



AUTHOR GUIDELINES

OXFORD RESEARCH ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHYSICS

Your Contract

Please be sure you have signed your digital contract. If you would like to add a co-author, please notify the OUP Development Editor before you sign your contract.

Writing Your Article

Include the following sections: [Summary](#), [Keywords](#), [Main Essay](#), [Further Reading](#) (optional), and [References](#).

Your article should present a narrative overview of the full scope of your topic. It should be written for scientists, scholars, and university-level readers, including advanced undergraduates, graduate students, practitioners, and researchers within your field and adjacent fields, who are seeking up-to-date articles and materials on the major topics in your field. It should provide a balanced, synthetic summary of key topics and their development over time, and include key important contributions and contributors, debates, and controversies. The article should be oriented globally, reflecting international and/or non-English-language scholarship or research where possible. Note that the Oxford Research Encyclopedia is not a journal, and articles are not intended to be research-driven reviews.

Be original. Oxford Research Encyclopedia only publishes new, previously unpublished articles. Avoid reproducing text or commentary—even your own—which has already appeared or been published elsewhere.

Think long-term. Do not engage with anything that is obviously ephemeral and will cause your article to date very quickly. You should exercise judgment on what controversies within the discipline will look like mere “flashes in the pan” five or ten years on. While it is not necessary to avoid these altogether, be cautious to not overstate their significance or unduly devote too much space to them.

Length and scope. Your article should be 6,000-10,000 words in length, including Summary, Keywords, Main Essay, and References. Limit the use of jargon and abbreviations and define uncommon technical terms.

Title. Your article title is listed on your contract. If you would like to suggest a new one, please confer with your OUP editor.

Your reader. Assume that the reader is knowledgeable in the field and its discourse and terminology. Though it is always a good idea to avoid jargon, you can and should engage with the terms and ideas in circulation in the area.

Article Summary and Keywords

Please submit your article summary within one month of article assignment, before submitting your completed article. You may submit any revisions to your summary when you submit your full article.

Article Summary

The article summary should be a brief synopsis of the topic, not of the article itself. The summary should be roughly equivalent to a definition, one or two paragraphs in length. Unlike a traditional “abstract,” the summary should be able to stand on its own as a useful piece of content without reference to a larger article. Please do not include citations in the summary. The summary will publish right away and serve as a preview for the full article. After the article is published, the summary will appear at the beginning. If you would like to make changes to your summary when you submit the final article, please include a revised copy.

Keywords

Please suggest 5-10 keywords that describe the content of your article. Keywords will ensure your article is searchable and discoverable online. Keywords are equivalent to terms in an index in a printed work.

Main Essay

Each article should present an overview of the full scope of a topic, its animating factors, and its developmental arc. Discuss the observational, theoretical, and experimental techniques used on the phenomena of focus. Article structure can be devised in this fashion:

Introductory Paragraphs (400 – 500 words)

- Define the topic you will cover and why.
- Outline the areas of science that inform your work. Note how this work fits in the larger context of physics.

Part One (2500 – 3500 words)

- Chart our understanding of the topic as it has developed over time: consider when and how the topic appeared and then took on its current form.
- Provide balanced coverage of the context, the controversies, and the debates that have informed and helped to form the topic, and that animate it now.
- Discuss foundational and notable discoveries or advances and those who made them within their context and current perspectives; include biographical details as needed.

Part Two (3500 – 4500 words)

- Present the current state of the science, discipline or areas of study that your article focuses on, including strengths and weaknesses. Include observational, theoretical and experimental techniques used.
- Refer to work in as many other countries as is sensible.
- You may add material from your own research in moderation.

Conclusion (400 – 500 words)

- Draw together significant conclusions that assess the field, including strengths and weaknesses.
- Conclude with your judgment on what significant questions remain, are being pursued, or should be pursued.

Further Reading

This section should be a list of the first 10-25 readings to which you would direct a student who wanted to read more deeply on this topic. These sources may, but need not be, cited in the text. This section is optional.

References and Notes

References List

Your article should include a complete works cited list in APA citation style under the heading "References."

During copyediting your references will not be fact-checked, so please pay special attention to the accuracy of your references. Ensure that all references are full, complete, and consistently formatted. Do not use *ibid.*, *id.*, *op. cit.*, or other such reference abbreviations. Do not use a long dash to replace a repeated author name in a bibliography or reference list. Give page ranges in full (651–652, not 651–52).

If materials published online have a DOI (digital object identifier) be sure to include it in your citation.

Author-date Citations within the text

Reference citations should be indicated in the text by author last name and year inside parentheses: e.g., (Smith, 2009). These citations should refer the reader to full bibliographic information in the References list at the end of your article. The References list should contain all works directly cited in your article and should not contain any works that you have not cited. If you find that some core works are not referenced in your article, you may provide additional references under a "Further Reading" heading immediately following the References list.

Numbered Endnotes

List any endnotes at the end of your article.

Non-Textual Materials (Photos, Video, Audio, Tables, Etc.)

