

Technical Requirement for Writing a legal Scholarly article and Criteria for its Acceptance for Publication

الضوابط التقنية في كتابة مقال علمي قانوني وضمانات قبوله للنشر

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Abstract:

A legal scholarly article serves as a statement supported by evidence and arguments; it is neither a mere narrative nor a presentation of specific facts, Its aim is to prove the validity of one or more ideas; it is possible to defend the hypothesis we favour provided we do so with the utmost seriousness and steadfastness. Even if objectivity is lacking, the will to be objective remains, and this yields several benefits, including academic integrity, a thorough understanding of the issue at hand, and coherence of ideas. All of this serves as a guarantee of reaching logical conclusions, accompanied by practical and feasible suggestions or recommendations that increase the likelihood of the article being accepted for publication in peer-reviewed scholarly journals.

Keywords : Technical Requirement, Article, Publication .

الملخص:

المقال العلمي القانوني بمثابة بيان مدعم بالبراهين والحجج، وليس بسرد تلقائي ولا بعرض متعلق بوقائع معينة، ويتمثل هدفه في اثبات صحة فكرة أو عدة أفكار، فمن الممكن الدفاع عن الفرضية التي ننحاز إليها بشرط أن نقوم بذلك بجدية وثبات شديدين، وإن كانت الموضوعية غير موجودة فإن الإرادة في أن نكون موضوعيين موجودة وينتج عن ذلك عدة مزايا تتمثل في الأمانة العلمية، الاستيعاب للإشكالية المطروحة، التناسق في الأفكار وكل هذا يعتبر ضمانات شكلية وموضوعية في الوصول إلى نتائج منطقية تقابلها اقتراحات أو توصيات عملية وممكنة ترجح قبول المقال للنشر في المجالات العلمية المحكمة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الضوابط التقنية، مقال، النشر ...

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Introduction:

Writing an academic article is one of the most important formal requirements for being granted permission to defend a PhD thesis, and many students find it difficult to prepare and finalise academic essays. However, what these students do not realise is that academic essays differ significantly from creative writing, as they are based on specific rules; learning and adhering to these rules enables students to write professional and successful academic article.

An academic article is a form of formal writing that addresses a single, specific topic, and its aim is often to persuade the reader of a particular point through a series of factual arguments based on sound scientific principles. An academic article contains a clear introduction summarising the essay, the purpose of which is to bring the reader up to speed, as well as a structured and logical outline of the essay. The paragraphs must follow a logical and systematic sequence, incorporating supporting evidence from reliable academic sources, which constitutes the body of the essay, along with a clear conclusion summarising the essay's topic and the purpose for which it was written.

In law, one cannot resort to innovation; therefore, the researcher must broaden their legal, historical and factual knowledge whilst writing the main or subsidiary elements relating to the treatment of the subject, taking into account grammatical rules, including punctuation (full st As for the appropriate title for a scholarly article, the author must carefully choose a clear and appealing academic title; that is, the title should be formulated concisely, expressing the content of the article whilst being balanced and profound. An appropriate title succinctly reflects the idea and problem statement of the academic paper, avoiding verbosity and ambiguity. Furthermore, it provides a comprehensive and specific overview of the scholarly article and directly encourages interested researchers to read its content. A compelling title immediately convinces the scientific committee to review and evaluate the article, whilst also arousing the curiosity of researchers, readers and interested parties following its publication, as it succinctly highlights the problem associated with the chosen topic and provides an initial impression and general idea of the content. For this reason, the title of a academic article must be characterised by precision, appeal, brevity and intrigue.ops, commas, etc.).

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This research paper is intended to highlight the key foundations and requirements of an article, namely the formal and substantive characteristics of drafting an acceptable scholarly article, and to enable researchers to understand, respect and adhere to these guidelines through continuous practice and specialised training. We therefore pose the following question:

What are the formal and substantive technical standards for writing a scholarly article in the field of legal studies? And what are the criteria for its acceptance for publication in peer-reviewed journals?

1. The Concept and Characteristics of the Scholarly Article

The scholarly academic article is a specialised term for original intellectual work within a particular scientific field; it has a concise and specific structure of a purely scientific nature, centring on the study of a specific topic or a well-defined research problem, precisely defined in terms of time and place.

