Facilitating collaborative scientific writing and publishing

University of Cambridge
Helping STEM Researchers Publish Workshop
08 February, 2017

Ali Smith & Villy Ioannou
Overleaf
www.overleaf.com
Global scientific collaboration

Collaboration networks between researchers in different cities
(built using Scopus data on papers published between 2008 and 2012)

Growth in collaborative research

Global collaborative writing
growth trends

Such collaboration is beneficial

Collaboration can be frustrating

• Multiple versions of the same document
• Long email chains
• Formatting/typesetting
• Maintaining references
• Long revision cycles
The entire life cycle is affected
A collaborative writing platform

Edit on the left, see compiled PDF on the right

https://www.overleaf.com/tutorial
7,000,000 documents
600,000 authors
180 countries
in 4 years
What Overleaf is doing for end users

Making research faster, more open & more accessible:

• One version of document accessible by all
• No need to email large files, simply share a link or invite by email
• Typesetting done automatically in the background
• Automatic reference styles and citation links
• Review tools provide real-time commenting, track changes & version control
• No local software installation on multiple machines required
• End user tech support – platform, templates, LaTeX
Institutional benefits of Pro accounts

Offering campus community features of Pro accounts:

• 10GB storage & 500 files per project

• Protected projects – invite collaborators privately rather than sharing a link – especially nice for collaborating with other institutions

• Full project history along with version control

• Quick save to Dropbox

• Priority support
Now trialled at Cambridge: www.overleaf.com/edu/cambridge
Portal contains resources, templates and guides to get started
A flying start to the University of Cambridge Overleaf trial

By John Hammersley
December 22, 2016

The trial started on September 22nd, at which point the 434 existing users were automatically upgraded to Pro. Since the launch of the trial, sign-ups have continued to grow, and three months later (December 21st) there are a total of 1,008 users from the University of Cambridge on Overleaf.
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Your Abstract

In addition to the guidelines provided in the example abstract above, your abstract should:

- provide a synopsis of the entire article;
- begin with the broad context of the study, followed by specific background for the study;
- describe the purpose, methods and procedures, core findings and results, and conclusions of the study;
- emphasize new or important aspects of the research;
- engage the broad readership of GENETICS and be understandable to a diverse audience (avoid jargon);
- be a single paragraph of less than 250 words;
- contain the full name of the organism studied;
- NOT contain citations or abbreviations.

Introduction

For the introduction, authors should be mindful of the broad readership of the journal. The introduction should set the stage for the importance of the work to a generalist reader and draw the reader in to the specific study. The scope and impact of the work should be clearly stated.

In individual organisms where a mutant is being studied, the
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- Visit your teams dashboard to publish as assignment
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% Use the documentclass option `limeno' to view line numbers

\articletype{inv} \articletype{Investigation}
\article{gsajnl}
\genetic
\sexp
\multiparent

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\author{[Last,1]} \author{[Author One]}
\author{[Dagger]} \author{[Author Two]}
\author{[Dagger]} \author{[Author Three]}
\author{[S]} \author{[Author Four]}
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\affil{[Dagger]} \affil{[Author three affiliation]}
\affil{[S]} \affil{[Author four affiliation]}
\affil{[S]} \affil{[Author five affiliation]}
\keywords{Keyword; Keyword2; Keyword3; ...}

\runningtitle{GENETICS Journal Template on Overleaf} \% For use in the footer
\correspondingauthor{[Corresponding Author]}

\begin{abstract}

The abstract should be written for people who may not read the entire paper, so it must stand on its own. The impression it makes usually determines whether the reader will go on to read the article, so the abstract must be engaging, clear, and concise. In addition, the abstract may be the only part of the article that is indexed in databases, so it must accurately reflect the content of the article. A well-written abstract is the most effective way to reach intended readers, leading to more repeat searches, retrieval, and usage of the article.

