

Book Review

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth edition. by American Psychological Association. Washington, DC, 2010. ISBN 978-1-4338-0561-5.

One of the first things that users of the sixth edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (aka the APA Guide and referred to as “the new edition” in this review) will find is that it is considerably shorter than the fifth edition. American Psychological Association (APA) specific information that is accessible online has been deleted from the new edition. General principles and guidelines on textual and visual presentation have been emphasized. Researchers will find that this edition is more user-friendly than the previous edition. All information on a topic is placed in the same location. In contrast to the fifth edition, where information on the elements of a manuscript was located in several chapters, the new edition designates Chapter 2 to discuss the manuscript elements from the title to the appendices and supplemental materials.

The new edition uses a holistic focus on and parallels the flow of work in the research process. The new edition begins with the idea stage and ends with the publication stage in an effort to help new researchers understand the research process. The discussion of the guidelines begins with the recognition of types of articles, continues with ethical and legal standards, moves on to the structure, content and mechanics of style of a manuscript, and ends with sharing the results in a scientific journal and crediting the resources utilized.

The new edition has retained many features. For example, basic rules of APA writing style, detailed examples of various types of citations, and sample papers are provided. However, efforts have been made to reorganize the structure and add more content to make the manual more useful. This edition has incorporated changes in the field. In particular, Chapter 1 provides an overview of writing for the behavioral and social sciences; Chapter 3 simplifies the heading style to make it more compatible with electronic publication; and Chapter 6 expands the discussion of electronic sources of information. Technological advances and the increasing use of visual images have created a need for changes in the rules for presentations. Chapter 5 offers expanded guidance on the presentation of electronic data. Particular attention has been paid in Chapter 5 to presentation of new types of data in an effort to meet the need of a single well-established convention on such data presentation.

Compared with the fifth edition, guidance on ethics, including duplicate publication, plagiarism and self-plagiarism, and determining authorship and terms of collaboration has been greatly expanded. Chapter 1 provides a thorough definition of authorship, followed by detailed examples of substantial professional contributions and contributions that do not constitute authorship. Comprehensive guidelines on how to determine the order of authorship are also presented.

New guidelines on journal reporting standards are provided in Chapter 2 to help researchers in the description of their empirical work. Guidance on the discussion of statistical methods is extended. All tested hypotheses and estimates of appropriate effect sizes should be reported. Chapter 4 presents new guidelines for reporting inferential statistics such as t -tests and χ^2 tests. In Chapter 5, there is a detailed explanation on the presentation of results including how to construct a variety of types of tables and figures.

Chapter 6 provides details on all aspects of citations. Guidelines on electronic reference formats have been significantly expanded in this chapter. To embrace the trend of electronic journal publishing and adapt to the more timely dissemination of research results, the digital object identifier (DOI) is presented as a reliable source and locator of information. A comprehensive set of examples on references, especially those on electronic formats (e.g. data sets, measurement instruments, and online discussion forums), are presented in Chapter 7.

The last chapter focuses on the description of the publication process, from the process of peer review to the decision to accept or reject a manuscript. The authors' responsibility to prepare the manuscript according to specific journal guidelines is explained in detail in this chapter. The discussion on complying with ethical, legal, and policy requirements has been expanded compared to the previous edition. Information on working with the publisher when the manuscript is in press is included at the end of the chapter.

To summarize, the new edition is a more condensed and user-friendly version of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Users will greatly benefit from using this edition due to its clarity and precision in the organization and presentation of information. In future editions, I believe it would be beneficial to include guidelines for reviewers on understanding the key points of reviewing a manuscript.

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