

Guide for Authors (last updated: 16 7 24)

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Introduction

This guide is designed to help produce the best chapter for your readers. We hope it provides useful guidance. There is no need to read it all at once. We suggest you start with Parts 1 and 2, and then consult the other Parts as you need to. There is a separate guide on submitting your chapter on the ScholarOne platform.

Part 1 General

We suggest you read both Parts 1 and 2 to start with to give you the background to what we are looking for.

1 Who are our readers and what do they need?

In the case of most of our titles, our target readers are crop and livestock scientists. This group includes researchers (typically tenured staff with doctorates) conducting postgraduate research primarily in departments of crop or animal science in universities. We are also targeting agricultural scientists working within non-university research organisations, including government agencies and R&D departments in commercial companies providing products and services to the agricultural sector. Typical specialisms include: physiology and breeding, agronomy/husbandry, soil science, entomology and plant pathology, livestock nutrition, health and welfare, as well as aspects of horticultural science.

The biggest single challenge these and other researchers say they face is information overload. As the number of journal articles and other research outputs continues to grow, and as research becomes ever more specialised, it is becoming ever more difficult to keep up with the volume of research and identify the key trends. Researchers are finding it harder, for example, to conduct effective literature searches in identifying new directions for research, leading to potential duplication of effort.

To make the problem worse, there is a growing demand for more coordinated research and, as a result, for more collaboration between specialisms, departments and centres around the world. This increases the need for researchers to be aware of key trends in research beyond their own specialism so that they can work effectively with colleagues in neighbouring disciplines and at differing institutions.

We want to help researchers to meet this challenge. What researchers need are authoritative subject experts like you to guide them through your subject i.e. the key themes to look out for and the key research to take account of. This means we would like you to put together the equivalent of a review article which surveys existing research and puts it into context. Whilst research continues to evolve, our experience is that a good review chapter will continue to provide a standard widely-cited point of reference for many years. We hope you will share our aspiration to help your colleagues and the research process in this way.

2 How can we support agricultural science?

In addition to helping agricultural scientists keep up with trends in research, we also want to play our part in what this research is trying to achieve: making agriculture more sustainable. Agriculture faces a huge challenge to increase yields to feed a growing population. However, it must do so in the context of increasing competition for water, land and labour resources as well as the constantly evolving threat from pests and diseases. It must also adapt to potentially more extreme weather conditions associated with climate change whilst minimising its own environmental impact. Finally, it

needs to address problems of poverty, poor nutrition and insecurity in the food system, such as the challenges facing smallholder farmers in the developing world, including the important role of women in agriculture.

High-quality research is critical to meeting these challenges. In addition to summarising key research trends to help your colleagues, we hope you can use your chapter to pick out the practical ways you believe research in your subject can help solve the challenges agriculture faces in becoming more sustainable, 'climate smart' or 'regenerative', whether it is improving more intensive systems in the developed world or supporting smallholder systems in the developing world. We hope you will share our emphasis on how research can be translated into practical outcomes that farmers can implement.

3 What does this mean for your chapter?

This section covers:

- Length
- Suggested structure
- Including a section on 'Where to look for further information'
- Number of references, figures and tables
- Ancillary material

Feedback from readers suggests a target length for chapters of around 7-9,000 words of text, excluding figures, tables and references. However, don't worry if your chapter ends up being shorter or longer than this. Readers may, for example, well welcome a longer chapter if it means coverage of the key trends in a topic is more comprehensive and complete. Readers particularly welcome a comprehensive review of the key literature with as many references as you think appropriate.

We would suggest the following basic structure as a starting point for your chapter. Typical standard section headings in a chapter include:

- Introduction: what are the key issues/challenges in your subject?
- Sections on how each key issue/challenge is being addressed (with reviews of the key research)
- Case study: case study (or studies) of how research has been used to improve crop or livestock in practice (e.g. based on a research project involving your team in your particular location; or through your or your colleague' work in offering extension advice and guidance to farmers)
- Summary: how research can contribute to enhanced and sustainable crop or livestock production (e.g. how it can contribute to improving productivity/yields, supporting more sustainable 'climate-smart' or 'regenerative' production with fewer inputs/less environmental impact, or how it can improve smallholder security)
- Future trends in research
- Where to look for further information
- Acknowledgements/Declaration of interests
- References

The case study and summary need only focus on your own experience. If your experience is on a particular crop/livestock species in a particular location, it is OK to focus on that experience. It is important to note that these section headings listed are designed as a starting point for discussion.