We encourage the use of images, links, audio, and video in your article.

If you decide to include non-textual materials, we strongly suggest choosing non-copyrighted materials. For copyrighted materials, you must file cleared permissions with OUP. Alternatively, you may use hyperlinks to link out to relevant materials on external websites.

Image Requirements

- Images include artwork, photographs, graphs, charts, maps, and line drawings, etc.
- All images should be numbered and should include captions and credit lines.
 - All reprinted or adapted images should be public domain or information about permissions should be included. Proper credit should be given in a citation or in the caption.
 - Example: Fig. 1. Photosynthetic light response. Reprinted from [author, title, and date of earlier work]"
- Images should be delivered as individual PNG, JPG, or GIF files.
- Minimum requirements: 300 DPI, with 1280 pixels on the longest side (if image contains text, the size should allow for text to be 18 pixels high). Always send the highest resolution image that you can find.

- Images and their captions should be format neutral, so that meaning is not lost if an image is published in black and white vs. color.

Tables

- Tables should be included directly in the text where they should be published.
- All tables should have brief, clear titles and be numbered consecutively (separately from figures).

Audio and Video

You should consult with your OUP editor before deciding to include audio or video in your article. Audio and video files should be submitted in .MP4 format. For copyrighted materials, please seek permissions.

Requesting Permissions

When using copyrighted images, audio, video, or text, it is the author's responsibility to:

- Secure nonexclusive worldwide rights to reproduce the material in electronic and print form, in all editions of the work present and future, and in all languages.
- Pay any permissions fees.
- File permissions with your OUP editor before you submit your article.

A form for requesting permissions is provided at the end of this document. Most publishers' websites provide details and contact information for requesting permissions.

Submitting Your Article

Submit your manuscript as a Word file (preferred) or LaTeX file, accompanied by a PDF copy for reference. To submit your article, please log in to the ORE ScholarOne site via the URL provided to you by your OUP editor.

The Review Process

After submittal, your OUP editor will review your manuscript for sense and scope against the parameters outlined in your contract. Barring the need for major revision at this stage, your article will be submitted to peer review, the results of which will be returned to you for response. Once the peer review has been satisfactorily addressed, your article will be submitted to the editor in chief for final approval for publication.

Production and Copyediting

If you have submitted your article as a LaTeX file, you will be asked to provide all source files for the production process. OUP will send your manuscript to a professional copy editor. Your copy editor will edit for style, consistency, spelling, punctuation, and grammar, but will not fact check or edit for content. Your edited manuscript will be sent to you for review in locked electronic Word files. You will be asked to review and respond in full to any and all queries. This is your last opportunity to make changes to your manuscript before online publication. You will then return the manuscript and production will continue, culminating with your article publishing on ORE.

Updating Your Article

We encourage you to submit any updates to your article after it publishes. To do so, email physics.ore@oup.com.

Style, Spelling, and Format

Style and Spelling

Please follow the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition. Any style guidelines given in these instructions supersede those of APA. Spelling should follow the *New Oxford American Dictionary*.

- Use the Oxford comma: “one, two, and three” (not “one, two and three”).
- Do not reference yourself directly or use first-person pronouns (e.g., “I believe...” or “...as we will see...”).
- Avoid directional language (“see below” or “in the section above”). Instead, refer to specific section headings which can be cross-linked.

Headings

Headings and subheadings should be concise, consistently formatted, and clearly identifiable. This means all first-level headings should be formatted the same way, all second-level headings should be formatted the same way and differently from first-level headings, and so on. Use no more than four levels of headings.

Format

Your manuscript should be a double-spaced, letter-size page, typed in Times New Roman 12 point. Please keep formatting such as bold, underlining, manual section and page breaks, to a minimum. Assign your article a file name with author name first followed by article title.

Editorial Contacts

For any questions regarding the writing, formatting, or publication of your article, please contact your OUP development editor, Laurel Szymd (physics.ore@oup.com) or OUP subject editor, Sarah Kain (sarah.kain@oup.com).

Permission Request Form

To _____

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request nonexclusive world rights to reproduce in my article and in its future editions, in all languages and formats, including electronic, the following material:

Author/Artist: _____

Title(s) of Work(s): _____

Publication date (if applicable): _____ Page/Figure/Table No. (if applicable): _____

This material is to appear in the following work which Oxford University Press is currently preparing for publication:

Title: _____

Editor: _____ Scheduled publication date: _____

If applicable, please provide a glossy print or high-resolution electronic file of the figure(s) for reproduction.

Oxford University Press is a not-for-profit university press and so I would be grateful if you would consider granting this use gratis or for a reduced fee.

Please indicate agreement by signing and returning this letter. By signing, you warrant that you are the sole owner of the rights granted and that your material does not infringe on the copyright or other rights of anyone. If you do not control these rights, I would be grateful if you let me know to whom I should apply.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

(Printed name)

Permission is granted for the use of the material as stipulated

(Signature and Date)

(Printed Name)

(Credit line of copyright notice to print)