\abstabstract

\end{abstract}

\section{Introduction}

The introduction section should contain a brief overview of the field or area of research, the specific problem or question being addressed, and the significance of the research to the field. It should provide a context for the reader and set the stage for the main body of the paper.

\begin{enumerate}
\item Provide a background on the topic.
\item Include any necessary definitions or explanations.
\item State the research question or hypothesis.
\item Discuss the importance and relevance of the study.
\end{enumerate}

\section{Methods}

The methods section should detail the procedures and techniques used in the study. It should include information on materials, equipment, and procedures, as well as any necessary qualifications or limitations.

\begin{enumerate}
\item Describe the materials and equipment used.
\item Explain any data collection methods.
\item Discuss any statistical analyses or computational methods.
\end{enumerate}

\section{Results}

The results section should present the findings of the study. It should include any relevant tables, graphs, or figures, as well as a discussion of the implications and significance of the results.

\begin{enumerate}
\item Summarize the results of the study.
\item Discuss any unexpected findings.
\item Compare the results to previous research.
\end{enumerate}

\section{Discussion}

The discussion section should analyze and interpret the results, as well as compare them to previous research. It should also discuss any limitations of the study and suggest areas for future research.

\begin{enumerate}
\item Discuss the implications of the results.
\item Consider the limitations of the study.
\item Suggest areas for future research.
\end{enumerate}

\section{Conclusion}

The conclusion section should summarize the main findings of the study and restate the significance of the research. It should also provide some final thoughts on the implications of the results and suggest areas for future research.

\begin{enumerate}
\item Summarize the main findings of the study.
\item Discuss the implications of the results.
\item Suggest areas for future research.
\end{enumerate}

\section{References}

The references section should list all the sources cited in the paper. It should follow a consistent format, such as the APA or MLA style, and include all necessary information, such as the author, title, and publication date.

\begin{enumerate}
\item Include all sources cited in the paper.
\item Use a consistent citation style.
\item Provide all necessary information for each source.
\end{enumerate}

\end{abstract}
Guide to using this template in Overleaf

This template is provided to help you prepare your article for submission to the journal Genetics. Instructions for use are provided below.

Author Affiliations

For the authors’ names, indicate different affiliations with the symbols: `@`, `\`, `@`, `@`. After four authors, the symbols double, triple, quadruple, and so forth as required.

Your Abstract

In addition to the guidelines provided in the example abstract above, your abstract should:

- begin with the broad context of the study, followed by specific background for the study;
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Template for preparing your submission to GENETICS using Overleaf

ABSTRACT The abstract should be written for people who may not read the entire paper, so it must stand on its own. The impression it makes usually determines whether the reader will go on to read the article, so the abstract must be engaging, clear, and concise. In addition, the abstract may be the only part of the article that is indexed in databases, so it must accurately reflect the content of the article. A well-written abstract is the most effective way to reach intended readers, leading to more robust search, retrieval, and usage of the article.

Please see additional guidelines notes on preparing your abstract below.

KEYWORDS: Keyword1, Keyword2, Keyword3, ...

This Genetics journal template is provided to help you write your work in the correct journal format. Instructions for use are provided below.

Guide to using this template in Overleaf

For the introduction, authors should be mindful of the broad readership of the journal. The introduction should set the stage for the importance of the work to a generalist reader and draw the reader in to the specific study. The scope and impact of the work should be clearly stated.

In individual organisms where a mutant is being studied, the rationale for the study of that mutant must be clear to a geneticist not studying that particular organism. Similarly, study of particular phenotypes should be presented broadly and not on the basis of interest for that organism alone. General background on the importance of the genetic pathway and/or phenotype should be provided in a single, well-organized paragraph near the beginning of the introduction.

Author One*, Author Two*, Author Three*, Author Four*, and Author Five**
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Tips from the blog XI: Overleaf

By quantixed on January 24, 2017

I was recently an external examiner for a PhD vivis in Cambridge. As we were wrapping up, I asked “if you were to do it all again, what would you do differently?” It’s one of my stock questions and normally the candidate says “oh I’d do it so much smarter!” or something similar. However, this time I got a surprise. “I would write my thesis in LaTeX”, was the reply.

As a recent convert to LaTeX I could see where she was coming from. The last couple of manuscripts I have written were done in Overleaf and have been a breeze. This post is my summary of the site.

Overleaf

I have written ~40 manuscripts and countless other documents using Microsoft Word for Mac with EndNote as a reference manager (although I have had some failed attempts to break free of that). I’d tried and failed to start using TeX last year, motivated by seeing nicely formatted preprints appearing online. A few months ago I had a new manuscript to write with a significant mathematical modelling component and I realised that now was the chance to make the switch. Not least because my collaborator said “if we are going to write this paper in Word, I wouldn’t know where to start”.

I signed up for an Overleaf account. For those that don’t know: Overleaf is an online \TeX

https://quantixed.wordpress.com/2017/01/24/tips-from-the-blog-xi-overleaf/
Thanks for listening!

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Contact: ali.smith@overleaf.com & villy.ioannou@overleaf.com

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