We welcome your comments and changes to improve the chapter in ways that will help readers. If you have any questions about what to cover, please get in touch.

A particularly valuable section in each chapter will be 'Where to look for further information'. This will help researchers, after they have read your chapter, to find their own way around a subject. As an expert in your field, you will know the best places to look for information. Guidance can include:

- Any good introductions to the subject for non-specialists (e.g. a good review article or textbook you could recommend which can help someone new to the subject to get started)
- Any seminal articles or books you could identify which have shaped the subject
- Any key societies, professional organisations or other websites worth visiting to keep up to date with trends
- Any key journals or conferences (e.g. key conferences held regularly every year or few years)
- Any major international research projects (e.g. CGIAR programs) you think readers should keep an eye on
- Which you think are the top 5 or so research centres readers can investigate e.g. for possible collaboration as well as to keep up with research trends

Since this is a feature some authors may be less familiar with, we've provided an example below:

Where to look for further information

The following articles provide a good overview of the subject:

- Mason, T. (2017), 'Maize breeding: current challenges and opportunities', *Crop breeding J*, 43(2): 1-20.
- Vickers, J. (2016), 'From marker-assisted selection to gene editing: emerging technologies in maize breeding', *Crop Science*, 50: 42-64.

Key research in this area can be found at the following organisations:

- International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (www.cimmyt.org)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (www.usda.gov)
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) (www.iita.org)

We hope this example is helpful. In these ways, we hope your chapter will become a standard, widely-cited point of reference for readers.

If you wish to acknowledge help from colleagues or institutional support in writing the chapter, please feel free to do so in an 'Acknowledgements' section at the end of the chapter. This should also include acknowledgement of funding of any project or projects on which the chapter is based. It is, of course, essential for readers to feel that what they read is balanced, impartial and based on the best available evidence. In the interests of transparency, if you have any competing financial or other interests that could be perceived as potentially compromising the objectivity of the chapter, it is essential to list them in a 'Declaration of interests' statement. An example would be an investment in, employment by or funding from a commercial company providing products in services in an area discussed in the chapter.

Your readers will welcome your summarising a wide range of research in your review chapter. As noted earlier, please feel free to include as many references as you think are worth discussing. In the online version of your chapter we will bring these references to life by providing active links from references in the text to the full reference citation in the References section. From there we will link

the citation in the References section to the where the full text of the article itself can be found. This will allow readers to follow up the research that is of most interest to them.

We welcome the inclusion of figures and tables to support the text. We do not have a particular limit on the number of figures or tables. We suggest you aim to include 10 figures or tables as a rule, but can accommodate more where they are the best way of conveying key information for a chapter. You are welcome to include colour material.

Modern digital technology means that we are no longer restricted to just publishing the chapter. It is now possible to include or link to ancillary information such as datasets, image banks or websites which allow researchers to analyse original data or delve deeper into a subject for themselves. If you'd like to include any material of this kind, please let us know.

Part 2 Getting started with your chapter

We suggest you read Part 2 before you start planning your chapter.

4 Delivery dates and contracts

A key issue is agreeing a realistic schedule which you feel confident of meeting. We typically suggest 4-6 months for contributors to write chapters. However, it is much better for us to agree a date with you for delivering a chapter which you feel able to commit to, even if this means a longer schedule. If you feel you need longer, please let us know. We will send you periodic reminders about the agreed delivery date for your first draft. Please do let us know if you have not been able to make the progress you hoped in meeting an agreed delivery date. It is much better to discuss this early and agree a revised, more realistic date we can all work to.

We recognise that many chapters are written by more than one author. We are happy for you to bring in co-authors at any stage. Only one contributor needs to formally confirm acceptance of our invitation to write a chapter, as long as any co-authors you add subsequently understand and agree to our contractual terms.

We attach our standard contractual terms when you agree to write the chapter. These are supplied for reference. Please note that we will not ask you to agree to a contract until you submit your chapter.

