

Chemistry

Respondent:

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Publications

What style manual(s) do chemistry journals generally use?

We have our own style guide for editing articles published in American Chemical Society (ACS) journals. We use *The ACS Style Guide: A Manual for Authors and Editors* (Janet S Dodd, ed; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 1997). A new version of *The ACS Style Guide* is in preparation.

In chemistry, what criteria must an individual generally meet to be listed as an author? When a journal article in chemistry has more than one author, what are the norms for deciding the order in which authors are listed?

For a person to be listed as an author on an article, he or she should have made substantial contributions to the research being reported and be willing to be accountable for the results. For articles with multiple authors, the authors determine, before the manuscript is submitted to the editorial office, the order in which the names appear and who will be the corresponding author. ACS journals do not have any requirements in determining the order of authors and always denote the corresponding author with an asterisk. Additional guidelines are given in the document *Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research*, which can be found at pubs.acs.org.

What number of peer reviewers per paper tends to be typical in chemistry? Typically, are authors' identities revealed to the reviewers? Are reviewers' identities revealed to the authors?

Typically, a manuscript is seen by three or four reviewers, whose identities are not revealed to the author. The author's identity is revealed to the reviewers. Authors

may be asked at the time of submission to name a specified number of people who are qualified to review their manuscript (the number varies by journal), and they can even request that a particular person not review the paper. However, the editor makes the final decision as to who will review it.

In chemistry, do journal articles reporting original research usually contain abstracts? If so, how are the abstracts usually structured?

Chemistry articles published in ACS journals contain abstracts. We ask authors to summarize in one paragraph why the work was done, the major results of the research, and the conclusions they reached. Some journals have specific limits in length.

What is the usual structure of a journal article reporting original research in chemistry?

In ACS journals, the typical structure is Abstract, Introduction, Methods or Experimental Section, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion. Sometimes the Experimental Section will be the last section in the paper. Treatment of references varies from journal to journal: Some journals use footnote references, others group the references at the end of the article.

What are some of the current issues and trends regarding editing in chemistry?

One current issue is the open-access debate, which is not peculiar to chemistry. Another is speed of publication: We need to publish articles relatively quickly to stay competitive and to keep the research timely. We publish articles on the Internet usually 3 or 4 days after receiving all the author's requested corrections to the galley proof. Web publication is usually 2 to 11 weeks before the print publication, depending on the frequency of print.

Are there aspects of chemistry editing not asked about that

seem worth noting? If so, please discuss.

Patent issues need to be resolved before a manuscript is published. Our editors have different policies on how to handle such manuscripts. For some journals, the author will have to resubmit the manuscript after the issues are resolved; for others, publication is delayed until the issues are resolved. High-quality graphics are needed to accurately convey the science behind the work; this is an increasing challenge with electronic submissions. Finally, authors must adhere to our ethical guidelines, which are published in the style guide and on the Internet.

What sources would you recommend to readers interested in further information about editing in chemistry?

The ACS Style Guide, in addition to containing style guidelines for ACS publications, offers good advice on how to write chemistry articles. Style guides of other societies may also contain useful information on editing in chemistry.

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