Accept without any changes: The journal will publish the paper in its original form.
- Accept with minor revisions: The journal will publish the paper after making minor corrections suggested by reviewers.
- **Accept with major revisions / Revise and resubmit**: The journal will publish the paper provided the authors make the changes suggested by the reviewers and/or editors.

• **Reject**: The journal will not publish the paper or reconsider it even if the authors make major revisions.

It should be noted that though a reviewer may give a positive report on a particular manuscript, if another reviewer raises concerns that may fundamentally undermine the study and results the manuscript may be rejected. Upon receipt of the reviewers' comments, the editorial office reviews the comment. If the two reviewers' comment have significantly different/or contradictory opinions about the same manuscripts, the manuscript is re-sent to a third reviewer.

All reviewers' comments (including the third reviewers' comment where necessary) are thereafter sent to the author(s). The reviewers' identities are concealed from the author(s). The total time taken to complete the second stage of the manuscript review dependent on the availability of the reviewers. However, it is usually completed between one to four weeks.

Using the reviewers' comments, author(s) makes corrections to the manuscript and submits a revised manuscript.

Acceptance/Rejection Decision: Upon receipt of the revised submission, the manuscript undergoes the third and final stage of the review process. The original manuscript, the revised manuscript and all the reviewers' comments are sent to an editor of the journal. The editor reviews the manuscript and makes one the following decisions:

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- Accept with minor revisions: The journal will publish the paper after making minor corrections suggested by reviewers.
- **Accept with major revisions / Revise and resubmit**: The journal will publish the paper provided the authors make the changes suggested by the reviewers and/or editors.
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Manuscript accepted without corrections are scheduled for publication. Manuscripts that require corrections (either minor or major) are sent to the author(s) to affect the corrections suggested by the editor. After effecting the corrections, the editor reviews the manuscripts again before the manuscripts are accepted for publication. In some cases, the editor may require authors to make corrections a second time. In other cases, the editor may request for the revised manuscripts with (or without) the additional corrections to be sent to a specific reviewer who had earlier reviewed the manuscript before the manuscript can be accepted for publication.

- **19. Submission Preparation Checklist:** As part of the submission process, authors are required to check off their submission's compliance with all of the following items, and submissions may be returned to authors that do not adhere to these guidelines.
 - i. The submission has not been previously published, nor is it before another journal for consideration (or an explanation has been provided in Comments to the Editor).
 - ii. The submission file is in Microsoft Word file format.
 - iii. Where available, URLs for the references have been provided.
 - iv. The text adheres to the stylistic and bibliographic requirements outlined in the Author Guide, which is found in About the Journal.
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