Editorial

# A further editorial guideline for writing manuscript in the field of social science: A special perspective for African Journal of Business Management (AJBM)

# Gazi Mahabubul Alam

Editor-African Journal of Business Management. E-mail: gazimalamb@yahoo.com. Tel: +603-7967 5077, +60122830312. Fax: +603-7967 5010.

## ABSTRACT

With the breathtaking success of African Journal of Business Management-AJBM in the recent years, has become one of most commanding podiums for the scholar especially from the developing world. In 2009, not only its impact factor has increased substantially, but also one of its published papers "has been selected by *Essential Science Indicators<sup>SM</sup>* from Thomson Reuters as the most-cited paper in the research area of Economics and Business". With its success, submissions have increased dramatically with an equal increased figure of rejection. Huge rejection is not good news for any party. It is now thus important to provide a better editorial guideline for research community to prepare their works making it more suitable and also to help them in targeting the right journal for appropriate readership and audience. This editorial is prepared with the consultation of more than 800 papers submitted from around the globe for the publication in AJBM. A portion of them are published, while a significant numbers are also rejected. Since, research community from Africa, Fareast, Middle-East and the Western world are contributing for AJBM. Every community has some strengths and weaknesses to offer lessons for others. Keeping this in mind, it is thus also important to have a common understanding about the research in business management and writing manuscripts. With an optimistic attitude, this editorial aims to provide a guideline for writing manuscript in the field of Social Science with a special focus on AJBM.

**Key words:** AJBM, Research in business Management, hypothesis/research questions, results/findings, epistemological foundation for research, methodology/methods, scholars/ academics.

## INTRODUCTION

Criteria of research, its genesis and their schemata have evolved out of historical social practices. Interpretation of social events is guided and constrained by the prevailing rationality which itself reflects the dominant constellation of power. While each area of research (science, engineering, medicine, social science and arts and humanities) has many common features, research in individual area has its own distinction. Although, interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research approaches bear a long history and heritage. interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches enjoy the stage of 'marginal utility' in the 21st century. There is no way of denying a need of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches research. However a research manuscript that is targeted to publish at the area of social science focusing on business management world should be encouraged to follow pattern, style, wording, tautology, research design and language that are universal for social science. But many scholars have failed to maintain this tradition of writing in many articles.

African Journal of Business Management, a scholarly journal covered a number of areas with a special focus on business management in developing countries has been meticulously working since 2007 with an especial focus to Africa region. Many of the contributions published in the AJBM fundamentally have been helping the scholarly discourse and practice of the development and economic policy, business policy, management policy and many other social and economic issues experiencing in African region. A number of great scholars particularly from South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya have contributed extensively and the contributions are marvellous in qualitative nature. The editor in chief of AJBM named Professor Prof. DLR van der Waldt is an internationally eminent academic based in South Africa.

Writing research articles in Africa bears a long history and heritage that is considered as parallel podium with Moreover scholars of developing world the West. around the globe make a rigorous contribution for the scholarly debate in the area of business management and national development. AJBM has achieved a number of successes. The initial success was its inclusion with the ISI/WoS. In fact, its dramatic increase of impact factor is the main crop cultivated by the hard work of authors, readers, editorial board, editors, editor in chief, AJBM management and managerial staff. I must say that all of these concerned people should be congratulated for their diligent efforts and sacrifices. Currently the submission rate of articles at AJBM has increased incredibly. Scholars around the world are using AJBM as one of the main podiums to publish their work. Scholars from the East to the West are writing albeit Fareast and Middle-East are playing the role of majority. It is now thus time to give a general guideline for the authors to prepare the manuscripts that can focus the research more tightly, sharply and precisely following a solid common structure with coherence and cohesive manners.

