

Appendix A

General Guidelines for SPJIMR Working Paper

A SPJIMR working paper is expected to be well structured and appropriately positioned in the research literature. There are three key elements that are expected in a research paper: Motivation, Methodology and Contribution.

Motivation

1. In which sub-area of academic disciplines is this study positioned, and how does it fit in with it?
2. What questions have others raised earlier? What questions have they ignored? Finally, what is the gap in the literature?
3. What are the question(s) of *this* research study? Why is it important to address these questions? Whom can it benefit and how?
(If hypothesis testing was a part of this study, the hypotheses formulation can also be presented here).

Methodology

1. What is the detailed methodology used to conduct this study? Describe it elaborately.
2. Is this a well-known established methodology or is it devised by the researcher? Justification for either?
3. Why is this methodology chosen, instead of another? Similar questions can be asked for the different elements used in the methodology.
4. What are the assumptions being made in different aspects of the methodology and how are they justified?
5. What are the limitations of the methodology?

Contribution

1. What is original (new, not known before) in the findings?
2. What are the implications of these findings for researchers, practitioners, educators, anyone else?
3. How can future studies extend this study's realizations?

How long should the paper be? As a rule-of-thumb, it is suggested that working papers be 3000 - 6000 words in length. Exceptions can be made on a case-to-case basis.

Formatting the SPJIMR Working Paper:

Follow the formatting guidelines as suggested by Emerald Publishing:

http://www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/authors/writing/author_rights.htm