5 Declarations of funding and conflicts of interest

There has been growing concern in some STM sectors (e.g. in medical publishing) about undeclared potential conflicts of interest by authors. A related if broader issue for academic publishing as a whole is trust. The recent STM 2028 Trends Report e.g. highlights issues of truth and trust, as well as disinformation, as two of the three central medium-term challenges facing STM publishing (alongside how to optimize human-AI interaction). The following guidance addressing these issues is based on recommendations by the two following bodies (who have defined best practice in this area):

- International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)
- Committee on Publishing Ethics (COE)

There are two overlapping issues:

- Declarations about funding

- Declarations about conflicts of interest

The first relates to any funding a researcher receives which is directly connected to the chapter e.g. public funding for some of the research on which the chapter is based, or funding by the author's organization for a sabbatical to allow time for the chapter to be written. It is good practice to declare these sources even where there is clearly no conflict of interest.

The second refers more specifically to any financial or non-financial interests which could be seen as potentially prejudicing an author's objectivity and which a reader should be aware in assessing any potential bias in the chapter.

Financial conflicts of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Grants from a funding agency, commercial entity or any other organization likely to benefit financially from any statements in the chapter.
- Employment with or affiliation to any organization likely to benefit financially from publication of the chapter.
- Stocks, shares, patents, consulting fees, other payments (e.g. travel expenses), goods or services benefiting an author which are related to any organization likely to benefit financially from publication of the chapter.
- Close relatives likely to benefit financially from publication of the chapter.

Non-financial conflicts of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Unpaid formal or advisory role in any organization likely to benefit financially from publication of the chapter.
- Membership of organisations that undertake advocacy work in the area covered by the chapter.
- Involvement in legal proceedings relating to the subject matter of the chapter.
- Other than as a chapter author, any financial or personal connection with the Publisher.

Best practice requires authors to declare any funding they've received in relation to writing material for publication and also to declare any potential conflict of interest as early as possible. If you have any concern that there might be a perceived conflict of interest, please contact the Publisher immediately. We can then make a considered decision as to what, if any, statements we should make in the chapter. We believe making any statement, if required, will provide readers with the appropriate reassurance they need about the objectivity and balance of the chapter. It is important to note that failure to declare any such potential conflicts of interest may result in withdrawing the chapter from publication if there is a likelihood of readers reasonably questioning its objectivity and reliability.

Examples of potential wording are:

Declaration of funding and/or conflicts of interest

The authors of this chapter declare they have not received any funding related to the chapter and have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Declaration of funding and/or conflicts of interest

The authors declare that research on which this chapter is based was derived from the authors' contribution to the EU AGRICYCLE Project, funded under the EU Horizon Europe Funding Programme (Grant No. EU-123ABC). They also wish to acknowledge funding from Hohenheim University for a sabbatical to allow the authors to complete the chapter.

Given the importance of this area, our author contracts include the following clause covering this topic:

Declaration of funding and/or conflicts of interest

Under the terms of this agreement, you undertake to declare to the Publisher any funding you have received which is directly connected to the chapter, and to make an appropriate statement declaring such funding in the chapter. You also undertake to declare to the Publisher any potential conflicts of interest relating to the chapter you are contributing, and to make any appropriate statement declaring any conflicts of interest required by the Publisher. Please see our Guide to Authors for more information.

6 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted technologies in preparing chapters

We accept the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted technologies for tasks such as data analysis which can then contribute to the findings reported in chapters. However, if they are used at any point in the process of writing chapters, AI-assisted technologies should **only** be used to improve presentation (e.g. language and readability). In part because they may be based on highly unreliable (and typically unidentifiable) sources, and in part because AI algorithms may not be designed to adequately assess the quality of published research, AI-assisted technologies (such as ChatGPT) should **not** be used to generate the main text of the chapter e.g. to summarise or assess published research, to produce summaries or draw conclusions. The author remains entirely responsible for the content and quality of a chapter.

Authors are required to inform the Publisher of any use of AI-assisted technologies in preparing chapters. The Publishers may then require additional peer review if they have any concerns about the effects of using such technologies on the quality and reliability of the text, decline to publish the chapter if they can demonstrate a negative effect on quality, as well as require the author to include a statement in the chapter for the benefit of readers about the use of AI-assisted technologies in preparing the text.

Author contracts contain the following clause:

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted technologies in preparing chapters

Authors are required to inform the Publisher at the first opportunity of any use of AI-assisted technologies in preparing chapters. The Publishers reserve the right not to publish a chapter if either the author fails to inform the Publisher about any use of AI-assisted technologies or if they have any concerns about the effects of using such technologies on the quality and reliability of the text. The Publishers reserve the right to require changes to deal with any quality issues, as well as the right to require the author to include a statement in the chapter for the benefit of readers about the use of AI-assisted technologies in preparing the text. Please see our Guide to Authors for more information.

