

Journal Guidelines

Notes for authors

ABOUT JOURNAL

The "Anhalt University Applied Scientific Reports" is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal devoted to advancing applied research and innovation across diverse scientific and technological fields. Published by Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, the journal serves as a platform for disseminating high-quality research that bridges theory and practice, fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and society.

The journal prioritizes scientific accuracy, methodological innovation, and practical relevance, providing a platform for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to engage in substantive discussions on emerging challenges and transformational solutions. By integrating applied sciences with industry trends, technological progress, and societal needs, we aim to contribute to the development of knowledge that has a tangible impact on various sectors.

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Aim and Scope

The journal welcomes submissions from a broad range of disciplines, with a focus on applied research that drives scientific and technological advancements. The key areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

Life Sciences and Biotechnology. Advances in biotechnology and bioinformatics, agricultural sciences, food technology, environmental sustainability, and medical technology.

Business, Economics, and Management. Applied research in logistics, entrepreneurship, digital economy, industrial transformation, sustainability management, and business analytics.

Engineering and Technology. Innovations in mechanical, electrical, civil, and environmental engineering; applied physics and materials science; smart systems and automation; renewable energy solutions.

Information Technology and Digital Transformation. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, data science, human-computer interaction, and emerging digital ecosystems.

Architecture and Design. Sustainable urban planning, smart cities, architectural innovation, and interdisciplinary approaches to design and the built environment.

Education and Learning Technologies. Pedagogical innovations, digital learning tools, applied research in higher education, and university-industry partnerships for skills development.

Applied Social Sciences and Humanities. Research on social innovation, cultural heritage preservation, policy studies, and the role of technology in shaping society.

The journal publishes original research articles, review papers, case studies, and applied research reports, ensuring a comprehensive perspective on cutting-edge developments. It encourages interdisciplinary contributions that foster cross-sectoral collaboration and provide actionable insights for academia, industry, and policy.

Submission Preparation Checklist

Before submitting your manuscript, ensure the following items are included and checked:

- One author must be clearly identified as the corresponding author, with full contact information:
  - ✓ Email address
  - ✓ Complete mailing address
  - ✓ Affiliation

Files to Upload:

- Main manuscript file, including:
  - ✓ Keywords
  - ✓ Figures with appropriate captions
  - ✓ Tables with titles, descriptions, and footnote
  - ✓ All figure and table references in the text must match the submitted files
- Supplementary files (if applicable)
- Templates are available here: https://www.hs-anhalt.de/hochschule/einrichtungen/bibliothek/auasr

Additional Requirements:

- ✓ Proofread the manuscript for spelling and grammar errors
- ✓ Ensure that all citations in the text appear in the reference list and vice versa
- ✓ Obtain necessary permissions for use of third-party copyrighted content
- ✓ Include a conflict-of-interest declaration, even if none exist
- ✓ Confirm adherence to the journal's editorial policies

Publishing Ethics

Authors must not submit the same or substantially similar content to this and another journal concurrently. Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. When a manuscript lists multiple authors, it is expected that all have contributed significantly to the research and approve the submission.

Research Involving Humans and Animals Human Studies:

- Authors must comply with the ethical principles of the Declaration of Helsinki when conducting human research. (https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki/)
- Manuscripts must align with the *Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals*, particularly concerning the inclusion of diverse participant populations by sex, age, and ethnicity. (https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/)
- The manuscript must include:
  - ✓ A statement confirming that all procedures were performed according to institutional and legal standards, with approval from a recognized ethics committee
  - ✓ The ethics approval number and date
  - ✓ A declaration that informed consent was obtained from participants
  - ✓ Assurance that privacy rights have been upheld

Organ and Tissue Use:

- The journal will reject studies using unethically sourced human tissue or organs, including those from executed prisoners, in line with global human rights guidance.
- Authors must provide documentation confirming ethical sourcing in accordance with WHO principles, and declare informed, voluntary donor consent.

Animal Research:

- Animal studies must follow the ARRIVE guidelines and be conducted under applicable legislation (e.g., the U.K. Animals [Scientific Procedures] Act 1986, EU Directive 2010/63/EU, or equivalent national standards).
- The manuscript must specify:
  - ✓ That ethical standards were followed
  - ✓ The sex of animals used
  - ✓ Any observed sex-related effects in the findings

Declaration of Competing Interests

Authors must disclose any financial or personal affiliations that could be seen to influence the content or conclusions of the submitted work.

Use of AI in Manuscript Preparation

Authors who utilize generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools during writing must ensure these tools are used strictly for language refinement and clarity, under direct human supervision. AI-generated content should not be listed as an author or cited as a source. A clear disclosure of any AI usage must be included in the manuscript. Final responsibility for the work rests solely with the human authors.

Disclosure of AI-Assisted Writing

Authors must include a statement in the main manuscript—positioned before the References section—if generative AI tools were used during the manuscript preparation. This disclosure should be placed under a dedicated section titled "Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted Technologies in the Writing Process."