Such scholarly articles are always written with supporting evidence from reliable academic sources—that is, logical, coherent and consistent—whether to fill a knowledge gap (scientific gap), to discover facts, or to arrive at original findings on a subject; they represent an attempt to reach important and novel scientific conclusions that have not previously been attained, or to examine a complex issue from a different angle that has been addressed previously, thereby offering added value. For this reason, scientific research must, above all, be intelligently directed towards studying the issues at hand in order to uncover facts that benefit knowledge and society. (Mouwaffaq, 2006, p. 165)

As for the characteristics of a scholarly article, it can be said that the internationally recognised academic article is characterised by scientific objectivity and integrity, as well as the logical organisation of information into sections arranged according to the nature and objective of the study, presented in a clear and coherent manner.

The article is subject to stricter standards, as it is written in precise, rigorous scientific language in a clear, sound and coherent manner, covering the specific idea of the article without being overly long or too brief. To produce this distinguished academic research, there are important stages that must be respected; These stages form the backbone of every article, aiming to contribute new creative ideas to the field of specialisation in particular and to knowledge in general. Generally speaking, most scholarly articles adhere to the following well-known scientific structure (introduction, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion). (Seboun, 2012, p. 322)

Every researcher must present their paper in correct language, based on proven scientific facts, free from ambiguity, complexity, plagiarism or academic dishonesty, so that ultimately both specialists and non-specialists, as well as future generations, may benefit from it to improve performance in all areas of life.

The scholarly article is an important academic pillar and an effective means of communication for professors, researchers and postgraduate students, It is worth noting here that, methodologically speaking, the article is characterised by being written in a direct manner, of appropriate length or volume, and clearly, in a sound style composed of short, precise sentences, based on a set of specific concepts and theories that are recognised and well-known within the academic field or discipline. (Hijab Mouhammed, 2000, p. 54)

The scholarly article, in this sense, is: “A concise piece of published research through which the researcher presents the results of an experiment in a scientific field on a specific topic; the author’s ideas do not reflect or convey an absolute truth, but rather constitute creative, productive knowledge through which they raise questions regarding specific problematic issues and provide answers to these issues in the form of findings.” (El-Rifai, 1998, p. 191)

2. Guidelines for Writing a Scholarly Legal Article

1. Defining the proposed topic of the article; this means that every scholarly article has an initial idea that arouses curiosity and motivates every researcher to study it within their field, particularly in the field of legal sciences, so that they may pose the initial problem and thereby formulate the preliminary questions in a scientific and practical manner by identifying a significant scientific angle for analysis and attempting to answer them with convincing evidence, legal grounds and circumstantial evidence. Every legal problem always begins with an initial conception based on a sound research idea that arouses interest and deep reflection; this stage is the preliminary step that paves the way for identifying and formulating the starting question or what is known as the general research question. (Al-sharif, 1996, p. 288)

From this point, the researcher gains a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the issues worthy of study and research. Specifically, the idea of writing a scientific article arises through continuous and focused reading, the researcher's scientific inclinations, as well as constant engagement with ideas and issues of importance to society, and an attempt to deconstruct and understand them. Any researcher must ask two important questions before writing: first, what is the aim of writing this paper; and second, what is the appropriate methodology for this topic? (Taleb, 2021, p. 124)

This is where the scientific paper project begins, based on a systematic and consistent plan for creativity. After that, the researcher begins to gather and organise the important information relevant to the topic, classifying it according to importance and priority, and reading it critically and thoroughly. There are always new, urgent and sometimes complex issues in every society; it is here, specifically, that the role of the bold researcher comes into play in diagnosing the problem and attempting to find a scientific and practical solution to it.

Therefore, defining the research topic is considered the crucial initial stage in constructing any research project, prior to gathering specialised and up-to-date scientific material.

2. Formulating the research question: because crystallising and formulating the scientific research question is considered extremely difficult for all researchers, particularly novice PhD students; it is a crucial and central point upon which any scientific paper is based, and formulating the original research question is the primary concern for every student or researcher; it is the backbone of any sound scientific research in the legal sciences.

There is no disagreement that identifying and precisely formulating the research problem (of the paper) is one of the most difficult and complex stages of writing a scientific paper, and the problem, framed theoretically and methodologically, is the first building block of the paper.