7 How we will publish your chapter

In a modern digital environment, we have the flexibility to publish chapters in a range of formats to suit individual customer needs. This includes publication of chapters in books (in both print and electronic formats), as part of a broader database of information on agricultural science or as standalone products for rent or purchase. This flexibility gives customers the opportunity to access and read your chapter in the way that best suits them and helps to ensure we can disseminate your chapter as widely as possible to fellow researchers.

We will arrange copyediting and typesetting of each chapter as soon as we have the final draft after completion of the peer review process. As noted earlier, we plan to make individual chapters available for sale or rent as they complete the production process. Providing you deliver your chapter according to the schedule you agree with us at the contract stage, and it is approved by the editor, we will also include it in the overall collection of chapters. Where chapters are significantly delayed beyond the original date agreed, we may publish them as standalone products after appropriate peer review and approval. However, we cannot guarantee they will also form part of the final collection of chapters if this means significantly delaying the editor, the other chapter authors and the collection as a whole. Such a delay would be unfair to fellow authors. This underlines the importance of agreeing a realistic delivery date at the contract stage and letting us know of if your delivery date needs to change during the writing process.

Part 3 Taking you through the production process

This part of our guide gives you an overview of the production process for your chapter and explains our key requirements. We suggest you consult this part of the guide once the chapter is contracted and you ready to start writing. You can then refer to it as required as you move through each stage of the process.

8 The writing process

To protect editors from what can be a significant amount of administration, we have agreed with our editors that we will be responsible for managing all the chapter authors on the editor's behalf. This means that we will be your main point of contact. Our experience is that this works best for everyone in managing these projects successfully. We will keep in touch with you regularly to monitor progress with your chapter and will pass on any messages to the editor as required.

We would ask you keep us informed of any changes (e.g. to your delivery schedule) you might discuss direct with the editor of your book. If, at any time in the writing process, you think you may need longer to complete the chapter, please let us know immediately.

The key stages in the writing process are:

- Delivery of your first draft
- Peer review
- Delivery of your final draft

In planning the writing of your chapter, the following recommendations from the experience of previous chapter authors might be helpful:

- Give yourself deadlines for completing a rough first draft of each main section
- Aim to have a complete draft of the text (with all the sections in draft form) a month before you need to deliver your first draft; this will give you time for final adjustments, such as tracking down missing reference details
- If you need to clear permission for figures, tables etc., it is best to start the process straight away rather than leave it to the end. Once you decide to use a figure, clear permission then. At the very least, it is best to apply for permission for copyright material at least a month before you need to send in your first draft. If permission is not given, or too high a fee is required, you may have to remove the figure and amend the text. Please see Part 5 of this guide on Permissions for more information.

Your first draft should include the full text and references. If you are planning to include any figures and tables, we ask you to include as many of these as you can to allow the editor to review your contribution effectively.

9 Peer review and final drafts

We will ask you to use the ScholarOne system to submit your first draft. Developed by Thomson Reuters, you may already be familiar with ScholarOne since it is used by many of the world's leading journals to manage submission and review of journal articles. We have a separate guide to ScholarOne which we will send you. We also use ScholarOne to manage the peer review process. We recognise the importance to contributors of prompt peer review. Once we receive your first draft, we will ask the editor to complete the peer review of your contribution within one month. We will let you know of any changes to this schedule.

We would ask you to agree to provide a complete revised draft of your contribution within one month of receiving the editor's review. The final draft should also be submitted on ScholarOne and should include the full text together with a complete set of references as well as all figures, tables and their accompanying captions you wish to include in the contribution. Later sections in this guide explain what we need in more detail. If this is helpful, we provide a quick checklist of what we need which you can use to identify if you've covered everything.

Before we take you through the production process, it is worth emphasising one key thing. Some authors assume the most helpful approach is to format their chapter so that it looks as close as possible to a final published chapter as it might look in a book. Please **don't** do this. We need your material (particularly the text) in as simple a form as possible. This is why, for example, we ask for the text in Word with minimum formatting. The last thing our production colleagues want to do is remove all the formatting you may have spent a lot of time adding. Please keep it simple.