Research is a cultivation of seeds (namely research problems) through very scientific methods. While research problems are considered as seeds, conceptual framework and literature review are considered as baseland/ ground. Research design facilitates the whole cultivation process with an adaptation of valid methodology, methods and tools. This is considered as the heart for the whole cultivation process that provides the crops named results/ findings. Discussion of results/ findings is considered as a right way for making storage or formulation of crops (results/ findings) for a better and well-timed use. While without conducting a solid research, writing manuscript is an illusion, research writing is a decent technique to communicate a whole work of research in a precise way to express its epoch making findings. Feeble writing is the main hindrance of publishing some good research. This piece of writing does not provide guideline for the conduction of research. It rather includes guidance for writing decent research article.

The main purpose of this editorial article is to provide an easy and quick guideline for writing manuscripts for the researches conducted in the field of social science with a special attention on the scope of African Journal of Business Management-AJBM. In order to do so, this writing will have a number of subsections. These subsections will guide us on how to write each of the fundamental components for a manuscript. It is significant to note that in order to prepare this editorial more than 800 articles are consulted. A part of them are published articles at AJBM (Tables 1 and 2; Figure 1). The rest were submitted to AJBM for publications. A team of 5 research associates studying PhD and 3 lecturers worked for 6 months with this editor to analyse these articles. This guideline is prepared after a wide consultation with many academics, authors, and alongside a long 15 years of experience writing research articles and teaching research courses in a number of institutions of higher education.

A usual manuscript should have these following fundamental components: title, abstract, key words, introduction, conceptual framework and literature review, research design, findings/results, discussions, conclusion and references. The writing that follows provide some specific guideline for each item before writing more details about the scope and aims and objectives of AJBM.

## Title

It has been noted that many scholars are unable to differentiate the concept of working title, thesis/ dissertation title and manuscript title. In many circumstances, it has been noted that more than 50% scholars submitted a paper that reflect the working title, 30% works included thesis/ dissertation title, while a small percentage of work reflect the titles from the manuscripts. However, it is important note that within these small portions, a significant amount of titles either have language errors or mismatching of less-reflected contents of the work. A working title is always concentred and connected with research problem. The basic and common characteristics of a working title demand that they should:

Be free of bias. (Bell, 1999)

Be having investigation flavor. (Brown and Dowling, 1998)

Not be a complete sentence.

Have unbiased word/ phrase. (Creswell, 2003)

Not be an interrogative sentence.

Not have 'finding' flavor or food of thought of findings. (Patton, 2002)

Working title is always outlined prior to research design and a meaningful complete literature review, let alone findings and discussions. Ongoing revision for working title always takes place as the work progresses. Thesis/ dissertation title is made after the completion of whole work. It thus has the scope to reflect on many issues such as research problem, research design, findings and suggestions. Considering this nature, it is always encouraged to make a thesis/ dissertation research title that comprises a few important reflections of the work. However the title has to be very precise with almost no scope of giving reflections of everything except converging striking focuses of the research.

A manuscript is the best product from the research. Many researches may not be able to produce any product that is publishable, while one solid research may

Year	0007	0000	0000	0010
Month	2007	2008	2009	2010
January		2	4	17
February	2	3	3	15
March		0	6	7
April		2	7	21
Мау	3	2	9	27
June	3	2	3	46
July	4	2	6	
July 4				32
July 18				25
August	4	2	7	
August 4				28
August 18				29
September	4	2	14	
September 4				19
September 18				22
October	3	3	15	
October 4				32
October 18				33
November	3	3	17	
November 4				19
November 18				18
December	3	3	15	
December (Special review)			8	9

Table 1. Comparison of published articles in AJBM from 2007 to September 2010

be able to produce one product or a number of products from different stages, areas or perspectives and issues. It may be even possible to produce multiple products from each category with different looks and standpoint. However, each product should be original with an updated knowledge that can contribute in producing new knowledge in the respective field. It is thus important to have a well focused title for a manuscript that can clearly point out the key theme of the product. Therefore, it can be based on key findings, method or key solution. Fundamentally, it is very important is to ensure that the title reflects the contents.

#### Abstract

Even if this is placed in front of many other sections and subsections, it is unwise to write this section until the whole work is completed. A good abstract precisely includes, research problem, research design and key findings and solutions of the problems that the research has discovered. Each of the items should only consume one or two sentences. A good abstract for a manuscript should be limited to 100 to 200 words.

