

## **Submission Guidelines**

DECENT Database is an international publishing peer-reviewed database, which consists of a series of research journals. DECENT Database's aim is to develop an accessible and affordable platform containing different journals where researchers from all over the world, including developing and underdeveloped nations, can easily access research materials. Authors will no longer need to pay exorbitant publication fees. Rather, they will continually be rewarded for their efforts via their article(s) published on DECENT Database.

The research journals currently published on the DECENT Database platform will focus on three major areas, namely: **Science, Engineering, and Health**. DECENT Database accepts contributions as **short communications, full research articles, and review articles**.

**Please note, all contributions should be reported using either British or American English spelling, but not a mixture of both.**

The design of any research studies intended for publication on **DECENT Journals** must be guided by the below scope and guidelines in order to pass the first manuscript screening test, which will also include thorough plagiarism checks and research ethics clearance.

**Within the stipulated areas of specialisation, preference will be placed on innovation and originality.**

### **Manuscript submission**

DECENT Database has developed a unique online manuscript submission system (**DECENT Manager**), which allows authors, reviewers, and editors to easily interact with each other throughout the course of the review process.

All authors are required to submit their manuscripts online via **DECENT Manager** (<https://decentdatabase.com/Login>). Full instructions on how to submit your

manuscript and navigate the DECENT Manager system can be found in “**How to Submit a Manuscript**”.

Files such as manuscripts, figures, tables, and other supporting information submitted during the manuscript submission process should be in Microsoft Word or PDF.

All authors will receive a confirmation email once the manuscript has been received by DECENT Database. At this stage, the author(s) may cancel the submission if they decide not to proceed. If no action is taken, the manuscript will proceed through the submission process.

### **The peer-review process**

It is important to point out that all contributions (short communications, full research articles, and review articles) submitted to DECENT Database go through the single-blind peer-review process, with a final judgement made by the supervising editor.

All manuscripts are subjected to an initial screening stage. This stage will evaluate the manuscript for the following: plagiarism, originality of the research, and grammatical inconsistencies.

If the manuscript is found to be original and suitable for the potential audience within the research community, the manuscript is sent out by the editor to three reviewers. Reviewers are selected from across the globe based on their expertise, reputation, and recommendations.

Authors are given the opportunity to suggest reviewers, but the reviewer(s) must be experts in the field of research contained in the submitted manuscript. Also, there must be no conflict of interest between the author(s) and suggested reviewer(s). For instance, the author(s) must not have published any articles with the reviewer(s) within the previous ten years.

The editor will make the final decision to accept, reject, or request further revisions to any submitted manuscript.

## Categories of Contributions

All contributions (short communications, full research articles, and review articles) submitted to DECENT Journals must be accompanied by a title (maximum 100 characters), a short title (maximum 80 characters), an abstract (maximum 250 words), keywords (4 – 6 keywords) and two novelty points (maximum of 10 words each).

### 1. Short Communications

The research findings reported in a short communication manuscript should be novel, concise, and relevant to the scientific and research community. The content of the short communications must not have been published previously or be under consideration with any other journal. The **maximum word limit for a short communication is 3500 words**, which includes the title, abstract, main text, methodology, captions/legends, and author(s) contribution, **with the exception of the references**. The information presented in a short communication should be explicit and clearly understood even without supporting information. However, supplementary information must be declared for online publication as a separate document. Submitted manuscripts must have a title page, which contains the study title, author(s) name, author(s) affiliation, short title, and the name and address of the corresponding author.

### 2. Full Research Articles

The research findings presented in a full research article must be novel, original, and relevant to the research and scientific community. The content of research articles must not have been published previously or be under consideration with any other journal. The **maximum word limit for a full research article is 6000 words**, which includes the title, author(s) names and affiliation(s), abstract, main text, methodology, results, discussion, captions/legends, and author(s) contribution, **with the exception of the references**. Other supplementary information must be declared for online publication as a separate document. Submitted manuscripts must have a title page, which contains

the study title, author(s) name, author(s) affiliation, short title, and the name and address of the corresponding author.