10 The production process and publication

Once we've received your final draft, we will give it a final quality check before it is sent on to our production partner. We look particularly at the presentation of chapter in such areas as:

- Chapter title
- Authorship
- Abstract and key words
- Contents list
- Section headings in the chapter
- Style and language quality
- Other issues (e.g. missing material)

These aspects of a chapter can be critical for a chapter's discoverability by potential readers as well as how they perceive its quality and relevance. As an example, a clear and comprehensive set of main section headings for a chapter can be critical to how users find chapters and assess their scope and value, as well as the ease with which they can find their way around the chapter itself. If we have any queries or changes, we will discuss them with you.

Once any final queries have been resolved, the next step will be to pass it on to one of our production partners. They will be responsible for copyediting and typesetting your chapter to

produce the final version for publication. They will contact you directly about the production process for your chapter.

The first step is manuscript assessment and, in particular, whether your chapter is complete:

- Is the text complete?
- Have all the references been supplied?
- Are all the figures included; and are they in the right format?
- Have all the tables been supplied?
- Are there captions for each figure and table and is it clear where they should appear in the text?
- Is there written permission to use any material from sources that you want to include in the chapter (e.g. a figure you want to re-use from a published book or journal article)?

If anything is missing, it may have to be deleted from the chapter at this stage if the production process is not to be delayed. This may include figures or other copyright material for which permission has not been cleared. Once the production process starts there will not be time to make more than minor changes. In addition to causing delay and extra cost, late changes increase the risk of making mistakes which damage the quality of your chapter. In most cases we will have to proceed without them.

The next process is copyediting. The copyeditor will check that your chapter is complete and consistent for our readers. Key issues are:

- Are all the key statements in the text supported by references?
- Does each reference in the text match up to the full reference in the reference section?
- Are all the reference details complete?
- Do references to figures or tables in the text correspond to the figures and tables supplied?
- Is there a caption for each figure or table?

If anything is missing or does not match, the copyeditor will contact you with a list of queries. It is important that you respond to these within the deadline given if production of your chapter is not to be delayed. If queries are not dealt with, we may need to remove material which is incomplete (e.g. a figure reference in the text without the corresponding figure).

Once any queries are resolved, the chapter will be typeset. Typesetters turn your manuscript into the published final version you see, for example, in a printed book. Typically, this involves taking your text, stripping out your formatting, and then flowing the text into the page layout appropriate for each final, printed page. Figures and tables are prepared separately and then positioned on the relevant page and the text arranged round them. The typesetter will always try to position a figure or table as close as possible to where is first referred to in the text. This, however, may not always be possible e.g. where you refer to a number of figures or tables one after another.

The typesetter will produce a page proof of your chapter. This is a version set out as it is meant to appear in the final, printed book. The proof will be sent to you to check. It is important to keep to the schedule given for reading and checking the proof of your chapter. It is also important to be aware that the purpose of the proof stage is to check we have set your original text correctly. It is not to make last-minute changes or updates to the text. Since they cause unnecessary cost and delay, these changes usually have to be ignored.

Once the proof has been checked and any corrections made, the final version will be approved and the chapter will be published online. We aim to do this as soon as the chapter is ready. In addition, once all the relevant chapters are completed, they will be assembled and then turned into the relevant book. The timing of publication of a book will depend on how soon your fellow contributors deliver their chapters.

Please note that, in contrast to some publishers, we will both publish the electronic version of individual chapters and the final version of the chapters as they will appear in the printed book in **colour**. This will enhance their value to readers.

As noted earlier, since we can host material online, there may be supplementary material you have which we could include alongside your chapter (e.g. data sets, image banks). If you want to include any additional material of this kind, let us know.

Part 4 How to present your chapter

We suggest you read this Part before you start writing and then refer to it as necessary. To start with, please remember to supply your text in Microsoft Word. This is the easiest format for typesetters. Please avoid using other formats.

11 Preparing the text

Title and authorship:

- Your chapter should include the agreed chapter title. If you want to amend it, please ensure a new chapter title provides a clear, comprehensive but concise description of what the chapter covers. Examples are:

Modelling climate-change impacts in Latin America

Understanding plant-pathogen interactions in rust infection of cereals

Analysis of individual cow health records for herd health monitoring

Please keep chapter titles to no more than 15 words. A clear but concise chapter title is key to making a chapter discoverable.