#### Key words

Each manuscript should have a number of sections and subsections. Key words should always focus two issues. The words that are frequently used and the words that offer fundamental concept for the research are to be considered as key words. Key words also help the reader to locate and find out the work from the database which is kept by the indexing agency. The standard numbers of key words are from 5 to 8. It should not exceed 10.

#### Introduction

The purpose of writing an introduction is to give a general idea and understanding of the work. However, the key and fundamental focus of an introduction is to outline the research problem and research focus. It should provide a sharpened focus on the research problem and the need of this kind of research along with outlining the anticipated contributions of the work. Thus in most of the cases without an exception, should have a decent introduction should include the following subsections. They are background of the research, (based on conception and practical), research problem (it can be Table 2. Articles published in AJBM 2010 up to September from different regions: A comparison of seven countries

Malaysia	Taiwan	Spain	Turkey	Brazil	South Africa	Nigeria
WeiBo and (2010) Azmi, (2010) Husain and Khan (2010) Feng, and Angeline (2010) Jajri and Ismail (2010) Alam and Hoque (2010) Azmi and Kamarulzaman (2010) Kamarulzaman, et al. (2010) Alam, et al. (2010b) Oloruntegbe, et al. (2010) Ponnu, and Karthigeyan (2010) Wazed, et al. (2010) Tan, et al. (2010) Tan, et al. (2010) Guah, et al. (2010) Fatt, et al. (20100) Fatt, et al. (20100) Keong, et al. (2010) Choong et al. (2010) Chung and Angeline (2010) Yaacob (2010a) Fatt et al. (2010b) Al-Amin et al. (2010) Jusoh (2010) Wang and Rahman (2010) Ebrahim et al. (2010a) Fei and Isa (2010) Shaffril et al. (2010)	Huang and Shih (2010) Wu G.C.et al. (2010) Lin W.C et al. (2010) Tsai and Shiue (2010) Fang S.R et al. (2010) Tsai (2010a) Chen L.T et al. (2010) Yang F.J.et al. (2010) Liang et al. (2010) Tsai (2010b) Wang and Hsu (2010) Liu, et al. (2010) Sukoco and Wu (2010) Liu, et al. (2010) Sukoco and Wu (2010) Chuang et al. (2010) Lu C.T et al. (2010) Jen-Hung and Yi-Chun (2010) Tang and Chang (2010) Lin K.H et al. (2010) Liu and Tsa (2010) Tung et al. (2010) Yeh and Lin (2010) Tung et al. (2010) Ding (2010) Pai and Yeh (2010) Chen Y.H et al. (2010) Wu H.H et al. (2010) Chang et al. (2010a) Liu and Yen (2010) Chen and Lu (2010)	Spain Ruiz, et al. (2010) Rata, et al. (2010) Molina, et al. (2010) Sánchez and Sahuquill (2010) Salguero, et al. (2010) Herranz et al. (2010) Kongolo (2010) Olalla et al. (2010)	Kapusuzoglu, (2010)Çelik, (2010)Yilmaz, and Flouris, (2010)Kaymaz, and Kaymaz, (2010)Özan, and Özdemi (2010)Kapusuzoglu, and Tasdemi,(2010)Ozturk and Acaravci, (2010)Okay and Sahin (2010)Ergin (2010)Karaibrahimoglu (2010)Takim (2010)Takim (2010)Takim and Yilmaz (2010)Albayrak and Gunes (2010a)Gulsun and Umit (2010)Kurt and Hacioglu (2010)Yavuz (2010)Katrinli and Penbek (2010)Yukcu and Ozkaya (2010)Ilada et al. (2010)Demirtas (2010)Albayrak and Gunes (2010b)Yilmaz et al. (2010)Keskin, et al. (2010)Özer and Ertokatl (2010)Semiz and Demirci (2010)Gunes et al. (2010)Atici (2010)Semerci et al. (2010)Semerci et al. (2010)	Brazil Camargo et al. (2010) Nagano and Santos (2010) Talamini and Malafaia (2010) Nagano et al. (2010) Talamini and Ferreira (2010)	Dorasamy, (2010) Dorasamy, N. (2010) de Jager et al. (2010) Beneke, (2010) Naris, and Ukpere, (2010a) Lombard (2010) Olufunso et al. (2010) Beneke and Human (2010) Slabbert and Ukpere (2010) Ukper (2010a) Chipunza, and Berry (2010) Olawale and Garwe (2010) Ne (2010) Dzansi and Dzansi (2010) Naris and Ukpere (2010b) Nehemia (2010) Olawale F. et al. (2010b) Botha and Waldt (2010) Obert and Olawale (2010)	Nigeria Taiwo (2010) Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) Adekola, (2010a) Adekol, (2010b) Ugoh, and Ukpere, (2010) Ekanol (2010) Elijah et al. (2010) Oluseyi and Shadare (2010) Fasoranti (2010) Gberevbie (2010) Ayo and Ukpere (2010) David et al. (2010) Chibueze et al. (2010)
amly and Rashid (2010) brahim et al. (2010a) ei and Isa (2010)	Wu H.H et al. (2010) Chang et al. (2010a) Liu and Yen (2010)		Gunes et al. (2010) Bozgeyikli et al. (2010) Atici (2010)		(2010b) Botha and Waldt (2010) Obert and Olawale	