Therefore, formulating the research question and hypotheses in a scientific and systematic manner—that is, formulating them accurately and properly—is one of the most crucial methodological stages that can either weaken the paper or endow it with quality, strength and scientific acceptance. (Seboun, 2012, p. 326)

This methodological stage takes a relatively long time depending on a specific research plan; consequently, the researcher must distinguish the major stages of the article so as to formulate them in a highly precise manner, using clear words and concepts free from ambiguity, and by highlighting the general relationships between variables without falling into contradiction. For the more soundly and appropriately the research question is

formulated, the easier it is for the researcher to study and delve into the subject, and the easier it is for the general public to understand the scientific research in the paper and make it accessible to all. (Fadl, 1998)

Therefore, presenting the research question in a scientific article within a precise scientific and methodological framework is a fundamental pillar of the process, and the researcher must not underestimate its value and importance in order to arrive at original findings.

3. Choosing the methodology and writing style is the most important step in this vital intellectual activity, which involves applying the most effective scientific methodology to conduct a thorough study in accordance with standardised international and global criteria—that is, the coordinated rules and procedures that must be followed for analysis, proof and logical reasoning.

Dealing with any scientific topic is inevitably based on a scientific methodology that is as precise as possible to uncover facts that have been proven to be true by presenting convincing arguments. The proper selection and application of the scientific method is a crucial part of the scientific paper, so that the reader understands how reliable information from various sources has been processed in detail and how the results were reached and discussed. To uncover the truth or truths, there are several suitable and appropriate approaches to study. (Taleb, 2021, p. 125)

As for the correct style of an academic article, the researcher must use specialised and scientific vocabulary and employ concise sentences with clear and precise meaning. The scholarly article should be written in sound academic style, that is, in a scientific and abstract manner, using accurate and verified information and data, rather than in a journalistic or literary style. The article must be free of rhetorical embellishments; it should be objective and structured sequentially, moving from the simple to the complex and from the established to the controversial. (Hichem, 2018, p. 19)

Generally speaking, an academic article must be written in a sound scientific style and with a clear methodology that highlights the quality of the information and data. If it addresses a topic currently under discussion in the scientific community, it stands a good chance of being published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and periodicals. A research article must be written in a logical, clear, comprehensive and detailed manner that appeals to the intellect with the aim of conveying understanding and persuading the reader of scientific facts. Therefore, the researcher must give serious thought to how to write their final paper so as to organise and highlight the most important scientific information through substantiation with modern scientific evidence and proof, in order to produce a strong and distinctive paper. In this way, the final version of the anticipated article is ultimately produced in the best possible form (in terms of both form and content), thereby providing genuine added value to both the specialised and general scientific fields. (<https://mkaleh.com>, s.d.)

4. Structuring the paper (the plan) Every clear scientific paper that seeks to present a serious study and a solution to a problem requires a well-defined outline or a logical research plan; this meticulous investigative approach forms the general structure and framework of the paper.

It should be noted that the structure of a scholarly article is based on general principles or stages that every serious researcher must adhere to and follow. One of the most important

elements in refining a scholarly article is the logical arrangement of its components; in other words, the logical analysis of the subject and critical thinking, which form the essence of the scholarly article.

Every scholarly article written in accordance with internationally recognised principles and standards must include the universally accepted sections and stages: the abstract, introduction, research methodology, approach and tools, results, discussion and conclusion, and finally the references.

This general structure is inspired by Anglo-American scientific practices; strict adherence to these stages in structuring the article scientifically demonstrates the researcher's mastery of this global scientific skill: 'A well-structured plan is the backbone of a scientific article' and largely determines its quality. (El-Rifai, 1998, p. 121)

The plan not only summarises the structure of the key points but also intuitively establishes the relationship between knowledge, research hypotheses, methodology, results and reasoning; it is therefore essential to construct a logical framework with the research question as the common denominator. (Taleb, 2021, p. 126)

Generally speaking, every scholarly article has a well-structured scientific plan that begins with a high-quality introduction designed to capture the reader's attention. This introduction must highlight the significance of the central issue, clearly state the scientific hypotheses and the article's objective, and outline the state of research on the subject under study, so that the reader—whether a specialist or a layperson—understands the topic and purpose of the article.

When structuring and organising the article, two important points must be taken into account: the presentation of research findings and the discussion. The first point refers to highlighting the findings in the article; after compiling and analysing the most important ideas and applying the appropriate theories to them, present the findings reached by the researcher with complete impartiality and objectivity, so as to contribute something new to existing knowledge and understanding; this constitutes the core of the article and its true scientific value. The results of the academic research in the article consist of:

"a set of points that provide a comprehensive answer to the questions and hypotheses formulated by the researcher following the introduction; these points either confirm or refute the hypotheses." (<https://wefaak.com/>, s.d.)

