

# Instructions for Authors

## JOURNAL OF INTEGRATIVE BIOINFORMATICS

*Last update: December 2020*

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### 1. **Aims and Scope**

The *Journal of Integrative Bioinformatics* (JIB) is an international Open Access journal publishing original peer-reviewed research articles in all aspects of integrative bioinformatics.

This includes: molecular databases, information systems and data warehouses, integration of data (methods and tools), metabolic and regulatory network modeling and simulation, signal pathways and cell control, network analysis, medical informatics, biomedicine and biotechnology, integrative approaches for drug design as well as integrative data and text mining approaches.

The journal will only accept papers which present new tools or new aspects of already JIB published tools. Furthermore, these tools must be available and usable via the internet and free of charge for academicians. For accepted review publications, you are invited to join [JIBtools](#) as an editor for a new topic.

### 2. **Editorial Policy**

Manuscripts are independently reviewed by at least two peers selected by the Editors. Decisions are reached as quickly as possible. JIB aspires to notify authors within 6 weeks from submission date. When manuscripts are accepted subject to revision, the revised manuscript should be returned within 6 weeks. Accepted papers are promptly published online as soon as they have been finally processed.

### **Authorship**

Authorship is restricted to those who have made a significant contribution to the conceptual design of the study and/or the execution of the study.

### **Unpublished material**

Submission of a manuscript to JIB implies that the work described is not copyrighted, published or submitted elsewhere, except in abstract form. The corresponding author needs to ensure that all authors approve the manuscript before its submission to JIB.

### **Ethical conduct of research**

The authors must describe and confirm safeguards to meet ethical standards. The ethics statements for the *Journal of Integrative Bioinformatics* are based on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Best

Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors (see <http://publicationethics.org/>) and the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts (URM) Submitted to Biomedical Journals" of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE – <http://www.icmje.org/>).

Where applicable, all authors must confirm in writing that they have complied with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki (see <https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/>) regarding ethical conduct of research involving **human subjects**. The Materials and Methods section and the Ethical statement (see below), the manuscript should both include a confirmation that the study has been approved by the Ethical Committee of the institution where the study was performed, and that the study subjects, or their legal guardians, gave informed consent for participation in the study.

If preclinical studies performed with **animals** are described, authors must confirm in writing that institutional and national standards for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed (please consult the [International Association of Veterinary Editors' Consensus Author Guidelines on Animal Ethics and Welfare](#) for further guidance).

Please also note that JIB uses the **plagiarism detection software** "iThenticate" to check for potential overlaps with prior publications. Any previously published material must be referenced appropriately in the manuscript.

## Competing interests

Competing interests, or conflicts of interest, for a given manuscript exist when a participant in the peer review and publication process – author, reviewer, and editor – has ties to activities that could inappropriately influence their judgment, regardless of whether judgment is, in fact, affected. Financial relationships with industry (for example employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, expert testimony), either directly or through immediate family, are usually considered the most important conflicts of interest. However, conflicts can occur for other reasons, such as personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion.

When authors submit a manuscript, they are responsible for recognizing and disclosing financial and/or other conflicts of interest that might bias their work. Any financial support for and financial or personal connections related to the work have to be clearly disclosed in the manuscript. If no specified acknowledgement is given, the Publishers assume that no conflicts of interests exist.

All relevant information must be given in the form of an **ethical statement** in your manuscript before the Reference section, according to the following structure (adapt contents as necessary):

**Acknowledgments (only if applicable):** [...]

**Author contributions:** *[All authors have accepted responsibility for the entire content of this manuscript and approved its submission.]*

**Research funding:** *[None declared.]*

**Competing interests:** *[Authors state no conflict of interest.]*

Please find more information on our Publication Ethics [here](#).

## Manuscript submission

Manuscripts should be submitted in electronic form to our online submission and peer-review system at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/dgjib>.

### **3. Preparation of manuscripts**

#### **Language**

Manuscripts should be written in clear and concise English. Please have your text proofread by an English native speaker before you submit it for consideration. At the proof stage, only minor changes other than corrections of printers' errors are allowed.

#### **Cover Letter**

Each manuscript should be accompanied by a cover letter containing a brief statement by the authors describing the novelty and importance of their research.

#### **Nomenclature**

Authors are asked to follow the recommendations of the [Système International d'Unités](#) (SI).

#### **General format**

Manuscripts (including tables and figures, table and figure legends, and references) should be typed double-spaced with font size 12 letters. Pages should be numbered and have margins of 2.5 cm (1 inch) on all sides. Please avoid footnotes in the text, use parentheses instead.

#### **Article types**

JIB welcomes research articles, review papers and workshop contributions within the scope of the journal. If you submit a workshop contribution you will be asked to further classify your submission.