# Table 2. Cont'd

Omar A. et al. (2010 Ibrahim and Samad (2010) Ponnu and Chuah (2010) Hasan et al. (2010) Mmbengwa et al. (2010) Yusoff et al. (2010) Yusoff et al. (2010) Chelliah et al. (2010) Mohamad and Said (2010a) Hamzah, et al. (2010) Alam et al. (2010a) Subramaniam and Marimuthu (2010) Kwakye et al. (2010) Mohamad and Said (2010b)	Yang H.W.et al. (2010) Ho et al. (2010) Huang and Liu (2010) Yeh et al. (2010) Tsai (2010c) Kao et al. (2010) Liang and Jung (2010) Min et al. (2010) Yang and Hsu (2010) Lin and Shih (2010) Hsu and Yang (2010) Cheng et al. (2010) Cheng et al. (2010) Un S.C and Lee (2010) Yeh and Shen (2010) Chang et al. (2010b) Wang (2010) Hu T.L et al. (2010) Chang and Fong (2010) Fang C.H et al. (2010) Liu and Hung (2010) Liu and Hung (2010) Liu and Hung (2010) Uwang at al. (2010) Liao et al. (2010) Chen L.S. (2010) Liao et al. (2010) Chen C.T et al. (2010) Chen and Chen (2010) Hu H.Y et al. (2010) Chen S.H. (2010) Chen S.H. (2010)	Demir and Bostanci (2010) Tumer et al. (2010) Semerci (2010) Potas et al. (2010) Ercan (2010) Özsoy (2010) Yamamoto et al. (2010) Cakmak and Cevik (2010) Çoban (2010) Cankaya (2010) Sahin (2010) Rehan and Akyuz (2010) Arabacı (2010) Okay and Semiz (2010) Katrinli et al. (2010) Polat (2010) Kazu (2010)	Tustin (2010) Agumba and Fester (2010) Ukpere (2010b) Dorasamy (2010) Chiboiwa et al. (2010) Ambe Weiss (2010) Rampersad (2010) Rust and Jager (2010) Papastefanou (2010) Percy et al. (2010) Potgieter et al. (2010) Iwu (2010) Fatoki and Odeyemi (2010) Jager and Soontiens (2010) Rudman (2010) Rankhumise and Rugimbana (2010) Bruwer and Watkins (2010)
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# Table 2. Cont'd

Huang et al. (2010) Wu M.C et al. (2010) Su et al. (2010)			
Chang and Lin (2010)			
Chen and Wang (2010)			
Chen L.F et al. (2010)			
Wu and Huan (2010)			
Wang and Yang (2010)			
Chen and Li (2010)			

