

Guidance for Authors

Thank you for your interest in publishing via the Journal of Living Labs. The information below serves the purpose of guiding you through the preparation of your manuscript.

1 Aims and Scope

The Journal of Living Labs publishes papers on the co-development and the real-world validation of innovations within health and social care.

The Journal's mission is to report new literature from real-world settings; combine various articles from the social sphere and act as a forum to share findings and encourage discussions, whilst stimulating the flow of information across the boundaries of relevant disciplines.

The Journal encompasses literature that explored a wide range of experiences and initiatives, including social life and systems as well as policies to increase awareness and understanding of the lived-in reality of individuals and its consequences to find or facilitate the investigation of solutions to real-world issues that are local and grounded in a specific context.

The Journal aims to promote; publish and pioneer thought provoking work conducted in a user-centred, open innovation ecosystem (e.g., Living Lab) based on a systematic user co-creation approach, integrating research and innovation processes in real-life communities and settings via a series of qualitative and creative methods to collect; analyse and share data.

The Journal's topics of interest include:

- Innovative processes
- Evaluation of innovative technologies and associated study protocols
- Social implications of clinical research
- Participatory design methodologies
- Health inequalities
- Access to health services; medical records and data
- Cost-effective and efficient delivery of services

2 Manuscript types

This journal accepts the following submissions:

- Original articles
- Research and Evaluation articles
- Study protocols
- Reviews:
 - Systematic literature reviews
 - Meta analysis
 - Critical reviews
 - Scoping reviews
 - State-of-the-art
 - Rapid reviews
- Letters to the editor
- Commentaries
- Perspectives
- Opinion pieces

2.1 Abstract (applies to 2.2; 2.3; 2.4)

Word limit: 250 Maximum

Structured abstract with 5 sections. Introduction; Aims/ Objectives; Methods; Results (or Data analysis plan- 2.3); Conclusion

Keywords: 5-10

2.2 Original articles; Research and Evaluation articles

Word limit: 3000-6000

- This excludes abstract; tables; figures; illustrations; references and appendices

Text body:

Introduction: Provides a background and a rationale to the study.

Aims/ Objectives/ Hypotheses: The objectives of the study.

Methods: An outline of the procedures utilised that represents the methodological steps taken to complete the study.

Results: Sufficient description of results via the use of illustrations, if relevant.

Discussion: Brief summary of results (no equations or significance levels); interpretation of findings; strengths; limitations; future directions; conclusion.

2.3 Study Protocols

Word limit: 6000 Maximum

- This excludes abstract; tables; figures; illustrations; references and appendices

Text body:

Introduction: Provides a background and a rationale to the study.

Aims/ Objectives/ Hypotheses: The objectives of the study.

Methods: An outline of the procedures utilised that represents future methodological steps to be taken to complete the study.

Data analysis plan (if any): Sufficient description of the upcoming data analysis.

Discussion: Expected findings and the potential implications of such findings.

2.4 Reviews

Word limit: 3000-9000

- This excludes abstract; tables; figures; illustrations; references and appendices

Text body:

Introduction: Provides a background and a rationale to the study.

Aims/ Objectives: The objectives of the study.

Methods: An outline of the procedures utilised that represents the methodological steps taken to complete the study.

Results: Sufficient description of results via the use of illustrations, if relevant.

Discussion: Interpretation of findings; limitations; future directions; conclusion.

2.5 Letters

Word limit: 500 Maximum

- This excludes tables; figures; illustrations; references and appendices

2.6 Commentaries; Perspectives; Opinion Pieces

Word limit: 1500 Max.

- This excludes references (minimum of 4)
- This *includes* tables; figures; illustrations

3 Format and style of the manuscript

Abstract; keywords; text body; references; tables; figures; illustrations; appendices should comply with the current APA guidelines: <https://apastyle.apa.org/>

The text body should present 1-inch margins and double line spacing. Any, common 12-point fonts are acceptable, as long as use is consistent throughout the manuscript.

Tables; figures and illustrations should be included after the references and before the appendices.

4 Declarations

4.1 Funding source statement (if any)

The funding information declared by the authors.

4.2 Authors contributions

Briefly describe the contribution of each author to the manuscript.

4.3 Acknowledgements

Anyone who contributed to the study but does not meet the criteria for authorship as per the permission of the author(s).

4.4 Conflict of interest statement

The nature of conflicts due to any interests, whether personal or financial, that may influence the authors` objectivity.

If none, "None declared".

5 Copyright agreement

Ensure that you have read and understand the copyright agreement. You will need to agree this upon submission.

Upon submission of an article by an author, the following declarations take place:

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1. Permission was acquired from all authors, as named on the manuscript, to enter into the below agreements.
2. The article proposed for review was not published anywhere else.
3. The article does not include information; text or material that could be considered as unlawful; false/ unfair statements or facilitatory of breaching any agreement. A submitted article that evokes legal liability or violation in the ethical principles and guidelines of the Journal of Living Labs (<https://publicationethics.org/core-practices>), will be rejected.

B. I (and all co-authors named on the manuscript) acknowledge that,

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6 Submission of files

Please upload 2 files. Title page and manuscript.

The title page should include:

- Title
- Name of author(s)
- Affiliations
- Name; contact email and address of corresponding author
- Declarations

The manuscript should include (where sections are applicable):

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Text body
- References
- Tables/ figures/ illustrations
- Appendices