

Compare the requirement that changes the submission.

A 25-minute, source-literacy workshop for librarians, writing centers, graduate seminars, research offices, and lab groups.

25

minutes

2

journals compared

21

source-linked examples

Learning outcome. Learners leave with one source-backed comparison, one practical package consequence, and one clearly assigned recheck before upload.

No login | CC BY 4.0 | Evidence reviewed 2026-08-31 | Companion worksheet included separately

PREPARE

Set up one meaningful comparison.

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- 01 Choose one decision that can change a file, statement, structure, route, or next action.
 - 02 Open the Journal Requirements Observatory and select two plausible journals from its 21-journal pilot.
 - 03 Give each learner the companion two-page worksheet and access to the live official sources.
 - 04 State the boundary: the activity compares one requirement. It does not rank journals or certify compliance.
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Materials

Facilitator

This guide, the live Observatory, and a visible timer.

Learner

One worksheet, a real or fictional manuscript scenario, and two candidate journals.

Facilitation boundary. Ask what the author would prepare or do differently. Do not ask which journal is better.

RUN THE ACTIVITY

Five moves in 25 minutes.

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| 0-4 min | Frame one real decision and the manuscript context that makes it consequential. |
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| 4-9 min | Choose two plausible candidate journals for the same manuscript. |
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| 9-17 min | Open each official source and record the visible instruction, owner, and date checked. |
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| 17-22 min | Separate the source statement from the team interpretation and unresolved uncertainty. |
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| 22-25 min | Name the package consequence and assign the verification required before upload. |
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Deliverable. One compact record that a coauthor can inspect and repeat without relying on memory or a third-party summary.

What a strong record contains

The decision, both official sources, the visible requirements, the practical difference, the team interpretation, the unresolved edge, and the next verification.

FICTIONAL WORKED CASE

Model the distinction between evidence and action.

This example is fictional. The wording demonstrates the method and does not describe a real journal policy.

SCENARIO	A research article is choosing between Journal A and Journal B. The team needs to know whether an extra public-facing summary changes the package.
JOURNAL A EVIDENCE	The official instructions visibly request a separate nontechnical summary. Source owner and review date are recorded.
JOURNAL B EVIDENCE	The official instructions list the standard manuscript files but do not resolve whether a public summary applies to this article type.
TEAM ACTION	Draft the Journal A summary. For Journal B, check the current article-type instructions before treating the file as unnecessary.
UNCERTAINTY	Absence from one checked page is not proof that the requirement does not exist elsewhere.
RECHECK	Open both live publisher pages again immediately before upload.

Discussion prompt. Which sentences are evidence, which are interpretation, and which action still depends on a later check?

Reuse the lesson with its limits attached.

Seminar

Use one shared fictional case before learners apply the worksheet to their own projects.

Consultation

Use the record to document a live journal-choice conversation with a researcher.

Library guide

Link the canonical page and offer the PDFs as an openly reusable teaching activity.

Lab onboarding

Repeat the activity when a target journal changes or before the final upload check.

Suggested attribution

Journal Requirements Observatory Workshop Kit by Manusights, version 1.5. <https://manusights.com/research/journal-requirements-observatory/workshop-kit>. Licensed under CC BY 4.0.

Required boundary

- The live journal or publisher page controls the submission decision.
- The Observatory is a maintained pilot, not a complete directory or ranking.
- The activity does not predict acceptance or certify submission compliance.

[Open the Observatory](#) | [Read the methodology](#) | [Review version history](#)

Source digest: 683dc9bf98d4cb1d17218338f68ed0338263c74fa65e8bec280d1797edd96944