



School Library Research (SLR) Submission Guide

Thank you for your interest in writing for *School Library Research*. Original research-based manuscripts are invited. Submit only manuscripts that have not been submitted or accepted elsewhere. Innovative or conceptual essays and extensive research literature reviews will also be considered for publication.

- Manuscript Policy
- Review Process
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Definitions of Acceptable Manuscript Content

Research Reports

As a substantial report of a research project, the manuscript contains adequate discussion of the research questions, demonstrates application of appropriate methodology, includes review of and reference to supporting research literature, and clearly states conclusions.

The report is original and adds significant information to the field.

Data are reported in clear tables, graphs, and/or charts when necessary.

Conceptual Essays

The manuscript is a substantial, informed statement concerning issues that are of great importance to the field. Such statements will include extensive reference to the research literature where appropriate. A conceptual framework defining emerging theory and/or application of established theory should be evident.

Literature Review and Proposal Papers

A substantial, organized, logical, and critical review of the key literature supporting a research proposal or summarizing key issues from the research may be acceptable for publication.

Such manuscripts should include implications for further research and clearly express implications for practice.

Literature review and proposal manuscripts are subject to the same rigorous referee process as those submitted as research reports, with the understanding that judgment, while as critical and as extensive, will be adjusted to fit the purpose of the review and proposal.

This manuscript format will be published on a very select basis with manuscripts in research and concept being sought for publication more frequently.

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Style Guide

Resources to Consult

Choose terms that reflect the official references of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). The terms “school library” and “school librarian” should be used. Avoid sexist language.

Consult the [Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed.](#) for spelling and usage.

Consult the [Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association](#) (American Psychological Association, 2020) for capitalization, abbreviations, bibliographic style, and design of tables.

Citations

(Author Date) System:

For greater detail on the author-date system, consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Chapter 9, “Reference List.”

- In-text citations may be parenthetical or narrative. In parenthetical citations, use an ampersand (&) between names for a work with two authors or before the last author when all names must be included to avoid ambiguity. In narrative citations, always spell out the word “and.”
- Within the text, the basic reference in the author-date system consists of the last name of an author and year of publication of the work, with a comma between them (Smith, 1989). When a specific page number is cited, page numbers follow the date, preceded by a comma: (O’Toole, 1980, p. 27) or (Mathews, 1987, p. 131–133).
- The format of the author element of the in-text citation changes depending on the number of authors and is abbreviated in some cases. For a work with one or two authors, include the author name(s) in every citation. For a work with three or more authors, include the name of only the first author plus “et al.” in every citation (even the first citation).
Exceptions to the basic in-text citation styles:
 - when two works in a paper would both abbreviate to the same “et al.” form (spell out as many surnames as needed to disambiguate)
 - when multiple works in a paper have an identical author (or authors) and publication year (append letters to the years)
 - when the first authors of multiple references in a paper share the same surname but have different initials (use initials in the in-text citations)
- Separate multiple references with semicolons: (DaRita, 1972; Howard, 1987; Howard & Fine, 1984).

For more information on APA citations, visit <http://apastyle.org>.