



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Reporting your research: How to use APA Style Journal Article Reporting Standards (JARS)

Heidi M. Levitt, PhD, Editor of *Qualitative Psychology*

Arthur Nezu, PhD, Editor of *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*

David Kofalt, APA Product Analyst, Moderator

Webinar Goals & Agenda

Goals: Share the benefits of adherence to APA Style JARS, from the perspective of APA Journals editors and JARS experts.

Agenda:

- Audience poll questions
- Introduction to JARS
- Panelist presentation and discussion
- Q&A

Housekeeping

- This webinar is being recorded and will be made available on demand
- The slides and additional resources will be shared with webinar attendees
- You are welcome to ask questions throughout the webinar using the Q&A box

Audience polls

APA Style JARS is a free guide on what information should be included in all manuscript sections for **quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research** and include how to best discuss race, ethnicity, and culture.



Quantitative research

Use JARS-Quant when you collect your study data in numerical form or report them through statistical analyses.



Qualitative research

Use JARS-Qual when you collect your study data in the form of natural language and expression.



Mixed methods research

Use JARS-Mixed when your study combines both quantitative and qualitative methods.



Race, ethnicity, culture

Use JARS-REC for all studies for guidance on how to discuss race, ethnicity, and culture.

Examples of JARS prompts

- In the **article title**, list the key topics, variables, or issues under investigation.
- In the **abstract**, indicate the study design, including participant characteristics, analytic strategy, findings, and conclusions.
- In the **methods section**, include a rationale for why you selected a particular design and describe the participant selection process.
- In the **discussion section**, discuss implications for future research, policy, or practice.

Our presenters

Panelists

Heidi Levitt, Editor of *Qualitative Psychology*

Professor in the Clinical Psychology program within the Department of Psychology at The University of Massachusetts Boston

Art Nezu, Editor of *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*

Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Drexel University



JARS – Qualitative

Heidi M. Levitt

New Kinds of Reporting Standards

- After a long history of having quantitative JARS that aided the publishing of those approaches to research, the introduction of the qualitative reporting standards (including mixed methods and qualitative meta-synthesis/meta-analysis) meant that APA was **differing** from typical professional guidelines that set out requirements.
- Instead, we were encouraging authors to think about their approaches to inquiry, questions, and participant characteristics and to develop methods that follow from those premises.

Doubtful Origins, Innovative Standards

- There were **hesitancies** about the development of standards for qualitative research:
 - **Both** for the SQIP recommendations for designing and reviewing and the JARS standards for reporting qualitative research.
 - But what was innovative about these standards was that we placed the issue of ***methodological integrity*** at the center of both the SQIP recommendations & the JARS
 - The idea that researchers should adapt procedures and methods to help them to develop stronger answers: Meaning with greater **fidelity** and **utility**.
 - Research design should be about **thinking** about integrity, not just rule following.

Reporting Supporting Qualitative Research

- **An emphasis on Transparency:**
 - **Reflexivity:** In a qualitative study, reflecting on the positionalities and contexts of the researchers and how they were managed to support the openness to and capacity to observe patterns in experiences and social practices.
 - **Situatedness:** In a qualitative meta-analysis/meta-synthesis, reflecting on the positionalities and contexts of primary researchers.
- Supports qualitative researchers holding **varied epistemological perspectives** – critical researchers, constructivist researchers, etc.

Use of JARS-Qualitative in Journal Publishing

- At *Qualitative Psychology*, we direct authors to JARS on our **submission page** (they are open access)
- We also direct reviewers in **review requests** to JARS to support them in the assessment of qualitative methods, meta-syntheses, and mixed methods.
- We developed the SQIP recommendations and JARS to support authors to argue when their work is **being misunderstood** or inappropriate standards are being applied by reviewers.

JARS – Quantitative

Art Nezu

Q & A

Thank you!

If you have further questions or comments,
please contact us at apajournals@apa.org

**Check out the Resources tab for links to JARS
PDFs, books, videos, and more.**

Stay tuned for future JARS webinars!

APA Style JARS Resources

Useful webpages

- [JARS Quantitative](#)
- [JARS Qualitative](#)
- [JARS Mixed Methods](#)
- [JARS Race, Ethnicity, and Culture](#)

Books

- [*Reporting Qualitative Research in Psychology*](#), Heidi M. Levitt
- [*Reporting Quantitative Research in Psychology*](#), Harris Cooper

Newsletters

- [APA Style](#)
- [APA Publishing Insider](#)

