

A Guide to Writing an Effective Legal Research Article

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Abstract

This research article aims to provide a comprehensive guide on writing a high-quality legal research article. The process of writing a legal research article requires meticulous attention to detail, adherence to specific guidelines, and a solid understanding of legal research methodologies. By following the steps outlined in this article, legal researchers can enhance the clarity, coherence, and impact of their work.

Keywords: Legal research, research title, Proofreading and Editing.

Introduction

Law is all about interpretation, analysis, and critical thinking. In order to practise law, the researcher must be able to analyse and investigate topics and present their findings in writing. The research article is one such technique to demonstrate their capacity for original thinking and analysis, as well as their understanding/knowledge of the subject matter. The term "research" refers to a methodical analysis of relevant data. It can be difficult and complicated for legal students. If legal researcher doing continues and constant research it can help them to learn more and improve their research writing.

Legal Research Article?

The processes of legal research vary depending on the nation and the legal system involved. In its broadest sense, legal research includes every step of a course of action that starts with an analysis of the facts of a problem and ends with the application and communication of the results of the investigation.

Principles of Legal Research Article:

The principles of writing a legal research article are as follows:

1) Research Title-

When framing a research title for an article, it's important to capture the essence of your study while being concise and engaging. There are some guidelines to help you create an effective research title:

- a) Determine the central theme or subject of your research. What is the primary topic or problem you are investigating?
- b) Your title should be straightforward and understandable to readers.
- c) Keep your title concise while including enough information to convey the key aspects of your research. Ideally, a research title should be no more than 10-15 words.
- d) Consider including words or phrases that convey the unique or innovative aspects of your research. Emphasize why your study is important and what sets it apart from previous work.

- e) Incorporate action verbs and descriptive language to make your title more captivating. This can help attract readers' attention and generate interest in your article.
- f) After drafting a title, review it critically. Make sure it accurately represents your research and effectively communicates its essence. Seek feedback from colleagues or mentors to ensure clarity and effectiveness.

2) Abstract

Writing an abstract for a research article is a concise summary of the key points and findings of your research. It serves as a preview to your study, allowing readers to quickly understand the purpose, methods, results, and significance of your research. There are some steps as follows:

- a. Review the guidelines provided by the journal or conference where you plan to submit your article.
- b. Generally, an abstract consists of four main sections:
 1. Briefly explain the context and importance of the research problem.
 2. Describe the research design, methodology, and data collection techniques used.
 3. Summarize the main findings or outcomes of your study.
 4. State the significance of the results and their potential impact or applications.
- c. Abstracts are usually limited in length (e.g., 150-300 words). Make every word count by using clear and concise language.
- d. Highlight the most important aspects of your research. Emphasize the novelty, relevance, and potential contributions of your study.
- e. Consider organizing your abstract into paragraphs or sections to improve readability. Use topic sentences or headings for each section to guide readers through the content.
- f. After drafting your abstract, revise it for clarity, coherence, and accuracy. Proofread carefully for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.
- g. Ensure that your abstract adheres to the formatting guidelines provided by the journal or conference. Pay attention to font size, line spacing, and any specific requirements for keywords or references.

3) Key Words

Choosing keywords for a research article is an essential step to ensure that your work is discoverable and reaches the right audience. The researcher should consider following guidelines for this step:

- a. Start by understanding the central theme or topic of your research article.
- b. Generate a list of words and phrases that are closely associated with your topic.
- c. Review existing literature in your field to identify commonly used keywords and terms.
- d. Use a thesaurus or keyword suggestion tools to expand your list of keywords. Thesauruses can provide alternative terms and synonyms that may be relevant to your research topic.

4) Introduction-

Writing the introduction of a research paper is an important task as it sets the tone for the entire document and provides the reader with an overview of your study. There are some steps to write an effective introduction for a research article as follows:

- a. Begin your introduction with a strong and engaging statement that grabs the reader's attention.

- b. After capturing the reader's attention, provide some background context to help them understand the significance of your research. Discuss the broader subject area and highlight any key theories, concepts, or previous studies that are relevant to your research article. This helps the reader understand the existing knowledge and the gap your research aims to fill.
- c. Clearly state the specific research problem or research question that your study addresses. Explain why this problem is important and how it relates to the existing body of knowledge.
- d. Present the specific objectives or goals of your research. These objectives should be clear, concise, and directly aligned with the research problem.
- e. Briefly describe the research methodology or approach you have used to address the research problem and achieve your objectives.
- f. Discuss the potential results or findings of your research. While you may not have the final results at this stage, you can mention the expected outcomes based on your research design and hypotheses.

5) Analysis-

Present your arguments, analyse relevant legal principles, statutes, and cases, and provide supporting evidence for your research article.

6) Conclusion-

The conclusion should summarize the key findings, restate the research question, and discuss the implications of the study. It should highlight the contributions of the research and suggest potential avenues for future research in the field.

7) References-

Accurate and consistent referencing is vital in legal research articles. Ensure that all sources are properly cited using an appropriate citation style, such as APA, MLA, or Bluebook, depending on the requirements of the intended publication.

8) Proofreading and Editing-

Thorough proofreading and editing are crucial to eliminate grammatical errors, improve sentence structure, and enhance the overall clarity and coherence of the article. Legal researchers should pay close attention to legal terminology, accuracy, and formatting.

9) Submission and Publication-

Before submitting the research article for publication, you should carefully review the submission guidelines of the target journal or conference. Compliance with the guidelines ensures a higher chance of acceptance and successful publication.

Conclusion

Writing a legal research article requires meticulous planning, attention to detail, and adherence to specific guidelines. By following the steps outlined in this guide, researchers can enhance the quality and impact of their work. Effective legal research articles contribute to the advancement of legal knowledge, facilitate policy development, and foster intellectual discourse within the legal community.