- Your chapter should include the authors' names and affiliations (name/institution/country) e.g.: David Smith, University of Cambridge, UK
- Please list co-authors' names in the order you want them presented in the final version of the chapter. An example is:

J. Stephen Smith and David James, Iowa State University, USA; Candice. A. Gardner, USDA-ARS, USA; and Denise E. Costich, International Maize and Wheat Research Center (CIMMYT), Mexico

- Please note: do not include titles (e.g. Dr or Professor)
- Please restrict the affiliation to the main institution (avoiding listing department or other details). This is partly because bibliographical systems we use for metadata have a 200 character limit for recording affiliation details. In addition, long affiliation details are hard to read, particularly where there is more than one author writing a chapter. If you need to provide more affiliation details, these are best put in a footnote.
- If possible, try to restrict the overall author team to no more than five. Listing large author teams with their affiliations can take up a lot of room and looks unattractive on the page.

What each page should look like:

- Keep formatting of the text to a minimum. You should avoid trying to format or design the text so that it looks like a published chapter. Keep things simple.
- As an example, there is no need to justify text to the right margin. Please also avoid running heads
- Avoid footnotes wherever possible. Readers prefer everything to be in the main text.
- If you need to use symbols, please try to use the 'Symbols' option in Word. This will mean the symbol won't be lost once your chapter goes through the typesetting process.
- Please do paginate the text, since it will be easier to identify which page is which.
- Please add line numbering to your text (using the 'line numbers' option in the 'Layout' tab in Word). This will help the editor in the review process by allowing her/him to refer to a specific line when making a comment or suggestion
- Since we will publish your chapter separately (as well as part of the complete book), and the numbering of chapters in the final book can change, we would ask you to avoid cross-references to other chapters in the book. We suggest you simply put something general such as: (as discussed elsewhere in this book).

Paragraphs:

- Readers find it very hard to read text if there are either a few very long paragraphs or a series of very short paragraphs. We suggest paragraphs of around 70-100 words each.
- Please leave a one-line space between paragraphs: this makes it much easier to distinguish between paragraphs. There is no need to indent the first line of paragraphs.

Section headings:

- A good section heading structure makes a chapter much easier for readers to follow
- We suggest one main section heading every 4-5 pages
- It is easiest if section headings are numbered e.g. 1 Introduction, 2 Plant physiology, 3 Plant growth etc.
- Please avoid having more than three levels of heading. More than this is very hard for readers to follow. If possible keep to just two levels of heading i.e. headings and sub-headings. As an example: 1 Introduction; 1.1 Key themes in plant research; 1.2 What this chapter covers, " Plant physiology etc.

12 Preparing metadata for your chapter

Metadata is information which describes what your chapter is about. It can be as simple as a good chapter title. Good quality metadata can make your chapter much easier for readers to find.

- Chapter title: we will suggest a chapter title which is comprehensive and self-sufficient. If you want to change it, please keep all the key terms in. Remember that each chapter will be published initially on its own so its title needs to tell readers all they need to know about what the chapter covers.
- Author names and affiliations: since readers often assess the likely quality of a chapter by looking at the authorship, it is important to have complete details of all the authors names and affiliations e.g. David Smith, University of Cambridge, UK (see earlier notes).

- Please include a contact e-mail address at the beginning of your chapter identifying who will be responsible for dealing with production issues relating to your chapter (e.g. dealing with copyediting queries or checking chapter proofs).
- Abstract: please include an abstract at the beginning of your chapter. Keep abstracts to a maximum of 150 words. We suggest an abstract starts with 1-3 sentences (50 words max) on the importance of the topic addressed by the chapter. The rest of the abstract (100 words max) should summarise the main sections or themes in the chapter.
- Key words: please include a list of key words with your abstract. We suggest around 5 key words which best describe the topics the chapter covers.
- Contents: a contents list (with the main section headings in the chapter) at the beginning of the chapter will help readers to find the chapter and then to navigate their way around the text more easily.

13 Preparing references

It is important that any important statements you make in the text are supported by appropriate references. Readers will want to see the evidence on which you base a statement. They may also want to follow up a reference so they can assess the evidence for themselves or because the source is particularly relevant to their own research. Please do not cite sites such as Wikipedia where information may not be accurate. Please also avoid references to personal communications or unpublished research. Since they may not be reliable and cannot be checked, they cannot support what you say in your chapter and can even undermine readers' confidence in the chapter.

