

Journal submission rules are scattered. This map shows where to look.

A source-fragmentation study of official journal guidance across 30 journals and six common author decisions.

30 journals in a purposive sample

90 official surfaces mapped

Evidence reviewed 18 to 27 August 2026

30 / 30

Multiple sources

Every sampled journal required more than one official source for the core submission job.

27 / 30

Three core sources

Most sampled journals required three source surfaces to resolve the mapped decisions.

6

Decision areas

Fit, article type, package, review model, disclosure, and contribution.

The central finding

The problem is not finding one instruction page. It is reconciling several authoritative pages without losing provenance.

What this publication includes

Interactive map

Filter source paths by journal, publisher, or author decision.

Evidence records

Open the official pages behind each decision and preserve their review dates.

Open data

Download versioned CSV, JSON, citation files, and reproducibility metadata.

Teaching materials

Reuse the current instructor guide and learner worksheet under CC BY 4.0.

What did we map?

The study asks where an author must look to resolve six practical decisions before submitting a manuscript. It records source ownership and fragmentation, not journal quality or acceptance probability.

Six decision areas

01

Fit

The journal's stated subject scope and audience.

02

Article type

The named manuscript categories and their boundaries.

03

Package

Files, declarations, structure, and upload requirements.

04

Review model

Anonymization and peer-review policy.

05

Disclosure

Authorship, conflicts, data, and related declarations.

06

Contribution

Editorial expectations for novelty, synthesis, or significance.

Sample boundary

The 30-journal cross-disciplinary sample is purposive. It compares source paths across publishing systems. It does not estimate how common a pattern is across all journals.

Evidence record

Each record preserves the official URL, source owner, source role, access status, decisions resolved, and review date. Publisher access can change, and the live official page always controls.

Review interval: 18 to 27 August 2026. **Study date:** 28 August 2026. See the full methodology and codebook for collection rules.

FINDINGS

The submission job crosses organizational boundaries.

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Needed multiple sources

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Needed three core sources

6

Author decisions compared

Three recurring patterns

01	Fit and files	A journal overview may establish subject fit while a publisher author center controls files, declarations, and upload mechanics.
02	Policy ownership	Anonymization, peer review, and disclosure can sit on society or publisher pages rather than the journal home.
03	Editorial context	A technically eligible article type can still depend on editorial definitions of contribution or department fit.

Interpretation

A defensible submission record identifies which official source settles each decision, distinguishes evidence from interpretation, and preserves any unresolved edge.

What the findings do not show

The study does not rank journals, compare editorial quality, predict acceptance, certify compliance, or prove that an inaccessible instruction has disappeared.

The purposive design supports comparison inside this sample. It does not support a population prevalence claim.

A public research object, not a marketing claim.

Use the interactive map to inspect current evidence. Cite the versioned record when using the dataset or findings in teaching, research support, or analysis.

Recommended citation

Manusights (2026)

Journal Submission Source Map: 30-journal source-fragmentation study (Version 1.8). Zenodo.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.22215938>

Reuse terms

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Methodology	manusights.com/research/journal-source-map/methodology
Teaching kit	manusights.com/research/journal-source-map/teaching-kit
Version DOI	doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.22215938

Before operational use

Open the live journal or publisher page. Dataset evidence records are dated observations, not permanent policy.

Corrections

Use the canonical page to report a changed, inaccessible, or misclassified source.