> Example declaration: *While preparing this manuscript, the author(s) used [TOOL/SERVICE NAME] to [SPECIFY PURPOSE]. The authors have thoroughly reviewed and revised the content generated with this tool and accept full responsibility for the final version of the manuscript.*
> Please note: Routine use of tools for grammar, spelling, citation formatting, or reference management does not require disclosure. If no AI technologies were used in the preparation, this statement may be omitted.

Funding Acknowledgement

All sources of financial support for the research and/or manuscript preparation must be disclosed. Authors should also indicate the role (if any) of the funders in designing the study, collecting and analyzing data, interpreting results, preparing the manuscript, and deciding to submit the article. If the sponsors were not involved, authors are encouraged to explicitly state this.

Language Requirements

Manuscripts must be written in clear and correct English. Both American and British English are accepted, but authors should consistently use one variant throughout the manuscript.

Online Submission System

Manuscript submission is fully online. Authors will be guided step-by-step through the submission process via the journal's website (https://auasr.ojs.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/auasr/de/index). Authors must also provide source files at a later stage if the paper is accepted. All correspondence—including editorial decisions and revision requests—is managed via email and the author portal, eliminating the need for printed submissions.

Recommending Reviewers

Authors are encouraged to suggest two qualified reviewers, providing full names and institutional email addresses. Do not propose individuals who:

- Are close collaborators or have co-authored publications with you in the past three years,
- Have any potential conflicts of interest,
- Are members of the journal's editorial board.

To promote objective peer review, consider recommending reviewers from various geographical regions,

career stages, and demographic backgrounds. *Note: Editors retain full discretion in selecting peer reviewers, regardless of author suggestions.*

Initial Submission Guidelines

Authors can submit a single manuscript file (PDF or Word) for the peer review process. The file should include all relevant content—text, figures, and tables—in a format suitable for referee evaluation. High-resolution figures must be included. If any figures exceed 10 MB, upload them as separate files. Please submit figures in vector graphics (no raster graphics).

Originality Declaration

By submitting a manuscript, authors confirm that:

- ✓ The work is original and unpublished (except for abstracts),
- ✓ It is not under review elsewhere,
- ✓ All authors and, where applicable, institutional authorities approve the submission,
- ✓ If accepted, it will not be republished in any format or language without prior written permission from the copyright holder.
- ✓ Submitted manuscripts may be checked for plagiarism using PlagAware or similar tools.

Reference Format

Include complete citations with author names, article or chapter titles, publication years, journal or book titles, volume and issue numbers, and page ranges or article numbers. The inclusion of DOIs is strongly encouraged.

Manuscript Formatting

While no strict template is required, the manuscript must contain essential sections such as:

- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- Figures and Tables (with captions)

For supplementary content like videos or datasets, include these materials at initial submission for peer review.

Figures and Tables should be integrated within the manuscript near the corresponding text, with captions placed directly beneath each item.

Peer Review Process

This journal uses a double-anonymized peer review model. All submissions are first screened by the Editor for relevance. Suitable manuscripts are then forwarded to at least two independent experts for evaluation. Final publication decisions rest solely with the Editor, who remains impartial, especially in cases involving conflicts of interest.

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Submitting Revised Manuscripts

For revised submissions:

- Provide a marked-up version indicating all changes made.
- Upload a fully editable version of the revised manuscript using word processing software.
- Simplify formatting where possible, as the final layout will be standardized during production.

Structure of the Article

Title Page

- Title: Must be concise and informative. Avoid abbreviations or formulas.
- Authors and Affiliations: Clearly list all contributing authors and their institutional affiliations.
- Corresponding Author: Identify one author responsible for all correspondence.
- Present Addresses: If relevant, provide updated addresses for authors who have relocated.

Abstract

The abstract should briefly summarize the research aim, methods, key results, and conclusions. Limit to 250 words. Avoid references and undefined abbreviations.

Keywords

Provide up to six keywords immediately after the abstract for indexing purposes. Use consistent American spelling and avoid general or vague terms.

Section Numbering

Organize the manuscript using a clear, hierarchical structure:

1. Introduction
2. Materials and Methods
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Conclusions
6. References

Use subsections (e.g., 2.1, 2.1.1) where appropriate, and maintain consistent numbering throughout.

Section Guidelines

Introduction: Define the research question and background, citing relevant literature.

Materials and Methods: Detail experimental procedures sufficiently to allow replication. Reference standard methods and describe any modifications.

Theory/Calculations: Include theoretical frameworks or derivations as needed.

Results: Present findings clearly and concisely, using tables and figures where necessary.

Discussion: Interpret results in the context of the field, avoiding repetition of results.

Conclusions: Summarize the primary outcomes and implications of the research.

Appendices: Label multiple appendices as A, B, etc. Equations and figures in appendices should be numbered accordingly (e.g., Fig. A.1, Eq. B.1).