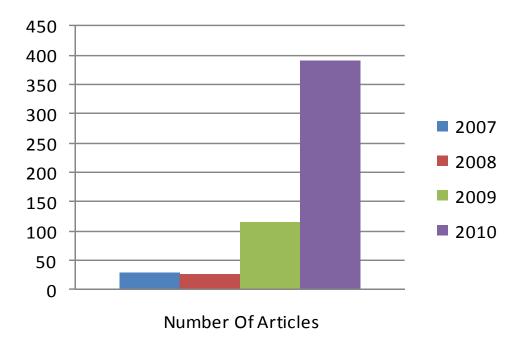


Figure 1. Comparison figures for published articles in AJBM from 2007 to September 2010

based on literature or a specific problem of a region or both), research aim and objectives, research questions. Moreover within the introductory section, a clear structure of the paper should be provided to make it reader friendly.

In order to explore a research problem, two matters must be considered. One is the qualitative weight of the problem and the other is a quantitative weight. It is important to understand that the solution of the research problem would either to provide a qualitative or quantitative benefit or both (Alam et al., 2009). For instance it is important to ask; are solutions going to help many people or less people? Whatever it is, if the work can find out a way that is going to benefit the society overall, this is good enough. For instance, a practical model is designed that will help a minimum number of people greatly providing a higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In order to provide quantitative benefit from this qualitative benefit, the work also needs to indentify a decent fiscal policy which can provide quantitative benefit ensuring both parties' interests. Another example can be made. In order to help or to make economical viable for a minimum number of people geographically disadvantaged, who are a huge investment is required and that may provide less return. In this circumstance, a model of professional transformation or access to recourse fund needs to be developed providing both qualitative and quantitative weight. Factual access to health or emergency needs neither follow gualitative nor guantitative or both thus some research problem is always serious on their own nature and social circumstances.

Research aim is wider and in order to achieve the aims, a numbers of objectives are determined to narrow down the scope of research. Thus cautious attention needs to be paid so that objectives are determined with the alignment of research aims. Research questions are needed to be outlined in connection of the research objectives since answers of these research questions are known as findings. Consequently, if the research questions are not well linked with the research objectives, neither research objectives nor research aim can be obtained.

### Literature review

A literature review is a description of the literature relevant to a particular field or topic. It gives an overview of what has been said, who the key writers are, what are the prevailing theories and hypotheses, what questions are being asked, and what methods and methodologies are appropriate and useful. As such, it is not in itself primary research, but rather it reports on other findings. A literature review uses as its database reports of primary or original scholarship, and does not report new primary scholarship on its own. The primary reports used in the

literature may be verbal, but in the vast majority of cases reports are written documents. The types of scholarship may be empirical, theoretical, critical/analytic, or methodological in nature. Secondly a literature review seeks to describe, summarize, evaluate, clarify and/or integrate the content of primary reports. "A literature review may be purely descriptive, as in an annotated bibliography, or it may provide a critical assessment of the literature in a particular field, stating where the weaknesses and gaps are, contrasting the views of particular authors, or raising questions. Such a review will not just be a summary but it will also evaluate and show relationships between different materials, so that key themes can emerge. Even a descriptive review however should not just list and paraphrase, but should add comment and bring out themes and trends.

Before writing literature review and designing research design for a work, it is important to make database drawing a table in order to make a proper mapping. A number of tables need to be prepared according to key concepts and key focuses of the research. Each table will have a number of clauses, such as title of the work, context of the work, authors, year of research, key focus of the research, method of the research and key findings and suggestions. Thereafter, a number of examinations and analyses need to be made centering on the research findings and suggestions in order to test them and their connection with respective research design, research year, author or research context and culture. By doing so, the main dominant role can be identified. After analyzing, all tables, writing of literature review can start either in coherence or on a chronological basis. The main concept of coherence basis is a progress through coherent research concept and focus, while chronological basis follows the flow of research years. However, according to the research context or research methods, subsections can be made within this section. However most of the researchers use coherence basis in the light of research focus and divide a numbers of subsections to establish a conceptual frame work. The purpose of literature review is to find out a real standpoint for the current work that is planned to be conducted. It also provides an understanding about the scope of current work with a deeper understanding of correct methodological and tools adaptation for the current work.

