Reviewing Journal Articles

Looking for:

New findings, new achievement, new method, new ideas

No journal articles without something new in it

Best Practices ***by J. Sartohadi***

As reviewer in some international journal such as LDD (Land Degradation and Development), IJG (International Journal of Geoinformatics), Geoinformatics (ITC-Journals by Elsevier), Sustainability, Journal of Natural Resources Development (JNRD) and others

Types of scientific paper

- Research paper
- Conceptual review
- Methodological / technical notes

Level of research

- Applied existing method in the specific location having environmental problems
- Comparing some different methods to find the best methods → or to modify the existing methods
- Provide new evidence to support or to confront upon the well establish theory
- Formulating new theory

Formulating titles of our scientific paper

- Evaluate the results
- Re-thinking of the methods applied in the research
- Find where the finding is located!…. Is it in the result or in the method??

General Items in the journal articles

- Every journal publisher has it's own style of structure and format of writing → *some publishers are very strict*
- All of them are presenting three main parts of scientific writing, i.e.: (1) objectives, (2) method, (3) results
- More detail explanation could be presented in such a way to provide effective and efficient explanation to those three main parts
- The articles are supported by sufficient new references mostly coming from journals

Introduction *(< 20% of the article body)*

- Provide sufficient reasons why the theme being discussed is important
- **Exploring research problems:**
  - The gap between scientific achievement and facts
  - Sufficient references to support the statements of scientific achievement
  - Sufficient data to support facts

Objectives

Sometimes not presented explicitly when the research problems formulation is sufficiently explained

- What are we going to do!
- What are we going to achieve!
- What is the final goals
  - Global to specific … or..
  - Specific to global

Methods *(+/- 25% of the article body)*

- Consist of three main parts:
  - How the data are going to be collected
    - Some techniques of data collection are explored
  - How the data are going to be analyzed
    - Several techniques of data grouping, manipulating, … presentations
  - How the results are going to be discussed and simplified/concluded

Discussions *(>50% of the article body)*

- Review of data being applied in the research
- Reviving the research problems supported by new research data
- Confronting some results with theories and expert opinions (*references*)
- Explaining the scientific logic of the results
- Verifying the results by new data sets
- Confronting the findings with *similar finding from similar research*
- Confronting the findings with *similar geographic sites*
- Discussing the findings from *different scientific perspectives*

Conclusions

- It is not a list of results but a summaries of results (findings)
- What is the significant finding of the research?
- Does the results support the findings presented in the conclusions

Scientific Language!

- No good result can be understood without good writing!
  - Rules of "SPOK" – short sentences
  - Rules of scientific paragraph – main idea is always located in the first sentence and followed by another explanation sentences
- Avoid ambiguity, use scientific terminology, hinder long sentences, …. long paragraph …. long articles!!!!

Acknowledgement

- **Almost no good article produced by single persons!**