University
of Economics
in Katowice

sciendo

Paper Outline

The paper submitted to JEM should include **the following sections**:
1. Title
2. Abstract
3. Keywords
4. JEL classification
5. Introduction
6. Literature review (Theoretical background)
7. Research methodology
8. Research findings
9. Discussion of findings
10. Conclusions
11. Disclosure statement
12. Funding (if required)
13. Acknowledgements (if required);
14. References
15. Appendix

The sections are described in the table below.

Title
The title should preferably include **no more than 12 words**.

Abstract
The abstract is the most important part of the paper because most researchers read first the abstracts of papers indexed in scientific literature databases. Therefore, it should provide an accurate and sufficiently detailed summary of the paper's aims, methodology, and findings.
Generally, it should include the following: **aim**/**purpose, design**/**methodology**/**approach**, **findings, research implications**/ **limitations,** and **contributions**/**originality**/**value** of the paper.

Keywords

This section should include up to **6 keywords or key phrases** separated by commas.

The keywords should be chosen carefully as they may ultimately be used by search engines to access the paper.

JEL classification

This section should include **one Journal of Economic Literature (JEL)** code at least. You can find this code on the website: https://www.aeaweb.org/econlit/jelCodes.php

Introduction

This section introduces the topic of the paper leading into the problem statement.

It should state more clearly **the research problem and motivation (with relevant literature citations), research gaps, and the goals and structure of the paper**.

Literature review (Theoretical background)

This section should be written based on the literature sources. It should demonstrate **the author's knowledge of the current state of research on the issues/topics examined in the paper**. It should also **formulate the research questions and/or hypotheses** that must be consistent with the goals of the study.

Research methodology

This section **describes the research methodology** (i.e., research stages, instruments, research sample, etc.). The idea behind the methodology section is that another researcher can exactly replicate your experiments without having to guess what instruments and techniques should be used.

For example, this section should contain:
- **description of the research stages**, indicating the techniques and instruments used in the research;
- **detailed description of the research instrument** (e.g., a survey) – Why was the instrument chosen? How was the instrument (survey) developed and designed? Was the instrument (survey) tested for reliability and validity? What scale/scoring strategy was used?
- **description of participants** – How was the population sample defined? What were the demographic characteristics of the participants?

- **description of data collected** – How was the study instrument (survey) administered? Where was it administered? Was anonymity guaranteed to the participants?
- **description of data analysis** – What statistics were utilized to reach the goals of the paper and confirm the hypotheses? What software was utilized?

Research findings

This section should **present the research findings only**; **(any) recommendations and discussion should be avoided**. It **should be neutral**, without indicating how the results confirm or contradict the hypotheses.

Are the results of data analyses clearly stated?

Discussion (this section may be combined with the Research findings section – Research findings and discussion)

This section is **the pivotal section of the paper**. It discusses the **relevance of the research findings to the existing knowledge in the field, evaluates how the findings meet the goals of the study whether they provide answers to the research questions, and confirm (or not) the hypotheses**.

In general, **it includes the interpretation of the findings and describes** whether the findings are in line (or not in line) with previous research presented in the literature, how the findings compare with or differ from the expected results, whether the hypotheses have been proved, not proved or inconclusive.

Conclusions

This section summarizes the research findings in a few paragraphs. It helps readers absorb the research findings.

It should contain:
- **Research contribution** – What is the contribution of the study? What are the importance, originality, and value of the study for the field of research?
- **Implications for research and practice** – What are the implications of the study for researchers and practitioners? How can the findings be implemented in practice?
- **Research limitations** – How may the characteristics of the design/methodology influence the interpretation of the results?

- **Future research** – Does the paper include recommendations for future research? Does the topic require further research? If so, what issues/questions/problems/areas should be explored in particular?

Disclosure statement

This section includes **the author's declaration that guarantees objective and fair research**. It implies the research results are not influenced by external factors or misconduct, such as the trade of financial incentives for positive results.

Funding

The section should **have a funding acknowledgment statement, e.g., the funding body written out in full, grant number, and scientific agencies.**

Acknowledgments

The section should **acknowledge anybody who has contributed to or assisted in the research**.

References

This section must **include all the sources cited in the paper**. It should contain **no less than 40 and no more than 80 international literature sources**. [The APA style](#) should be used.

All papers, unless written by a person for whom English is a native language, must be **proofread before submission by a native English speaker** (or someone proficient in English).