It is significant to note that all tables drawn must be kept in safe for references. If they were asked to supply by reviewers and editor, the author should provide them on demand.

### **Research context**

If the work is not universal and it only covers a specific region, it is important to write a research context. Through this section and its subsections, a clear idea about the context, its distinct characteristics, features, culture and economy that might have impact on research itself or research design will be explored.

## Research design

This section would include a number of relevant subsections reflecting the nature of research. These subsections vary in the context of research method. However, a global pattern always holds. These subsections are Epistemological foundation for research, Methodological approach, Research techniques and Methodical approach, Significance of adopted methodology and method, Research tools, Significance of designed tools (this should include a number of issues, validity of questionnaire/ questions, itemizing and grouping of questionnaire/ questions, interview protocol, coding, statistical parameter, significance test), sample selection and significance of such selection. Data collection and data analysis, Ethical issues and confidentiality. commercial sensitivity. Research limitations. However, only a few subsections are different from one approach to another, for example from qualitative to quantitative.

Analysis shows that scholars of these days avoid writing epistemological foundation for research. In fact without knowing epistemological foundation for research, the definition of knowledge would not be clear. Thus a research conducted without Epistemological foundation for research underpinnings always fails to provide new knowledge. Nevertheless, epistemological foundation for research also provides parameters for methodological and methodical approach.

Many people use methodology and method as synonyms. In the discussion concerning research methods and methodology, the word 'epistemology' is characterised by a spirit of controversy. Critics always generate argument when discussing the epistemological foundation of a research. Epistemology is a philosophical word defined as the philosophical<sup>1</sup> theory of knowledge. Methodology and method can also be defined respectively as (1) the branch of philosophy that analyses the principles and procedures of an inquiry in a particular discipline, or the system of methods followed in a particular discipline, and (2) a way of working, adopting a systematic approach which implies an orderly logic (usually in stages). Therefore, in order to identify a methodological approach, it is important to know the epistemological foundation of the research. However, the main benefit provided by the discussion on epistemological foundation of the research informs us as to whether a particular research would be progressed through hypothesis or research questions or through both.

# Epistemological foundation, hypothesis and research questions

Almost all of the researchers in the field of social sciences should not be conducted to have a results from a hypothesis but to provide findings of research questions. Only a few cases where some established postulates in economics, marketing, finance and accounting are established, a research can be marched through hypothesis. In order to understand, the right way to traipse, research should know at least three schools of thoughts on epistemological foundation (definition of knowledge). They are Popper's falsificationist theory, Kuhn's theory of paradigm shifts and Lakatos' theory of degeneration. A research that aims provide knowledge in the light of Popper's falsificationist theory should follow hypothesis. On the other hand, a research aims to discover knowledge following Lakatos' theory of degeneration has to follow research questions pattern. However, research aligned with Kuhn's theory of paradigm shifts essentially follows hypothesis model but also some time can follow research questions model or both depending on nature of research. There have been great number of instances of misuse and abuse of the term 'hypothesis' in contemporary researches in social sciences, especially in the areas of the business and management.

## **Research methods**

While a few scholars are aware about the differentiation between research methodology and methods, a significant number of the researchers have also no clear idea about the differences between quantitative, qualitative, survey and empirical let alone case study and conceptual work. They often judge that a work conducted through questionnaire is quantitative, while the work conducted by interviews is treated as qualitative. This is a very naïve idea. Researchers need to travel beyond of this boundary line in order to prove the adopted method is right and significant.

