

Instructions to Authors

Journal of Individual Differences

The *Journal of Individual Differences* publishes manuscripts dealing with individual differences in behavior, emotion, cognition, and their developmental aspects. This includes human as well as animal research.

The *Journal of Individual Differences* is conceptualized to bring together researchers working in different areas ranging from, for example, molecular genetics to theories of complex behavior. Moreover, it places emphasis on papers dealing with special methodological and conceptual issues in basic science as well as in their applied fields (assessment of personality and intelligence).

***Journal of Individual Differences* publishes the following types of articles**

Regular Research Articles, Extended Research Articles, Review Articles, Meta-Analyses, and Registered Reports

Please note that it is possible to submit electronic supplementary material (ESM). This material will not be printed and should only be submitted if this is strictly necessary. ESM is not included in the word count.

Important: An allowance for any tables and figures should be deducted from the total word count depending on their size. A typical table or figure takes up a quarter, half, or full page. Each quarter page equals about 200 words per quarter print page.

Regular research articles are papers reporting two or fewer experiments and may contain up to 5,000 words (including everything, i.e., text, references, notes, tables, figures, and appendices).

Extended research articles are papers reporting more than two studies with different samples and methods and may contain up to 10,000 words (including everything, i.e., text, references, notes, tables, figures, and appendices).

Review articles may contain up to 10,000 words (including everything, i.e., text, references, notes, tables, figures, and appendices).

Meta-analyses may contain up to 10,000 words (including everything, i.e., text, references, notes, tables, figures, and appendices).

Registered Reports are submitted and evaluated in a two-stage process. The Stage-1 manuscript contains the theoretical background, method, and proposed data analysis for a

planned but not yet conducted study. If the Stage-1 manuscript receives an in-principle acceptance, the author(s) must preregister it in an independent institutional repository (e.g., <https://osf.io>) before proceeding with data collection and analysis in accordance with the accepted protocol. The Stage-2 manuscript contains the sections from the Stage-1 manuscript with the addition of the results and discussion sections. Stage-2 manuscripts are automatically accepted, irrespective of the directionality of the results, unless the study has diverged from what was originally proposed. The word limit for Stage-1 manuscripts is 3,000 and for Stage-2 manuscripts it is 5,000, including abstract, text, references, notes, appendices, as well as figures and tables.

Stage 1

At Stage 1, the manuscript must contain an *Introduction* section that provides background and the specific hypotheses to be tested. Successful submissions will use established methods to test specific predictions. The Registered Report format is not well-suited to purely exploratory research and is a mechanism for confirming/disconfirming predictions.

- The Stage-1 submission should detail previous related work. Completed pilot studies may be included to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed methodology. The Registered Report category welcomes multistudy submissions that are common in psychological assessment research. A Stage-1 manuscript can report methods for a series of planned studies. Authors can also add studies to approved submissions. In such cases the approved Stage-2 manuscript will be accepted for publication, and authors can then propose additional experiments for Stage-1 consideration.
- The Stage-1 submission must contain a *Method* section that provides a detailed description of the proposed research (i.e., enough to allow for direct replication). In case word limits do not allow for a comprehensive description, authors can provide supplementary material in electronic form (i.e., ESM) that helps reviewers scrutinize the study protocol. The research proposal must explicitly justify the targeted number of participants. Often this will be via statistical power analysis. To ensure that the results are informative regardless of outcome (i.e., keeping both Type-I and Type-II error probabilities low), high statistical power or precision will typically be required. *Authors are required to confirm that the proposed research has not been conducted at the time of Stage-1 submission.*
- The Stage-1 submission must contain a *Data Analysis* section within the method section that details the data analysis procedures that will be used. The manuscript must describe the measured variables, the statistical tests and procedures, as well as the anticipated patterns of results. In suicide prevention research there will not always be a dichotomous accept/reject of hypotheses, but criteria by which researchers are formulating conclusions must be stated a priori. Rules for data elimination (e.g., participant exclusion criteria, outlier trimming) must also be specified a priori.

- The Stage-1 submission should also include a predicted timeline for the research: The anticipated dates when ethical approval will be sought (if not already acquired), when the data collection will take place, when data will be analyzed, when the manuscript will be written up, and the anticipated date for the submission of the Stage-2 manuscript.

