

 Editorial Comment

Adapting to the 7th Edition of APA - Beyond Reference Formatting

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Abstract

This article explores significant updates in academic writing introduced by the new edition of the APA standards. With these changes, the International Journal of Innovation reinforces its mission to make scientific research not only clearer and easier to understand but also more inclusive and accessible to everyone. Here you will find what you need to know about the new rules and how they can improve the way we present our ideas and research in the academic world.

Keywords: editorial comment, American Psychological Association (APA)

Adaptando-se à 7ª Edição da APA - Além da Formatação de Referências

Resumo

Este artigo investiga as atualizações significativas na redação acadêmica trazidas pela nova edição dos padrões APA. Com estas mudanças, o International Journal of Innovation reforça a

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sua missão de tornar a investigação científica não só mais clara e fácil de compreender, mas também mais inclusiva e acessível a todos. Aqui você encontrará o que precisa saber sobre as novas regras e como elas podem melhorar a forma como apresentamos nossas ideias e pesquisas no mundo acadêmico.

Palavras-chave: comentário editorial, American Psychological Association (APA)

Adaptándose a la 7ª Edición de la APA - Más allá de la Formatación de Referencia

Resumen

Este artículo explora actualizaciones significativas en la escritura académica introducidas por la nueva edición de las normas APA. Con estos cambios, el International Journal of Innovation refuerza su misión de hacer la investigación científica no solo más clara y fácil de entender, sino también más inclusiva y accesible para todos. Aquí encontrarás lo que necesitas saber sobre las nuevas reglas y cómo pueden mejorar la manera en que presentamos nuestras ideas e investigaciones en el mundo académico.

Palabras clave: comentario editorial, American Psychological Association (APA)

Introduction

The International Journal of Innovation (IJI) aligns with the American Psychological Association (APA) standards, which have evolved with the recent transition to the 7th edition. This shift embodies a suite of updates aimed not just at refining reference formatting but at broadening the scope still includes the use of active voice, a stringent stance against anthropomorphism, and an overarching emphasis on clarity in scholarly communication.

Through this editorial commentary, we aspire to synthesize the updates introduced in the 7th edition of the APA Manual. Our objective is to offer a comprehensive examination of these modifications, underscoring their relevance to our authors. This adaptation to the 7th edition is not merely procedural but strategic, designed to bolster clarity, inclusivity, and accessibility within academic writing.

In embracing the 7th edition, IJI is not just adhering to updated citation protocols but is actively advocating for a more direct, inclusive, and clear scholarly discourse. This commitment is manifested in our encouragement of the active voice, which clarifies the subjects' performing actions, thus enhancing readability and engagement. We also caution against anthropomorphism—the attribution of human traits to non-human subjects or abstract concepts—which can obscure clarity and precision in academic writing. Furthermore, the APAs emphasis on clarity transcends mere linguistic accuracy to include the logical organization of ideas, facilitating a more accessible and compelling presentation of research.

Simplified Reference Formatting

The APA 7th edition has streamlined the process for formatting references, making it easier for authors to cite various sources. One of the changes includes the use of a consistent format for journal articles, which now requires the inclusion of the issue number in parentheses after the volume number, regardless of pagination. Moreover, the DOI is presented as a direct URL, leading readers straight to the source document.

- Example: Journal articles now include issue numbers, and DOIs are formatted as URLs, e.g., "https://doi.org/10.0000/abc123"

Inclusion and Bias-Free Language

Reflecting an increased awareness of diversity and inclusivity, the 7th edition provides extensive guidelines for using bias-free language. This includes recommendations for writing about individuals with respect and precision, covering topics such as age, disability, gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and more. For example, the use of "they" as a singular pronoun is officially endorsed to promote inclusivity and respect for all individuals.

Example: The singular "they" is officially endorsed for gender-neutral language.

Use of Online Sources

With the increasing relevance of digital and online sources, the 7th edition has updated its guidelines on citing various forms of electronic content. This includes specific instructions for citing social media content, entire websites, and online media such as podcasts and webinars. The goal is to adapt to the evolving nature of academic research and the diverse sources of information now available to researchers.

Example for a tweet: "LastName, Initials. (Year, Month Day). Text of the tweet [Tweet]. Twitter. URL"

Figures and Tables

The APA 7th edition offers detailed guidance on presenting figures and tables, ensuring that visual aids effectively complement the text. This includes instructions on labeling and citing figures and tables, as well as advice on formatting and positioning them within the

manuscript. The enhanced focus on visual elements recognizes their critical role in conveying complex information and data.

Example: "Figure 1. Detailed description of the image."

Active vs. Passive Voice

APA, even before, places a strong emphasis on the use of active voice rather than passive voice in academic writing. The active voice clarifies who is doing the action, making the sentence clearer and more direct. This shift towards active voice facilitates a more engaging and clear presentation of ideas.

Example: Instead of "The experiment was conducted by researchers," use
"Researchers conducted the experiment."

Anthropomorphism

Anthropomorphism, the attribution of human characteristics or behavior to non-human entities, especially inanimate objects or abstract concepts, is also considered in APA. Academic writers are advised to avoid attributing actions or emotions to studies, theories, or other non-human elements.

Example: rather than saying "The study argues," it is more appropriate to state, "The authors of the study argue."

Clarity in Writing

Above all, APA underscores the importance of clarity in academic writing. Clear writing involves not only adherence to grammatical norms and stylistic recommendations but also the organization of ideas in a manner that is accessible to readers. The APA's updated guidelines provide advice on achieving clarity, including recommendations on sentence structure, paragraph development, and the logical flow of information.

Example: Simplify complex sentences and ensure that each paragraph conveys a single main idea effectively.

Conclusion

As the International Journal of Innovation (IJI) aligns with the 7th edition of the APA guidelines, we extend the invitation to our authors to acquaint themselves with the updated standards. This alignment is more than an adherence to revised citation styles; it's a move towards enhancing the clarity, inclusiveness, and integrity of academic writing. The 7th edition's emphasis keeps using active voice, avoiding anthropomorphism, and maintaining clarity goes beyond stylistic preferences. These guidelines are foundational to effective scholarly communication, ensuring that information is conveyed clearly and directly.

By integrating these principles into their work, authors not only improve the readability and impact of their research but also contribute to the journal's goal of sharing well-researched and accessible content. The APA's updates encourage a form of writing that is not just methodologically rigorous but also presented in a manner that is engaging and comprehensible to a diverse audience. This approach supports our broader mission of promoting research that adheres to high standards of academic excellence.

Reference

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.