The second important aspect of a scholarly article is the discussion section, through which we recognise the originality, scholarly rigor and innovation of the article; it is in this section that interpretations, explanations and the analysis of the results are presented. (Hijab Mouhammed, 2000, p. 59)

5. Research ethics: This implies a strong and significant relationship between the credibility of the research and the researcher's ethics, which enable the discovery of scientific truth in the field of legal sciences. There is an important point to note regarding the person conducting the scientific research (the researcher), who must excel in their specialisation, including legal sciences, by adhering to a set of well-known and accepted principles and research ethics, namely: academic integrity, accurate citation of sources, impartiality, non-fabrication of results, scientific humility, and credibility in presentation and discussion. All this is aimed at reaching accurate results that contribute to solving problems. (Taleb, 2021, p. 127)

These are the set of rules and values that guide researchers and help them to write their research objectively, which is known as ‘research ethics’ (<https://mobta3th.com>, s.d.). Researchers must therefore adhere to these ethical principles in order to enhance the credibility and quality of scientific research; strict compliance with this set of guidelines that underpin research ethics is essential.

This does not mean that there is any objection to drawing ideas for the academic paper being submitted—whether from previous articles or published scientific research—provided that the author scientifically justifies the validity of their research question and logical ideas, which are built upon another scientific concept. However, due respect must be shown to academic references and sources, and these must be clearly distinguished within the paper.

3. Requirements for the acceptance and publication of articles in peer-reviewed journals

Everyone knows that writing a good scholarly article can take quite a long time, depending on the nature of the research question, but there is no set timeframe until the researcher reaches the stage of being satisfied with their research (a convincing research paper), having covered all its scientific aspects; for, as we know, the scientific answer depends on the depth of the issue at hand, which requires free-flowing thought without restrictions or prohibitions.

At the end of this distinguished scientific endeavour, the researcher must produce a comprehensive, in-depth and coherent research paper, free from linguistic and spelling errors, as well as free from plagiarism and improper citation, to ensure its acceptance and publication in peer-reviewed journals, particularly international ones.

The aim of most researchers and authors of scholarly articles is to have their research accepted by the scientific committee, particularly for publication in peer-reviewed journals and specialist publications, so that their articles may gain popularity and be widely received by researchers and interested readers. For this reason, many experienced researchers strive to publish their research papers in prestigious scientific journals with a good reputation.

It is true that publishing an article is an academic objective that has a positive impact on a researcher’s career, but to achieve this lofty goal, the research must possess certain characteristics; that is, there are conditions and rules governing the writing and publication of any scholarly article that the researcher must respect and follow, as the publication of any article is fundamentally based on original findings and the quality of the article, as reflected in the scientific methodology, evidence and up-to-date references used in the research. Despite the significant results of scholarly articles in the field of legal sciences in recent years, there are clear difficulties, particularly regarding the quality of the scholarly article and its international standing amongst specialists.

It is worth noting that the process of publishing all research and scholarly articles in law involves several key steps, and these steps vary from one journal to another.

The classification and peer review process varies in duration depending on the scientific field. Once a research paper reaches the editorial board of the academic journal, the board decides whether to approve the paper for peer review or to reject it.

Once the paper reaches the peer review panel, the task of peer review is undertaken by one, two, or in some cases more than two reviewers,

The peer review process involves identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the research being prepared for publication. The reviewers provide comments which the researchers must amend and revise as a condition for publication, and the reviewers' comments are always primarily in the researcher's best interests. (Al-sharif, 1996)

It is true that a significant proportion of researchers, particularly novices, face major difficulties with scientific publication, as a large proportion of the research submitted is characterised by weakness, inconsistency, and a lack of precision and scientific rigour in the results.

Therefore, researchers should be aware that all academic journals strive for rigorous and rigorous evaluation to ensure their standing and reputation within the scientific community. Consequently, researchers must ensure they submit a complete and serious paper, and then select the appropriate academic journal with an outstanding scientific reputation, which is interested in the subject of the research to be submitted. Above all, their scientific research must comply with the conditions, rules and template of the selected peer-reviewed journal, as every peer-reviewed academic journal has its own specific characteristics and requirements regarding the selection of research questions and topics, as well as content and design.

