METHODOLOGY ARTICLES

Criteria

Methodology article articles should present new advances in a method, test or procedure relevant to systematic review and evidence synthesis. Subjects can range from a new method for data synthesis through to case studies of processes where systematic reviews and evidence syntheses have been used at the science-policy interface. The method described may either be completely new, or may offer a better version of an existing method. The article must describe a demonstrable advance on what is currently available. The method needs to have been well tested and ideally, but not necessarily, used in a way that proves its value.

Specificities per section

Title page

The title page should:

- provide the title of the article
- list the full names, institutional addresses and email addresses for all authors
- indicate the corresponding author

Please note:

- the title should include the aspect of methodology to which the manuscript relates.
- abbreviations within the title should be avoided

Please see the policy section in 'About Environmental Evidence' for further details.

Abstract

A short, unstructured, single paragraph summary, max 200 words, of the major points raised, containing no references.

Keywords

Three to ten keywords representing the main content of the article should be given.
Background

The Background section should be written in a way that is accessible to researchers without specialist knowledge in that area and must clearly state - and, if helpful, illustrate - the background to the research and its aims. Reports should indicate why this study was necessary and what it aimed to contribute to the field. The section should end with a brief statement of what is being reported in the article.

Methods

The Methods section should include the design of the study, the setting, the type of participants or materials involved, a clear description of all interventions and comparisons, and the type of analysis used, including a power calculation if appropriate. When proprietary brands are used in research, include the brand names in parentheses in the Methods section. For further details of the journal's data-release policy, see the policy section in 'About this journal'.

Results and discussion

We consider the main result of a Methodology article to be a report of the outcome of an objective test of the method itself. The description of the method and all details of the development and testing should be presented in the Results section. The Methods section of the manuscript should be reserved for the technical details necessary to allow others to replicate the method, and can be omitted if this information is provided elsewhere in the manuscript.

Conclusions

This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance. Summary illustrations may be included.

Quick Links

Shortcuts to detailed instructions for each type of article:

- Systematic Review
- Systematic Map
- Protocols
- Methodology article
- Commentary
- Letter to the Editor

Shortcuts to

- Main Instructions for Authors
- CEE Process
- CEE Guidelines
- CEE Peer-reviewer policy
- Publishing a scientific article
- Call for subject editors

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