### Findings and results

Many of us do not have any clear idea about the differences between results and findings. Most of us see these two words as synonyms. Actually, even though, they are synonyms, both of them have different interpretations. While a research discovered an absolutely right answer by a concrete right method, we can only then identify this discovery as results. While the results can be varied and the research can be conducted by a number of methods or using of mix-methods, the discovery and insights would be called as findings. Research in the area of science always poses results, while most of the research in the area of social science

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Philosophy can be defined as the rational investigation of questions about existence, knowledge and ethics

#### generates some findings.

In order to write this section, the most ideal way is to divide them into few subsections in the light of research questions/ hypothesis rephrasing them as statement format. If any of us can figure out solid theme from research questions/ hypothesises, subsections can be divided according to the theme. Moreover, if a research adopted a number of methods and tools, categorization based on methods and tools in the light of questions/ hypothesis can be made to write the subsections.

## Discussions

It is important to testify, validate and nullify the findings of the current research with the researches that are conducted earlier. This is considered as a core to provide a standpoint for the current research.

## Suggestions and concluding remark

Many of us provide suggestions as bullet points from the minds that are pre-biased. Suggestions must communicate the research findings that have been discovered and analysed respectively under findings and discussions sections.

## Reference

The common mistakes identified are a great amount of mismatching between reference lists and cited references in the texts. Moreover, huge numbers of inconsistencies are also found. Furthermore, mistakes on spelling of authors' names and publication year are also high in degree. Scholars from many countries such as Malaysia and Turkey do not provide right way of surname and initials. Many mistakes also cause for 'et al' referencing. Use of Endnote can be the solution. But scholars have to caution on how to use its different formats. I must suggest that it is very important to read the author's guidelines very carefully. Providing right reference is not difficult but it needs a careful and time-consuming attention.

## Language

This has been considered as one of the major problems. There is no shortcut to overcoming it. We have noticed that a number of manuscripts lack careful proofreading. Moreover, due to internet availability, a high amount of plagiarisms are also been in place. Many of the cases, it was found that the contents are being just placed through copy and paste from different sources. This is not only an infringing of academic laws and ethics but also this kind of writing is incoherent and prolix to read. In this regard, a quick guideline is to work with experienced scholars who have been publishing for quite some time before you have started to work as an independent writer. Some time professional editors would also offer help. An alarming note is that before selecting an editor for language revision, it is important to know his/ her area of interests and depth of subject knowledge failing which the concept of the whole work may change from one paradigm to another.

# Writing for business management: A case of African Journal of Business Management (AJBM)

Many people think that the business administration is for the corporate sector. Others think business is meant for the private sector. That is not always right. Business administration involves the whole of a specific country or the globe in its totality. Whether it is private or public, it concerns the state. If there is a loss either on the private sector or the public sector, it is the state which loses. It is the tax payers' money that gets into the loss. The research primary concern of focus has been to see that the business administration as a whole should be a winwin situation both for the sector doing the business and the people of the state who are paying for it directly or indirectly.

Without understanding this concept, many scholars submit papers to a journal that is focusing on business management. My experiences as an editor for two journals working in area of social science testify that many scholars submit papers which are not connected with the concept of business management. Moreover, a communication received from two editors in chief working with the well reputed journals at the fields of economics and businesses assert the same. It has been discovered that many submissions are connected to psychology, educational and learning outcomes, pedagogy, sports management, health complications and even engineering.

Interdisciplinary research approach was considered as old fashion since it has been discovered that a research insights invented through interdisciplinary research may benefit in a number of ways. But other side of the coin may negatively impact many issues which was nearly impossible to identify by the interdisciplinary researchers. It is thus now been rigorously advocated in favour of multi-disciplinary approach in research with an aim of reducing the negative impact providing more solid benefit to civilization, culture, society in a decent global manner reducing the clashes that may happen. Having said that, a manuscript aimed to be submitted in connection of publication of a journal categorized as business and economics should have original contribution with a creation of new knowledge that is able to contribute directly with the concept of following subjects and areas. They are management, economics, accounting, finance, banking, marketing, policy and strategy. It is worthwhile

to note that these are major categories considered as macro areas for research in business and economy. Within one major category, there could be a number of sub- categories that are considered to be micro units. For instance, human resource management, corporate governance and regulatory strategy, financial management, organizational management and behaviors and etc. can be considered as the micro units of management.