#### **General structure of the text body**

Original research articles should be organized into: Title page, Abstract, Keywords, List of non-standard abbreviations (if applicable), Introduction, Related works, Architecture/Implementation/Workflow, Application, Discussion, Acknowledgments (if applicable), Ethical statement, References, Tables and Figures legends.

Review articles should include: Title page, Abstract, Keywords, Body with subsections, Acknowledgments (if applicable), Conflict of Interest statement, and References.

#### **Abstract and Keywords**

The first page of the manuscript should contain the Abstract and the Keywords. The Abstract should be a single paragraph of not more than 200 words (original article or review) which must be comprehensible to readers before they have read the paper.

Below the Abstract, up to five keywords, which are not part of the title, should be given in alphabetical order and separated by semicolons.

#### **References**

Adhere strictly to the [Vancouver reference style](#). All references mentioned in the Reference list must be mentioned in the text, and vice versa. List and number the references consecutively in the order that they appear in the text, including Tables and Figures.

In the text, identify references by Arabic numerals in [parentheses]. Italic and boldface font type in the Reference section is not allowed. List all authors; if the number is 7 or more, list the first 6 names followed

by et al. Identify authors by last name first, followed by up to 2 initials, without periods, indicating the authors' first name. Only the first name of the title is capitalized, as well as proper names within the title. Journal names are abbreviated as indicated in PubMed and in the Web of Knowledge ([NIH.Linkout.Journals; Web of Knowledge](#)), without periods. After the abbreviated journal name, give the year of publication, followed by a semicolon, volume number (but no issue number), followed by a double colon, and the page numbers, with the last page number in shortened format.

Meeting abstracts may be cited only if published in journals. Unpublished observations and personal communications are cited only in the text. Correct linking of the references depends on strict adherence to Journal style.

### **Examples for references:**

#### Books:

[Ref. no.] National Research Council. Pesticides in the diets of infants and children. Washington. D.C.: National Academy Press; 1993.

#### Institutional publications:

[Ref. no.] National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, USA. Air Pollution-Related Illness: Effects of Particles. Science; 2005.

#### Chapters in books:

[Ref. no.] Tamas CG. Endogenous breccias structures (breccia pipe–breccia dyke) and the petrometallogeny of Rosia Montana ore deposit (Metaliferi Mountains, Romania). Cluj-Napoca: Book of Science House, 2007:230–45.

#### Articles in journals with up to 6 authors:

[Ref. no.] Rappaport SM, Barupal DK, Wishart D, Vineis P, Scalbert A. The blood exposome and its role in discovering causes of disease. *Environ Health Perspect* 2014;122:769–74.

#### Articles in journals with more than 6 authors:

[Ref. no.] van Ravenzwaay B, Cunha GC, Leibold E, Looser R, Mellert W, Prokoudine A et al. The use of metabolomics for the discovery of new biomarkers of effect. *Toxicol Lett* 2007;172:21–8.

#### Ahead-of-print articles in journals:

[Ref. no.] Walton M, Dewey D, Lebel C. Brain white matter structure and language ability in preschool-aged children. *Brain Lang* 2017 Nov 10. doi: 10.1016/j.bandl.2017.10.008 [Epub ahead of print].

#### Website:

[Ref. no.] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/history/tengpha.html>.

### **Tables**

Submit tables on separate pages and number them consecutively using Arabic numerals. Provide a short descriptive title, column headings, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each table self-explanatory. Refer to tables in the text as Table 1, etc. Use Table 1, etc. in the table legends. Please indicate in the manuscript the approximate position of each table. Tables cannot contain lists and should not contain images or dashed lines.

## Figures

Illustrations will be reduced in size to fit, whenever possible, the width of a single column. Lettering in all figures within the article should be uniform in style, preferably a sans serif typeface, and of sufficient size, so that it is readable at the final size of approximately 2 mm. Uppercase letters A, B, C, etc. should be used to identify parts of multi-part figures. Cite all figures in the text in a numerical order. Indicate the approximate position of each figure. Refer to figures in the text as Figure 1, etc. Use Figure 1, etc. in the figure legends.

Please note that if any of the figures you used are copyrighted, you need to obtain permission from the copyright owners to reproduce these figures in JIB. You also need to document the copyright permission in the respective figure legend. The same holds true for copyrighted tables you use.

## Color figures

Authors are encouraged to submit illustrations in color if necessary for their scientific content. Publication of color figures is provided free of charge.

Line drawings and photographs must be of high quality. Please note that faint shading may be lost upon reproduction.

## Figure legends

Provide a short descriptive title, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each figure self-explanatory on separate pages. Explain all symbols used in the figures. Remember to use the same abbreviations as in the body-text.

***Please contact us for any further questions:***

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