Therefore, the strategy for selecting an academic journal is of great importance to any researcher so as not to waste their time and effort; they must ensure that their academic research is written in sound scientific language, taking into account the rules of punctuation (grammar, morphology and punctuation marks).

In addition to observing these rules, the article should be read several times to identify any potential errors and to revise it continuously. One of the most significant obstacles facing the majority of researchers when publishing in international academic journals is the weakness of the methodology applied in their research, particularly the issue of language (poor linguistic proficiency).

There are several factors of various kinds that contribute to exacerbating the problem of scientific publication of research in academic journals, some of which relate to government regulatory procedures for research. (Taleb, 2021, p. 125)

Once an article has been written, it is not sent directly to the academic journal; instead, it must be set aside for a period of time and reviewed several times to ensure it is free from spelling mistakes or weak arguments, and that no additions or deletions are required.

To ensure the academic publication of an article, whether in specialist journals or through publishing houses, there are several skills that must be mastered and rules that must be applied. Despite differences in internal policies, the aim of every peer-reviewed scientific journal, particularly international ones, is to publish outstanding research and valuable articles. Therefore, this group must recognise these gaps and weaknesses to secure an academic standing amongst researchers.

It should also be noted that the initial rejection of a research article for publication is not a negative thing; it is natural, particularly for beginners, and sometimes even for professional and experienced researchers. This initial rejection is a common occurrence in academic publishing and should not diminish or undermine the researcher's determination, will and objective, as every rejection for publication in an academic journal has objective reasons, the most important of which include failure to follow the journal's guidelines, poor drafting, excessive use of jargon, or the low quality of the submitted article due to poor writing style

and linguistic errors.... Therefore, rejection of scientific research for publication in peer-reviewed journals should be treated as a normal occurrence.

Consequently, the researcher must be patient and, from the very start of writing the article, devise a comprehensive strategy – a clear roadmap for the success and acceptance of their article – and review published research similar to the work in progress. In the field of legal sciences, the researcher must keep abreast of amendments to various laws; it is inconceivable for a legal professional not to be aware of the latest developments in his field of specialisation.

Conclusion:

The task of writing an outstanding, publishable scholarly article has become a somewhat complex and challenging issue for many researchers and students at various academic levels, as writing a scholarly article is akin to a scientific art that every researcher must master and excel at, This is achieved through continuous and consistent practice, as it demonstrates outstanding and essential academic competence.

Furthermore, there are well-established requirements and characteristics that must be met in academic research; it is no secret that articles published in classified and recognised academic journals serve as an important reference and scientific source for academic researchers.

These issues regarding the methodology of writing and structuring a scholarly article remain prevalent and trouble both experienced researchers and novice students in scientific research, as they are directly related to sound and logical scientific thinking, adherence to methodological rules, and established research skills. It is therefore essential to master the steps involved in writing a scholarly article to a high standard .

This is because the application of a sound and authentic scientific methodology to the drafting of a research paper that presents new ideas must aim at critique, analysis, creativity and innovation, as the scholarly article is considered one of the important academic tools for analysing various phenomena; it is the scientific means of discovering the new and innovating by arriving at scientific explanations. Therefore, this article must be characterised by objectivity, free from subjectivity, as well as accuracy and clarity in analysing problems and elucidating scientific facts, for it is the mirror reflecting the academic scientific standard, as it aims to diagnose the and attempting to address issues in a way that brings about a significant change in society.

A successful scholarly article, as the most difficult and precise stage of scientific research, is one that presents clear arguments in accordance with scientific and legal principles and is coherent; and is thus a sure key to scientific excellence for any researcher, regardless of their scientific orientation within the sciences. It is likely to lead to a significant contribution to knowledge through description, explanation, prediction and deep understanding, thereby making a new addition to research and knowledge in general, and legal knowledge in particular.

We therefore recommend that researchers observe the formal and substantive rules and requirements for writing a academic article to avoid rejection and the waste of their effort and time.

Researchers must also exercise patience and, from the outset of writing the article, establish a comprehensive strategy—that is, a well-defined roadmap—for the success and

acceptance of their article's publication, whilst reviewing published research In the field of legal sciences, the researcher must keep abreast of amendments to various laws; it is inconceivable for a legal professional not to be aware of new developments in their field of specialisation, and they must also select international peer-reviewed journals and scholarly periodicals in their field.

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