Without understanding these concepts, scholars from different fields are submitting their work to the journals that are working in area of business and economics. A wider number of submissions are from psychology, information technology, history, educational and learning outcomes, pedagogy, sports management, health complications and even engineering.

When I am saying these, I must carefully note that I do not essentially mean that a work which covers one of the following subjects and areas such as management. economics, accounting, finance, banking, marketing, policy and strategy as key concept producing new knowledge using education, food, garments, health or engineering as a sector can not publish their work in the journals that are working in the area of business and economics. Indeed, researches are appreciably welcome as stated earlier with the concept of 'state business'. Moreover most of the states are doing business in areas of health, education food through the involvement of private and public sectors or public and private partnership provision (Alam et al., 2001; Alam, 2009; Alam et al., 2010b). The areas I am concerned with are education and health where millions of dollars are spent by the business sectors. The research should be connected with one these subjects or areas to develop the conceptual framework to generate new knowledge in one or more than one of these areas of management, economics, accounting, finance, banking, marketing, or policy and strategy using sectors as a case.

### Selection of journal

It is unusual that scholars deicide about journals for publication before they conduct research. However, it is always recommended to start thinking about the journal before your writing or submission. All the scholars should search through the probable journals that are related to the area. Thereafter, authors need to read a number of articles from those journals in order to position him/her with the updated knowledge. Moreover, an author needs to identify the new areas of knowledge that the journals have not covered yet (but the area is under the coverage of the respective journal). Once this is identified, author can prepare its manuscripts and submit before someone else produces this knowledge. It is fundamentally important to consult the proper articles linked to proposed work that are published in the targeted journal and get them cited.

### African Journal of Business Management (AJBM)

AJBM is one the progressive ISI journals indexed with ISI Social Science Citation Index. Since its inception, the journal has been contributing significantly for the research area of business and economy. Earlier, it was considered that the best product of knowledge house in the area of business and economy should be based in the West and also should cover the business and economy of the West. AJBM proves this as a wrong concept. AJBM demonstrates that a good work is a matter for success. The regional coverage of the study and location of the study do not whatsoever matter (Table 2). Currently, AJBM has dramatically improved its impact and position within the area of business management and economics. It is thus an immense pressure for AJBM editors, management, editorial assistants, editing and quality assurance team to ensure a high quality job (Table 1 and Figure 1). Through its increased number of publication, it would be impossible to justify and measure the pressure as only 35% of the submissions have received success. In many cases, success may arrive after a number of revisions. We are grateful to our authors for their hard work and patience. However, this is not the end. This attempt is made by one of the editors and authors of AJBM who is a part of our scholarly family, to give a clearer guideline to the successful authors to do more work of guality and to the non-successful authors to be successful in their future works.

## CONCLUSION

Let me conclude with a few important tips. We must read the provided author's guidelines many times before the submission of the work to any journal. We must understand the scope of work that the specific journal includes and covers. We should also make sure that we have provided the right structure, outline, setup, makeup, and shape including citations and reference list as the way the journal demands. Moreover, we must make sure that before submission, we the authors have read the article, a number of times along with a shared reading amongst colleagues who are working in the same field.

Let me sign off with a happy note by providing the scope of work for AJBM with the web link for author guideline (http://www.academicjournals.org/AJBM/Instruction. htm): Articles in AJBM examine emerging trends and concerns in the areas of general management, business law, public responsibility and ethics, marketing theory and applications, business finance and investment, general business research, business and economics education, production/operations management, organizational behavior and theory, strategic management policy, social

issues and public policy, management organization, statistics and econometrics, personnel and industrial relations, technology and innovation, case studies and management information systems. The goal of AJBM is to broaden the knowledge of business professionals and academicians by promoting free access and provide valuable insight to business-related information, research and ideas (cited from http://www.academicjournals.org/AJBM/Instruction.htm on 28th December, 2010).

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