Wherever possible, please use the **Harvard system** for references. Please note we are happy for authors to use any of the Endnote Harvard citation styles (e.g. Sage Harvard used in journals published by Sage). Authors should use the Harvard style they are most familiar with.

If you want more detailed guidance, the following notes suggest one approach to using Harvard references that we would recommend. We suggest you refer to sources in the text as follows:

- Format: surname of lead author plus date of publication.
- Example: 'Smith (2015) has argued...' or '..., as suggested by a number of authors (Smith, 2015; Jones, 2010; Carter, 2005).'

Please use the following guidelines in presenting the full details of the sources you quote in the text:

- Include all the reference details in a final section at the end of the chapter clearly titled 'References'.
- List references in alphabetical order by the author's surname.
- If you have several publications by the same author, list them chronologically with the earlier dated reference first (e.g. the reference for Smith 2010, followed by Smith 2015).

Books:

- Format: author surname and initial; publication year; book title; publisher location; publisher.
- Example (book): Smith, R. (2015), *An Introduction to Plant Breeding*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.
- Example (chapter in edited collection): Clark, R., Rossman, L., Sivaganesan, M. and Schenk, K. (2001), 'Modeling chlorine decay and the formation of disinfection by-products (DBPs) in drinking water'. In R. Clark and B. Boutin (Eds), *Controlling Disinfection By-products and*

Microbial Contaminants in Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington DC, USA, pp. 275–300.

Journal articles:

- Format: author surname(s) and initial(s); publication year; journal article title; name of journal; volume and issue number; page numbers.
- Example (published article): Smith, R. and Jones, B. (2010), 'Recent advances in plant Breeding', *J. Agric. Sci.*, 22(5), 1–20.
- Example (article in press): Smith, R. and Jones, B. (2010), 'Recent advances in plant breeding', *J. Agric. Sci.* (in press). doi: 10.19103/AS.2017.0031.11.

Please note, if there are many co-authors of an article, we suggest you only list the first three and then add 'et al.' rather than try to list them all

Anonymous publications (e.g. government reports or legislation; including where you accessed this information through the Internet))

- Format: anon.; publication year; title of publication; source details. If accessed by a website, add relevant URL and date you accessed the site.
- Example: Anon. (2002), Food contact regulations, US Federal Register, 70(8), 30–50, <http://usgov/federalregister/2002/70/> (accessed 4 January 2015).

Other types of publication:

- Conference paper: Condon, A. G., Reynolds, M. P. and Farquhar, G. D. (2008), 'Stomatal aperture related traits and yield potential in bread wheat', *International Symposium on Wheat Yield Potential: Challenges to International Wheat Breeding*, Mexico, 126–133.
- Report: Willemsen, F., Wegener, J. W. and Morabito, R. (2004), *Sources, consumer exposure and risks of organotin contamination in seafood*. Technical Report QLK1-2001-01437, Institute for Environmental Studies, Amsterdam.

Web references:

We are flexible about how authors deal with web references. Some authors simply put the web URL in the text e.g.:

...shows the increasing trend in urbanization (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/urbanization/>; accessed October 30th, 2018). This has major implications...

Please note it is best to put the **full** URL in. Trying to abbreviate it might make it harder for readers to link to the site. Other authors prefer not to include URLs in the text since it can disrupt the flow. They use a Harvard style (name and date) to put in a brief reference to a source. Where a date is not appropriate, the convention is to put 'no date', as in the following example:

...shows the increasing trend in urbanization (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, no date). This has major implications...

A full reference in the reference section might be something like:

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (no date), *Report on urbanization trends* (<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/urbanization/>); accessed October 30th, 2018.

Please note that these are only examples for guidance. If you are used to a different style and layout, please use this. The most important requirements are **completeness** and **consistency** in presentation of references so that readers can easily identify a source. If you need further guidance on formatting references, please let us know.

