

Guidelines for writing a working paper for the New Housing Researchers Colloquium

Being a researcher it is required that you communicate your research with fellow colleagues in a research environment. The New Housing Researchers' Colloquium (NHRC) and ENHR are two research communities where you as a new housing researcher may benefit from sharing your research. In order for you to gain as much constructive feedback on your research as possible, here you find guidelines on how to write a working paper to present at a conference such as the NHR Colloquium and ENHR, and eventually to submit to academic journals.

Before start writing the paper, please answer these three questions:

- 1) What is the research question? Formulate the question such that it is cohesive and focused on a specific issue.
- 2) Why is this question and how you analyse the question is of any interest to others than you?
- 3) How does your paper contribute to the research community?

Synopsis for organising working paper

Title of paper:

Give a clear and concise title which must appropriately reflect the content of your paper.

Contact details:

Your name and contact information.

Abstract:

The abstract must appropriately reflect the content of the paper – brief introduction of the problem, purpose/aim of your research/paper, research method/s and major findings/conclusions.

Keywords:

Include 5-6 important keywords. Consider what would be the keywords you would use in order to find your paper.

Main text:

Make sure that you structure your paper according to the IMRAD (Introduction-Methodology-Results-And-Discussion) Format.

Introduction

The introduction is a description of the problem addressed by the research paper. Define the question and topic that you address in the paper. Establish the objective of your paper in order to set the direction for the rest of the paper. The first paragraph should be compressive to anyone interested in the particular branch of housing research.

Suggested topics to cover in the introduction:

- State the problem and its significance
- Describe the purpose and goals of the research
- State and elaborate clearly your research hypothesis(es)
- Review and discuss the literature relevant to your research/paper (this helps you to set the theoretical background). May also be located in a separate section
- Provide a precise statement of the research question(s) and objectives of your study.

Methodology and data

The methods should be described in a way that another researcher can replicate the study under comparable conditions.

The following topics should be covered:

- Present the study design – clearly describe the research method(s) applied
- Provide a clear description of the sample and outcomes
- Provide information about data, and how data is collected
- Describe in detail the treatment of data e.g. statistical test.

Results

This section is a logical and orderly presentation of the collected data. Confine remarks to the objective findings; leave out subjective or speculative remarks. Consider carefully how to display your findings using tables, figures, graphs, and charts.

The results section often covers the following topics:

- Present response data and dropouts or incomplete data set
- Present demographical data
- Present study data/results.

Discussion

Restate the problem and briefly summarise the methodology and findings. Draw conclusions that are based upon data, and confirm or reject the hypothesis(es), if stated. Discuss the generalisation of the study and state its limitation(s).

The following topics are often covered in this section:

- Restate the problem
- Discuss the findings against your review of the literature and the stated hypothesis/es; this should involve a critical analysis and comparison of the results of your research with the findings of other researchers on the subject
- Identify possible study generalisations
- Identify possible study limitations
- Confirm or reject the hypothesis(es).

Conclusion

Here you point out the paper's major contribution (avoid an extensive summary of the content of the paper), and perhaps indicate interesting areas of research related to the paper's topic that have not been addressed but deserve future investigations. Also the section may include final recommendations based on the findings of your research.

GENERALLY:

1. Make sure that the entire presentation (text) is clear, understandable and coherent.
2. Include only the tables, graphs, figures and other graphical material that are absolutely necessary.

References

Give a complete list of references that match the citations in the article.

Appendices

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