Stage 2

After a Registered Report submission is accepted at Stage 1, the accepted protocol must be registered by the authors in a recognized repository (either publicly or under embargo until Stage 2) and the research conducted according to the protocol. The Stage-2 revision should contain essentially the same Introduction and Method sections as the Stage-1 submission, plus the new *Results* and *Discussion* sections. It should also include a reference to the Stage-1 manuscript. Additional post-hoc analyses can be included but must be clearly distinguishable from the registered analyses.

- Stage-2 submissions will be evaluated with regard to their adherence to the accepted Stage-1 protocol. Any deviations from the approved protocol must be reported to the handling editor and the journal as soon as the authors become aware of their necessity and must seek editorial approval. Deviations that have not been approved by the handling editor and the journal as compared to the approved protocol will lead to rejection as a Registered Report.
- Stage-2 submissions will be evaluated with regard to whether the conclusions follow from the results. The in-principle acceptance at Stage 1 guarantees the publication of some version of the manuscript, provided that the study and analyses are conducted as proposed. However, Stage-2 submissions may be subject to one or more rounds of revisions to ensure that the Results and Discussion sections provide adequate detail.

Important: An allowance for any tables and figures should be included in the totals depending on their size. A typical table or figure takes up a quarter, half, or full page. Each quarter page in the manuscript equals about 200 words per quarter print page.

Manuscript Preparation

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). In particular, statistical and mathematical copy should conform to the Publication Manual, as well as the references. Please note that all journal articles in the reference list should be provided together with their DOIs (Digital Object Identifier).

Manuscript Submission

Submissions are only accepted online at www.editorialmanager.com/jindivdiff. Submissions may include electronic supplementary material (ESM) if this is strictly necessary. ESM should only be used if there are items that are not essential for inclusion in the full text but would nevertheless benefit the reader. Reviews are returned to the authors within 4 weeks of submission. Please follow the online instructions for submission.

Please direct any editorial questions to the editorial office:

E-mail: martin.voracek@univie.ac.at

Should you have any technical queries regarding this process, please contact the publisher at production@hogrefe.com.

The following manuscript formats are accepted:

- rtf (rich text format)
- doc (Microsoft Word, version 6.0 and higher)

Figures and Tables

Figures and tables should be numbered using Arabic numerals. The number of figures and tables should be kept to a minimum and only be included to facilitate understanding of the text. The same information should not appear in both a figure and a table. Each table and figure must be cited in the text and should be accompanied by a legend. Please note that online submission via the Editorial Manager allows text, figures, and tables to be submitted as separate files. Figures must be supplied in a form suitable for reproduction: preferably high-resolution bitmaps (e.g., jpg, 300 dpi) or as vector graphics files. Figures will normally be reproduced in black and white only. While it is possible to reproduce color illustrations, authors are reminded that they will be invoiced for the extra costs involved.

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Electronic supplementary material (ESM) contains additional items that are not essential for inclusion in the full text but would nevertheless benefit the reader. Being electronic, ESM can also include items that cannot, at this time, be produced in print form. ESM will be published online as received from the author(s) without any conversion, testing, or reformatting. They will not be checked for typographical errors or functionality. The responsibility for the content and functionality remains entirely with the author(s).

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Submission

ESM files will be subjected to peer review along with the article itself. The number of ESM files you submit should be limited to 5. The file size should be kept as small as possible, not exceeding 10 MB in total. All file formats are accepted with the exception of executable files (e.g., .exe, .com, or .msi). Commonly used file formats that are accessible by most readers are preferred. Following the online instructions, submit the ESM files in a single zip file separate from the other files that are part of your submission.

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All ESM files must be referred to with intext citations (as for tables, figures, and appendices) and should be numbered in the order in which they are cited in the text.

Follow the example:

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Include a section headed “Electronic Supplementary Material” at the end of your article before the reference section. List all files in the order in which they are cited in the text. Provide a title for each ESM file along with the file name. Optionally, you may also provide a short description for each file (max. 20 words). Follow the example:

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Open Data

The *Journal of Individual Differences* expects authors to make the raw data underlying the main findings reported in the article available to the public (open data). It is recommended that authors provide the raw data during manuscript submission in Editorial Manager. Manuscripts should therefore include a permanent URL or DOI pointing to a file located in a public repository containing the data and a codebook of the data entries. Repositories are appropriate as long as DOIs or accession numbers are provided and the data are at least as open as CC BY (for a list of repositories see <http://www.re3data.org/>). Exceptions to this rule may be made in special cases (e.g., data security) upon request.

Submission

Open Data files will be subjected to peer review along with the article itself. During submission, please provide a permanent URL or DOI pointing to the files in a repository.

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The entry in the reference list should be as follows:

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