14 Preparing figures and tables

- As noted earlier, we do not have a particular limit on the number of figures or tables. We suggest you aim to include 10 figures or tables as a rule, but can accommodate more where they are the best way of conveying key information for a chapter. You are welcome to include colour material.
- Please ensure the text includes a reference to a figure you plan to include e.g. 'Fig. 1 shows...' or '...(see Fig. 1).' Figures or tables are of limited use if they are not mentioned in the text.
- It is OK to include figures and tables in the text if you want to. This can make it easier to identify where you would like them to appear in the chapter. Please ensure each figure or table is accompanied by a figure caption so it is clear which figure or table it is
- It is important, however, to be aware that figures appearing in a Word document have poor resolution. Microsoft Word is not able to support high resolution. If a figure is complex (e.g. a photograph), almost all the useful detail will be lost in the final, published text.
- If you want to include photographs or complex drawings (e.g. with very fine detail), whether or not you include a version in the text, please send a separate version in the right high-resolution format. Common formats are jpeg and tif. Good images need a resolution of at least 300 dpi.
- Please remember that supplying figures in the right format is essential if they are to be included. If figures are too poor quality to be publishable, we will have to delete them if we are to maintain the level of quality readers expect
- It is OK to submit colour images if you prefer. As noted, we will print figures in colour in both the electronic and print versions of your chapter.
- If possible, use the 'insert table' function in Word when creating a table. This will ensure our typesetting partner, Deanta, has a consistent format to work with.

15 Equations

If you wish to include equations in the text, please use an editable format (e.g. MathType or Microsoft Equation Editor). Please **do not** include equations as images or graphics which cannot be edited since this makes typesetting very difficult. This includes avoiding use of LaTeX files.

16 Saving and sending your material

We suggest the following approach to file-naming. Include the following in the file name:

- Chapter number
- Author surname
- Status: first or final
- Date saved
- Type of material e.g. text or figures/tables

An example might be: **Ch1 Smith first text 23 7 17**

Using this approach, we can both see at a glance what each file contains. Use these file names when submitting your files to ScholarOne.

Part 5 Permissions

17 Clearing permission to use previously published material in your chapter

This section covers your use of any previously published material in your chapter (e.g. a figure or table from a journal article or book). Clearing permissions for any copyright material you want to use is your responsibility as author. Since we are dealing with many hundreds of chapter authors, we are not in a position to clear permissions on behalf of authors. If you want to use any material which has been published before, you may well need to clear permission. This includes figures, tables and any text you may wish to quote.

If your chapter is to be made open access, you should consider **not** including any copyright material from third-parties (such as figures or tables). Most copyright holders set limits on the use of their material which are incompatible with the freedom granted by most open access licences to users to share, disseminate and adapt open access material. If they are willing to provide permission at all, copyright holders will require you to negotiate separate agreements which may well be a lengthy and expensive process.

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18 When is permission not required?

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- Figures or tables: up to 3 figures or tables (i.e. a total of 3 items in all) from a single journal article

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19 How to clear permission

You will need some basic information about the material for which you need to clear permission:

- Details such as figure number and caption
- The source from which it is taken: author, journal article/chapter title, title of book or journal from which it is taken, volume or edition number, publisher and publication date

You may need to supply details about publication of your chapter (e.g. anticipated publication date). Please ask us for any publication details you need.

To make the process of clearing permission easier, many publishers use 'Rightslink', a website created by the Copyright Clearance Center (www.copyright.com/get-permissions/). This provides an automated copyright clearance service and can be a good starting point. Please note that there is an option on the RightsLink order page to confirm if a publisher is a signatory to the STM Guidelines, in which case a fee might be waived if the copyright material falls within the guidelines.

Another helpful service is PLSClear provided by the Publishers Licensing Society in the UK (www.plsclear.com).

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If permission is given, you may be required to include some sort of acknowledgement. This wording can be added to the relevant figure or table caption.

It is important to be able to provide proof that permission has been given. You may need to scan permissions documentation and send it to us. If so, please ensure the file is clearly labelled e.g. 'Ch1.Smith.final.fig1.permission'.

Appendix: checklist of what we need

This checklist covers our key requirements.

Text:

- Have you supplied the text in Word?
- Is the text paginated?
- Have you included the chapter title and author details?
- Have you prepared an abstract, key words and contents list for the chapter?
- If you've cited a reference in the text, have you included full details in the reference section?
- Are all the references in the reference section complete?

Figures and tables:

- Have you supplied complex figures (e.g. photographs) as separate tif. or jpeg files clearly labelled to show which figures they are?
- Does each figure and table have a caption so that it can be easily identified?

Permissions:

- Have you cleared permission for any copyright material you want to use in your chapter?
- Have you sent us written copies of all permissions?

Please note that if you have any queries, please let us know. We are happy to help.