NAL-live: Instruction for Authors

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Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften

Preamble

NAL-live is an open-access journal governed entirely by independent scientists and free from commercial interests. It represents a new model of scientific publishing by recognizing that a scientific article should not be regarded as final at the time of publication. Scientific knowledge evolves continuously as new data and ideas emerge and existing findings are reinterpreted in the light of new evidence. NAL-live accommodates this process by allowing manuscripts to be updated in response to constructive comments and advances in the field. This process may continue over many years for a given publication, creating a continuously evolving scientific record. Because NAL-live is operated by the Leopoldina, it provides the long-term institutional support required to maintain and curate evolving scientific publications.

Editors and structure of the journal

The journal is overseen by a team of five Senior Editors, consisting of the Editor-in-Chief and one Co-Editor representing each of the four classes of the Leopoldina.
Class I: Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Engineering with six Sections
Class II: Life Sciences with seven Sections
Class III: Medicine with nine Sections
Class IV: Humanities, Social and Behavioural Sciences with five Sections
Each Section is represented by at least one Section-Editor. The Section-Editors handle the manuscripts and can assign Reviewing Editors from the group of Members of the Leopoldina, or Guest Editors from other scientific institutions.

Scope of manuscripts

Manuscripts may present original research or comprehensive review articles in any scientific field represented by the Leopoldina. In line with the Leopoldina's mission to provide evidence-based policy advice, *NAL-live* welcomes especially topics that deal with scientific issues of societal and political interest. Manuscripts whose primary scope is better suited to a specialized journal may be declined prior to peer review. The topic and scope of a manuscript can be discussed in advance with an Editor.

Structure of manuscripts

- Manuscript organization is flexible, but should adhere to the established scientific standards in the respective scientific field.
- There is no formal length limit. However, authors are encouraged to keep manuscripts below approximately 10 printed pages (about 10,000 words, excluding references).
- Manuscripts include a summary of about 300 words and a teaser sentence of about 30 words.
- Numbers of Figures and Tables are not restricted. Figures should use color schemes that are accessible to readers with color-vision deficiencies.
- The text is single-spaced; uses a 12-point font; employs italics, rather than underlining (except with URL addresses); all illustrations, figures, and tables are placed within the text in the appropriate sections, rather than at the end.
- The submission file is in OpenOffice, Microsoft Word, or RTF document file format. For other file formats, please contact the Editorial Office.

- Supplementary files should only be provided in special circumstances or should be made accessible in public file repositories.
- Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools during manuscript preparation must be disclosed in a dedicated section describing the nature and extent of their use.
- Citation style of references is by (author, year) in the text; formatting of citations should be according to Chicago Manual of Style 18th edition.
- In the cover letter, authors need to confirm that (1) the submission has not been previously published, nor is it currently under consideration for another journal, (2) that any text parts or figures with copyright attributions are properly cited and copyright has been obtained where necessary (3) that the authors have read the authors' declaration on the publication of articles in NAL-live and agree with its terms.

First submission

Manuscripts are first assigned to a Section Editor. The Section Editor decides about suitability, optionally in discussion with one or more Reviewing Editors. When a manuscript is suitable, a Reviewing Editor is assigned. At the authors' request, the Reviewing Editor may authorize immediate publication of the submitted manuscript as an unreviewed preprint. Independent of the preprint publication, the Reviewing Editor obtains at least two independent reviews and has the option to provide an own review. Reviewers may discuss their assessments with one another and with the Reviewing Editor before a final decision is reached. Authors prepare a revised version based on the decision comments. Following revision, the manuscript will be published as Version 1.0 under a **CC BY 4.0** license without a second round of formal peer review. The names of the Reviewing Editor and the reviewers are provided with the publication (unless they prefer to remain anonymous). The texts of the first round of reviews will be published.

Commenting stage

Comments can be provided by any person who is registered in an acknowledged registration system with a verified email address (e.g. ORCID). Comments should be concise, constructive, and supported by appropriate references where relevant. Comments will undergo an editorial screening to ensure that they meet standards of scientific relevance and professional conduct. Commenters may choose whether their identity is displayed publicly or remains visible only to the editorial team. Author(s) can provide the responses via the commenting system. If changes are made to the original text in response to comments, a new version 1.1 will be published.

Revision stage

Once sufficient substantive comments have accumulated, or when important new evidence has become available, the authors may submit a major revision. If the original authors are unable or unwilling to prepare a revision, the editors may invite new authors to continue the development of the article. Because all articles are published under a CC BY 4.0 license, new authors may reuse, modify, and extend previously published text, figures, and tables, while appropriately acknowledging the original authors. The revised version will be published as version 2.0 and can be subject to new rounds of commenting.