Letter to Editor

As Well as Proper Citation, References in Biomedical Articles Should Be Accurate

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I read with interest the Editorial by Professor Izet Masic on the importance of reference citation in biomedical articles (1). I acknowledge the importance of properly crediting authors of published articles in peer-reviewed journals in order for that journal's impact factor and also for the author's H-index. However, I feel that the Editorial has overlooked an important factor in proper reference citation, namely the accuracy of references in the medical and biomedical literature. Many studies on reference accuracy have been done in the biomedical literature with reports of 4.1% to 40.3% of reference inaccuracies in leading medical journals (2). The last Cochrane review of 66 published

studies of reference accuracy in 2008 showed a median citation error rate of 38% (3).

Apart from problems in locating the cited journal article if a major reference element, such as year of publication or authors names, is erroneous; is that cited authors are not credited with citation to their article thus potentially affecting their H-index. The H-index nowadays is a major factor in academic promotions.

Of course, apart from correct reference citation, it is important for the cited literature to be accurately quoted. The Cochrane review also showed a medium quotation error rate of 20% (3).

REFERENCES

1. Masic I. The importance of proper citation of references in biomedical articles. *Acta Inform Med.* 2013; 21(3): 148-155. doi: 10.5455/aim.2013.21.148-155.
2. Siebers R, Holt S. Accuracy of references in five leading medical journals. *Lancet.* 2000; 356: 1445.
3. Wager E, Middleton P. Technical editing of research reports in biomedical journals. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2008 Oct 8; (4): MR000002.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE AUTHORS

ALL PAPERS NEED to be sent to: Editorial board of the journal "Acta Informatica Medica", electronically over the web site www.scopemed.org and www.avicenapublisher.org. Every article sent to Acta Inform Med gets its number, and author(s) will be notified if their paper is accepted and what is the number of paper. Original paper could not contains more than 3,000 words, Review article more than 4,500 and Case report more than 1,500 words, including References.

EVERY CORRESPONDENCE WILL use that number. The paper has to be typed on a standard format (A4), leaving left margins to be at least 3 cm. All materials, including tables and references, have to be typed double-spaced, so that one page has no more than 2000 alphanumeric characters (30 lines) and total number of used words must not to be more than 3,500. Presenting paper depends on its content, but usually it consists of a title page, summary, text references, legends for pictures and pictures. Type your paper in MS Word and send it on a diskette or a CD-ROM, so that the editing of your paper will be easier.

EVERY ARTICLE HAS to have a title page with a title of no more than 10 words: name(s), last and first of the author(s), name of the institution the author(s) belongs to, abstract with maximum of 45 letters (including space), footnote(s) with acknowledgments, name of the first author or another person with whom correspondence will be maintained.

THE PAPER NEEDS to contain structured summary, 200 words at the most. Summary needs to hold title, full name(s) and surname(s) of the author(s) and coauthor(s), work institution, and all essential facts of the work, introduction, formulation of problems, purpose of work, used methods, (with specific data, if possible) and basic facts. Summary must contain the re-view of underlined data, ideas and conclusions from text. Summary must have no quoted references. Four key words, at the most, need to be placed below the text.

AUTHENTIC PAPERS CONTAIN these parts: introduction,

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QUOTING REFERENCES MUST be on a scale, in which they are really used. Quoting most recent literature is recommended. Only published articles, (or articles accepted for publishing), can be used as references. Not published observations and personal notifications need to be in text in brackets. Showing references must be as how they appear in the text. References cited in tables or pictures are also numbered according to the quoting order. All references should be compiled at the end of the article in the Vancouver style or PubMed style (i.e. www.scopemed.org).

TESTS USED FOR statistical analysis need to be shown in text and in tables or pictures containing statistical analysis.

TABLES HAVE TO be numbered and shown by their order, so they can be understood without having to read the paper. Every column needs to have a title, every measuring unit (SI) has to be clearly marked (i.e. preferably in footnotes below the table, in Arabic numbers or symbols). Pictures also have to be numbered as they appear in the text. Drawings need to be enclosed on a white or tracing paper, while black and white photos have to be printed on a radiant paper. Legends (e.g. next to pictures and photos), have to be written on a separate A4 format paper. All illustrations, (pictures, drawings, diagrams), have to be original, and on their backs contain, illustration number, first author's last name, abbreviated title of the paper and picture at the top. It is appreciated, if author marks the place for the table or picture. Papers could not be submitted with included more of 4 Tables, Figures or Graphs. Every additional must be paid 20 euros each.

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