

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

*“Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals”;* International Steering Committee of Medical Editors; adoption of the “Vancouver style” by *LEPROSY REVIEW*, from Number 1, 51, 1980

Following an approach from the Editor of the *British Medical Journal* in April 1979, the Editorial Board of *Leprosy Review* gave detailed consideration to the possibility of changing to the ‘Vancouver style’ of printing, as first developed in 1978 by a group of editors of internationally famous journals, and published as a discussion document in February 1979. In brief, the International Steering Committee of Medical Editors proposed a uniform style for submitted manuscripts, full details of which were published in the *British Medical Journal* of 24th February, 1979, pages 532–535. This article is also available as a small booklet (50p, from the Editor of the British Medical Journal, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR), but the necessary format can be seen in any number of the *British Medical Journal* or the *Lancet*. The original group of editors included those of the *British Medical Journal*, the *Lancet*, the *American Review of Respiratory Diseases*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and *New England Journal of Medicine*. A full list of the many journals who have already agreed to the style will be available later, but amongst those already participating in the UK are the following:

### *Anaesthesia*

*Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons*

*British Dental Journal*

*British Journal of Haematology*

*British Journal of Ophthalmology*

*British Journal of Venereal Diseases*

*Cardiovascular Research;*

*Journal of Clinical Pathology*

*Journal of Medical Genetics*

*Lancet*

*International Rehabilitation Medicine*

*Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*

*Archives of Disease in Childhood*

*British Heart Journal*

*British Journal of Industrial Medicine*

*British Journal of Surgery*

*British Medical Journal*

*Gut*

*Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*

*Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.*

*Thorax*

As soon as printing arrangements permit, the requirements will be included on the cover of *Leprosy Review*, but in case this should not be possible in the last Number of 50 (1979), we take this opportunity of including the following essential information on references, which must be followed for all submissions from 1st January, 1980.

## REFERENCES

Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by arabic numerals (in parentheses). References cited only in tables or in legends to figures should be numbered in accordance with a sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or illustration.

Use the form of references adopted by the US National Library of Medicine and used in *Index Medicus*. Use the style of the examples cited at the end of this section, which have been approved by the National Library of Medicine.

The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in *Index Medicus*. A list of abbreviated names of frequently cited journals is given in Appendix 2; for others, consult the "List of Journals Indexed," printed annually in the January issue of *Index Medicus*.

Try to avoid using abstracts as references; "unpublished observations" and "personal communications" may not be used as references, although references to written, not verbal, communications may be inserted (in parentheses) in the text. Include among the references manuscripts accepted but not yet published; designate the journal followed by "in press" (in parentheses). Information from manuscripts submitted but not yet accepted should be cited in the text as "unpublished observations" (in parentheses).

The references must be verified by the author(s) against the original documents.

Examples of correct forms of references are given below.

*Journal*

- (1) *Standard journal article*—(List all authors when six or less; when seven or more, list only first three and add *et al.*)

Soter NA, Wasserman SI, Austen KF. Cold urticaria: release into the circulation of histamine and eosinophil chemotactic factor of anaphylaxis during cold challenge. *N Engl J Med* 1976; 294: 687–90.

- (2) *Corporate author*

The Committee on Enzymes of the Scandinavian Society for Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Physiology. Recommended method for the determination of gamma-glutamyltransferase in blood. *Scand J Clin Lab Invest* 1976; 36: 119–25. Anonymous. Epidemiology for primary health care. *Int J Epidemiol* 1976; 5: 224–5.

*Books and other monographs*

- (3) *Personal author(s)*

Osler AG. Complement: mechanisms and functions. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1976.

- (4) *Corporate author*

American Medical Association Department of Drugs. AMA drug evaluations. 3rd ed. Littleton: Publishing Sciences Group, 1977.

- (5) *Editor, compiler, chairman as author*

Rhodes AJ, Van Rooyen CE, comps. Textbook of virology: for students and practitioners of medicine and the other health sciences. 5th ed. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1968.

- (6) *Chapter in book*

Weinstein L, Swartz MN. Pathogenic properties of invading microorganisms. In: Sodeman WA Jr, Sodeman WA, Eds. Pathologic physiology: mechanisms of disease. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1974: 357–72.

(7) *Agency publication*

National Center for Health Statistics. Acute conditions: incidence and associated disability, United States July 1968–June 1969. Rockville, Md.: National Center for Health Statistics, 1972. (Vital and health statistics. Series 10: Data from the National Health Survey, No 69) (DHEW publication No (HSM)72–1036).

*Other articles*

(8) *Newspaper article*

Shaffer RA. Advances in chemistry are starting to unlock mysteries of the brain: discoveries could help cure alcoholism and insomnia, explain mental illness. How the messengers work. Wall Street Journal 1977 Aug 12: 1(col 1), 10(col 1).

(9) *Magazine article*

Roueché B. Annals of medicine: the Santa Claus culture. The New Yorker 1971 Sep 4: 66–81.