Abbreviations and Terminology

Define any field-specific abbreviations in an overview on the last page. Ensure consistent usage throughout the manuscript.

Acknowledgements

Place acknowledgements in a separate section before the References. This may include individuals who provided non-authorial support, such as language editing or technical assistance.

Funding Disclosure

Format funding information as follows:

Funding: This research was supported by the [Funder Name] under grant number [XXXX].
If no external funding was received, state:
Funding: This research received no specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Units and Symbols

Use SI units consistently. Where necessary, provide equivalents for other systems. Follow internationally accepted nomenclature (e.g., IUPAC guidelines for chemical naming).

Mathematical Content

Submit equations as editable text—not images. Use inline formatting for simple expressions, and display complex equations with numbering where referenced (e.g., Eq. (1)). Italicize variables and use exp for exponential functions.

Footnotes

Use footnotes sparingly and number them consecutively. If not using an automated word processor feature.

Artwork Guidelines

This section outlines the requirements for preparing and submitting artwork for publication.

Digital Artwork – General Instructions

- Use consistent font styles and sizes across all figures.
- Recommended fonts: Arial, Times New Roman (or Times), Symbol, and Courier.
- Label figures in the order in which they appear in the manuscript.
- Name image files using a clear and logical naming system.
- Specify for each image whether it should span one column, 1.5 columns, or two columns.
- For Word submissions, you may include figures with captions and tables in the same file when submitting revisions.
- Files exceeding 10 MB in size must be uploaded as separate, high-resolution source files.

Accepted File Formats and Resolution

Once your artwork is finalized, please save or convert it to one of the following formats while ensuring the required resolution is met:

- TIFF or JPG for halftones (e.g., photographs): minimum 300 dpi
- TIFF or JPG for line art (e.g., graphs, charts): minimum 1000 dpi
- TIFF or JPG for mixed content (line art with halftones): minimum 500 dpi

Please avoid the following: Low-resolution screen-optimized formats (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG), Submitting low-quality or oversized graphics files

Captions for Figures

Each figure must be accompanied by a caption. The caption should include:

- A brief and informative title (not displayed on the figure itself)
- A clear explanation of all symbols, abbreviations, and labels used

Avoid excessive text within the figures themselves; use the caption for clarification.

Tables

- Submit tables in an editable format (not as images).
- Tables may be positioned next to the corresponding text or placed at the end of the manuscript.
- Use sequential numbering based on their appearance in the text.
- Include titles and, if necessary, explanatory footnotes beneath each table.
- Avoid duplicating data already presented in the text.
- Do not use vertical lines or shading within table cells.

References

Citing in the Text

- Every in-text citation must correspond to an entry in the reference list, and vice versa.
- Full citation details must be provided for references cited in the abstract.
- Avoid listing unpublished data or personal communications in the reference list; mention them within the text if necessary. If such references are included in the list, label them appropriately (e.g., "Unpublished results" or "Personal communication").
- "In press" citations should refer only to accepted publications.

Online Sources

For web-based references:

- Provide the full URL and the last access date.
- Include additional details when available (DOI, authors, publication date, etc.).
- Web references can be listed either within the main reference list or in a separate section.

Data References

When referring to datasets:

- Cite them both in the main text and in the reference list.
- Include author(s), dataset title, repository, version (if applicable), year, and persistent identifier.
- Precede data references with the tag [dataset] to distinguish them during processing. This tag will not appear in the final article.

Reference Style and Examples

Here are examples following the standard format of the journal [*Chicago Manual of Style*]:

[1] Fernberg, Phillip, and Brent Chamberlain. 2023. “Artificial Intelligence in Landscape Architecture: A Literature Review.” Landscape Journal 42, no. 1: 13–35. https://doi.org/10.3368/lj.42.1.13.

[2] Frayling, Christopher. 1993. Research in Art and Design. London: Royal College of Art.

[3] Kurland, Philip B. und Ralph Lerner (Editor) 1987. The founders’ Constitution. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. http//press-pubs.uchicago.edu/ founders (accessed 27 June 2025).

[4] Evanston Public Library Board of Trustees. Evanston Public Library strategic plan, 2000–2010: A decade of outreach. Evanston Public Library. http://www.epl.org/library/strategic-plan-00.html (accessed 01 June 2025).

[Datensatz] [5] Oguro M, Imahiro S, Saito S, Nakashizuka T. Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions. Mendeley Data, v1; 2015. https://doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1 (accessed 06 June 2024)

Supplementary Materials

You may include additional files such as datasets, images, or applications alongside your article to enhance its value.

- Submit all supplementary content together with your main manuscript.
- Each file must have a clear, descriptive caption.
- Supplementary files are published as received (e.g., Excel or PowerPoint formats will appear in their native format).
- If revisions are required for supplementary materials, submit the corrected file in full. Avoid annotating changes on previous versions.
- Disable "Track Changes" in Microsoft Office files before submission, as these may appear in the published version.