

Editorial: How to Cite a *Journal of Scientific Psychology* Article

Robert D. Mather, Editor

The *Journal of Scientific Psychology* (JSP) has a future as exciting as the journal's relatively short history. JSP was created to facilitate professional discourse in scientific psychology across the world and is an online, peer-reviewed, open access journal that has grown quickly. In fact, the founders of this venue could be considered pioneers of the online, open access, peer-reviewed academic journal. Indeed, Society for Personality and Social Psychology President Harry Reis (2007) recently wrote about the impact of open access science publications on the traditional academic community and publishers. He suggested that, "It's no longer a question of whether we should have Open Access in one form or another—rather, the key question is, how do we move in all good speed toward Open Access while at the same time protecting the integrity of our science and the viability of our journals" (p. 21). Many journals such as *Psychological Science* are moving toward electronic publication ("Help Shape," 2007) and many journals publish online versions of articles in advance of the print versions, with the online versions featuring more interactive features. *Nature* (see *Nature's* supplementary information policy) and *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour* are just two examples of scientific journals with such features.

A Different Breed of Journal

As a new journal with a different format, *Journal of Scientific Psychology* has several advantages. First, the journal is available online to anyone in the world who has internet access and can open a PDF file. The articles are archived so that anyone in the world can access any of the articles that our journal has published—and can do so without access to a university library or having to pay a fee to access the article. This was one of the fundamental principles upon which JSP was founded. Second, we have an editorial board and a network of reviewers who are highly competent and well-regarded in their respective areas of psychology. Foremost, they are all scientists. We believe that the people involved in the journal are efficient, qualified, and committed to the fundamental concepts that guide JSP. Having a staff of scientists committed to an open access electronic journal makes the publication process very efficient. Third, with our electronic publication and our efficient people, JSP can quickly get manuscripts to reviewers, reviews back

to editors, and publication decisions made. As we refine the process, we will make it more efficient. Still, we have fared quite well to this point in gathering reviews and making publication decisions thus far this year. Finally, we can disseminate publishable research very quickly. This is one of the important elements of our venue. Currently we strive for monthly publication. Ideally, an article would not wait for publication for more than a month following the acceptance of the final revision. Thus far no accepted article has waited that long. I believe that timely publication of publishable work is very important to separating our venue from traditional publication outlets. We do not wish to compete with the top journals of the field—rather we seek to fill our niche (Mather, 2008).

A Different Breed of Journal Deserves a Different Type of Citation

Our journal is a different breed because of these elements, though we expect the trend to catch on (see Reis, 2007). One question that I frequently receive is "How do I cite an article from *Journal of Scientific Psychology*?" One source of confusion comes from the name of our journal. Is it *Scientific Psychology* or *Journal of Scientific Psychology*? The answer to this is easy: It is both. Originally, many of the editorial board members accepted positions on the board for the journal *Scientific Psychology*. Todd Shackelford lists it this way on his website and far be it from me to correct a scientist of his merit. Before the first article came out (Mather, 2006), the journal staff decided to use the name *Journal of Scientific Psychology* and listed it this way in the published articles. Many people still refer to the journal as *Scientific Psychology* as it is listed on the website. However, *Journal of Scientific Psychology* appears at the bottom of every article. I view either as acceptable. The official name of the journal is *Journal of Scientific Psychology*. However, *Scientific Psychology* is acceptable shorthand for the formal name. Since *Scientific Psychology* is listed on the website and we are an electronic journal, I believe it is also a professionally appropriate title.

Robert D. Mather, Editor, *Journal of Scientific Psychology*.
Correspondence regarding this editorial may be directed to
Robert Mather, Department of Psychology, University of
Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma, USA 73034.
rmather@psyencelab.com

Another issue to consider in citing an article from JSP (as you can see from my references listed below, I prefer the formal journal name) is that there are not volume or issue numbers. Although the current publication format was in place when I joined the staff, I feel that not having volume or issue information is the most concise way to run our journal. We are not alone—*Journal of Accountancy* and *Journal of Marketing* have each used this citation format (for example articles to reference, see McConnell & Schweiger, 2008; Petty & Cacioppo, 1996). I have included the reference to our most recently published article below to demonstrate the correct citation format for the article in APA style (Almstrom, Wisdom, & Callahan, 2008).

Since we paginate by year, the year serves the function of a volume number. Since we archive by month and year, the month serves the function of the issue number. Therefore, it is not necessary to have volumes or issues. For example, the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* has two volumes per year, giving them a good argument for having volume numbers. Of course, they only have six issues per volume, so it would be more efficient for them to do it our way. At *Journal of Scientific Psychology*, we are strong believers in obliterating the mental sets of academic publishing in our quest to operate a product that facilitates academic discourse.

People's expectancies, which are their beliefs about a future state of affairs (Olson, Roese, & Zanna, 1996), often guide their behavior. We get uncomfortable when our expectancies are violated. Scientists fall victim to this in the realm of academic publishing—we expect to see a volume number, we expect to see an issue number, we expect the journal to be printed on paper, we expect the journal to take months to review manuscripts, we expect the journal to take more months to publish manuscripts, and we expect the journal to be thoroughly peer-reviewed. If we violate your expectations at JSP, I do not apologize. From the list of expectations, I can only promise the last item—that our published articles are thoroughly peer-reviewed. I believe that a different type of journal deserves a different type of citation.

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