

# Journal of Baltic Science Education

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

- *Journal of Baltic Science Education* (JBSE) publishes original scientific research articles in the field of Natural Science Education (physics, chemistry, biology education) and related areas for all educational levels in the Baltic countries and other countries. It is possible to publish special (thematic) issues of JBSE. The papers should be submitted and will be published in English. JBSE will promote to establish contacts between researchers and practical educators, both in the Baltic countries and countries around.
- The authors of the manuscripts are responsible for the scientific content and novelty of the research materials. Articles submitted for publication should not have been previously published. Articles, published before in other international journals or papers' collections will not be accepted for publication in JBSE.
- As a publication that represents a variety of cross-disciplinary interests, both theoretical and practical, the JBSE invites manuscripts on a wide range of topics, especially in the following areas:
  - Didactics of natural sciences.
  - Theory and practice in natural science teacher education.
  - Integrated natural science education.
  - Natural science and technological literacy.
  - General and professional natural science education.
  - Philosophical, political, economical and social aspects of natural science education.
  - The supplementary natural science education.
  - The standardisation of natural science education;
  - Quality of science education;
  - STEM/STEAM education;
  - Science education for sustainable development;
  - History, Epistemology of Science & Science Education etc.

## TYPES OF MANUSCRIPTS

- **Research Papers** (Usually these papers present empirical work).
- **Theoretical/Conceptual Papers** (These papers present non-empirical work).
- **Position Papers** (Position papers can describe/analyse a problem or an issue with a suggested solution or direction).
- **Case Studies** (Case studies highlight a particular issue in science education. They present what theory and/or the research literature reports on the problem or issue, what was done to try to solve or explore it, the results of the project and implications and suggestions for others interested in future research).
- **Reviews** (*Reviews* are usually invited by the Editor. Those who submit *Reviews* should consult with the Editor-in-Chief in advance).
- **Letters to the Editor** (these are brief communications that express an opinion in response to material in a previously published issue of JBSE).

## STRUCTURE OF MANUSCRIPTS

- The body of the text of the manuscript must generally have the following parts:
  - **Abstract** (an abstract is a shortened version of the paper and should contain all information necessary for the reader to determine: (a) what the objectives of the research were; (b) how the research was done; (c) what results were obtained; (d) and the significance of the results; abstract should not exceed 150-200 words).
  - **Introduction** (introduction should provide sufficient background information and the rationale for the present research). This section discusses the results and conclusions of previously published studies, to help explain why the current research is of scientific interest. In the introduction section, Present Simple tense is employed for mentioning basic facts, Present Perfect tense is used for referring previous research done.
  - **Research Methodology** (this part should provide sufficiently detailed information to allow the experiments/or other empirical work/ to be repeated by others. Methodology of research may be organized into sub-headings). This section provides all the methodological details necessary for another scientist to duplicate your work. This section answers the question: how was the research conducted.
  - **Research Results** (results may be organized into sub-headings. Present the results as concisely as possible. Number figures and tables according to the order of citation in the text [e.g., (Table 1), (Figure 1), (Figure 1 and Table 1), (Table 1 and 2), (Figure 1A), (Figure 1 and 2)]). This section answers the question: what has been found and/or established/revealed/proven.
  - **Discussion** (discussion should be concise and provide an interpretation of the results in relation to previously published work). The objective here is to provide an interpretation of your results and support for all of your conclusions, using evidence from your experiment (research) and generally accepted knowledge, if appropriate. Suggest future directions for research, new methods, explanations for deviations from previously published results, etc.
  - **Conclusions and/or Implications.** Your conclusion should be the best part of your paper. A conclusion should: (1) stress the importance of the thesis statement, (2) give the essay a sense of completeness, and (3) leave a final impression on the reader. Conclusions: the significance and essence of your research.
  - **Acknowledgements** (if any).
  - **References** (references must be in alphabetical order by first author. Each listed reference should be cited in the text, and each text citation should be listed in the references section). Do not use Wikipedia for references. Provide issue numbers for papers. Reference section should not be used for commentary and notes. It is advisable to avoid citations of unpublished PhD or MSc Works – these are not internationally accessible to readers and any referencing them in the text is biased. Referencing needs to be brought in line with the APA7<sup>th</sup> Ed. system.
  - **Appendix** (if any). Acknowledgements of people, grants, funds, etc. should be placed in a separate section not numbered at the very end of the paper.
- The structure of the paper can be different if the paper is only theoretical qualitative research.
- It must be clear what is the added value of this research to previous reports. It is obligatory to make sure that reported new information is significant for international level readers of JBSE.

## MANUSCRIPTS GUIDELINES

- The structure of the research paper presented in the *Journal of Baltic Science Education* should be as follows: abstract - *short report of the research*; introduction incl. aim and subject of the research (or research focus); research methodologies and methods; results of the research incl. discussion; conclusions; list of references in APA style (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.).
- The papers should be submitted in English. If English is a second language for the author, please consider having the manuscript proofread and edited before submitting. The preliminary text of the article can be submitted online: <http://www.scientiasocialis.lt/jbse/submit>
- The document should not have *any* password protection.
- The text must be elaborated in Word for Windows, using 12 point Times New Roman letters.
  - Texts margins: top and bottom 20mm, left - 25mm, right - 20mm.
  - Manuscripts should have single spaced text in one column.
  - The title: capital letters, 14pt, bold; space between the title and the author's name is one line interval.
  - Author's name and surname: small letters, 12pt, bold. Under the name, institution: 11 pt, italics; space between the title and the text: 1 line interval.
  - Abstract – about 150-200 words - precedes the text. The text: 12pt Single or Auto spacing, in one column.
  - Keywords: no more than five keywords in an alphabetical order. Note that a keyword does not have to be made of only one word! At least one of these should indicate the topic area and one should indicate the methodology of the research.
  - The language must be clear and accurate. The authors have to present the results, propositions and conclusions in a form that can suit scientists from different countries.
  - Each paragraph should start with a 1.0 cm indentation.
  - The use of footnotes to the text is not recommended.
- Titles of the tables and figures (*black and white colour*): 12 pt, small letters. Space between figures or tables and the text: 1 line interval.
  - Introduction, titles of chapters and subchapters: 12pt, bold, small letters.
  - Figures, tables and captions should be inserted within the manuscript at their appropriate locations. Diagrams and graphs should be provided as finished black and white line artwork or electronic images. When there are a number of illustrations, the author should endeavour to reduce the amount of text to accommodate the illustrations in the limited space available for any article.
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- Acronyms: Acronyms should be defined the first time they appear.
- References in the text should be presented in brackets (Knox, 1988; Lamanauskas & Augiene, 2017; Martin, 1995). If necessary, the page can be indicated: (Martin, 1995, p. 48). The list of references should be presented after the text. References: 11pt, bold, small letters.
- A DOI is provided for each reference, if applicable.

- The author should make sure that there is a strict one-to-one correspondence between the names and years in the text and those on the list. All the references should be listed in alphabetical order by author's name.
- **The work should be written in an impersonal style.**

**Note 1:** Manuscripts in which references are not in this format (APA 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. style) will be returned without review.

**Note 2:** References to online sources should include the type of medium (such as "serial online" or "monograph online"), the date of that specific reference (if applicable), the uniform resource locator (URL), and the date that the source was accessed. A source accessed online should always be referenced accordingly, even if it is also published in printed form.

**Note 3:** All papers must meet the criteria of originality and scientific quality. Obviously, they must also comply with style and format requirements. The paper will not be subject to further review, if the manuscript is NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE and/or there is POOR USAGE OF LANGUAGE (all manuscripts must be written in clear and grammatical English). If translation is necessary, we suggest you use a professional translation service. Authors are responsible for proper translation, and improperly translated papers may be rejected.

**Note 4:** Originality is very important aspect of a research paper. Take great care to avoid plagiarism in your writing and be sure that any text you pull from outside sources is properly quoted and noted in your list of references.

**Note 5:** Each manuscript received is checked by an iThenticate program before the review. If the similarity index is higher than 20 percent, the manuscript is rejected without review. It is recommended that the similarity index (SI) does not exceed 15 percent.

**Note 6:** A qualitative scientific paper is a description of an event, activity, observation, research or experience. The structure of a qualitative paper includes an abstract, introduction, background to the problem, the researcher's role, theoretical perspective, methodology, ethical considerations, results, data analysis, limitations, discussion, conclusions and implications, references and appendix.

## **EDITORIAL AND REVIEW PROCEDURES**

- Manuscripts will be sent anonymously to reviewers with expertise in the appropriate area. All manuscripts will be reviewed by two experts before JBSE's accept them for publication. This process usually takes about two months (except July and August). The journal co-editors will make minor editorial changes; major changes will be made by the author(s) prior to publication if necessary. JBSE's redaction will sent to author(s) only one proof-reading which must be sent back within 5 days. JBSE will not review submissions previously published elsewhere through print or electronic medium.
- In order to prevent bias, the following procedures are followed upon acceptance of a manuscript: **a)** the Editor will determine if the manuscript is appropriate for the journal scope (initial verification); **b)** the Editor will remove all identification of the author(s); **c)** the Editor will distribute the manuscript to two reviewers who will follow guidelines; **d)** the reviewers will return the manuscript within 4 weeks to the Editor with the following recommendations: accept; accept with minor revisions; accept with moderate revisions, pre-accept with major revisions and re-evaluation; reject and resubmit, reject: do not resubmit; **f)** the Editor will then forward the decision to the authors by e-mail; **e)** when a

lack of consensus occurs, the Editor will make the final decision. Articles are checked by an anti-plagiarism system.

- Manuscripts submitted to the JBSE cannot be returned to authors. Authors should be sure to keep a copy for themselves.
- Manuscripts, editorial correspondence (and other correspondence for subscription and exchange), and any questions should be sent to editor-in-chief.
- The Editorial board is used the principles of ethics of scientific publications upon recommendations of The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

## ENDNOTES

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