### 3. Review Articles

A review article presents an in-depth overview of a particular research area, highlighting its importance, relevance, and a summary of recent developments in a particular research field. Relevant past and present literature must be properly cited and acknowledged. **The minimum word limit for a review article is 18,000 words.** Submitted manuscripts must have a title page, which contains the study title, author(s) name, author(s) affiliation, short title, and the name and address of the corresponding author. The headings to be used for review articles are at the discretion of the authors. However, a section of the manuscript must state the contribution of each author(s). This section should be placed after the references section of the manuscript.

## Manuscript Preparation

### General

1. All contributions should be made using American English spelling.
2. All submitted manuscripts should be typed with double-line spacing, Times New Roman, and in 12 point.
3. All manuscript should have margins of 2.54 cm at the top, bottom, left and right-hands sides of each page.
4. All lines, pages, figures, tables, and references should be numbered consecutively. Tables, figures, and schemes should be mentioned in the body of the manuscript in numerical order.
5. Authors must strictly adhere to standards of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) for nomenclature, symbols, and units.
6. The Latin names of biological species and genera should be written in italics.

7. Abbreviations and acronyms must be written in full, followed by the abbreviation/acronym in brackets, the first time they are used in the manuscript (see point 5 above as an example).

### **Titles and short titles**

1. The title (maximum 100 characters) of the submitted manuscript should be brief, concise, and explicit to the readers. Titles should be without prepositions and conjunctions. The first letters of all words in the title should be capitalised. The use of chemical formulas in the title is discouraged.
2. The short title (maximum 80 characters) of the submitted manuscript should clearly state the focus of the current study. Short titles should be without prepositions and conjunctions. The first letters of all words in the title should be capitalised. The use of chemical formulas in the title is discouraged.

### **Authors**

1. The full names of the author(s) should be entered on the title page. Names should be written in the following order: first name, middle name (if any) and last name. Any affiliation(s) should also be entered on the title page and in the online submission. Additional symbols to differentiate the affiliation(s) of authors is not necessary (e.g. symbols such as †, ‖, |, should be avoided).  
Ensure all author names are correct as names will be published as they appear on the manuscript.
3. An asterisk in superscript should be used to indicate the corresponding author(s).
4. The email address of the corresponding author(s) should be included after any affiliations.

### **Abstract, keywords, and novelty points**

1. All contributions (short communication, research articles, and review articles) submitted to DECENT Journals require an abstract (maximum 250 words).
2. All contributions (short communication, research articles, and review articles) submitted to DECENT Journals require keywords (4 – 6 keywords).

3. Two novelty points (maximum 10 words each) must be provided during the online manuscript submission. These points should clearly highlight the novelty of the current research.
4. Once a manuscript is accepted, you will be required to provide a pictorial representation of your manuscript. Authors can either use one of the pictures/schemes in the manuscript that best represents the entire message in the manuscript or design a different picture/scheme that depicts the content of the manuscript.

### **Introduction**

1. This section should contain a critical review of the literature relevant to the experimental study being reported or reviewed.
2. The introduction should contain the aim(s) of the experimental study being reported or reviewed.

### **Methodology**

1. This section is only relevant for short communications and original research articles.
2. The section must contain a detailed description of all the methods employed in conducting the experiment. Note that methods must be scientifically standardised and reproducible.
3. This section should contain details such as quantities of reactants, chemicals, drugs etc. used in the experimental work. Such numeric figures should be presented in parentheses with standard abbreviations of measuring units (e.g. ethanol (50 mL)).
4. Negative exponents and decimal points should be used with all physical data (e.g. 75.2 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>).

### **Results**

1. This section is only relevant for short communications and original research articles.
2. The results section must contain the details of all the results relevant to the focus of the research being reported. Standard abbreviations of measuring units must be applied in this section.
3. Irrelevant data sets should be excluded from the results section. However, the authors may submit such datasets for online publication as supplementary materials.

## Discussions

1. This section should succinctly and logically discuss the significant findings of the research.
2. The limitations of the study may also be discussed in this section.
3. The section should contain a concluding paragraph, which summaries the translational implication of the study and highlight future research directions.

## Tables and Figures

1. Table titles and figure legends (i.e. “**Table 1**”, “**Table 2**” “**Figure 2**”, “**Figure 3**”, “**Equation 1**”) should be written in full, be unabbreviated, and in bold. The legend must also summarise the content of the figures to aid in clearer understanding.
2. Table-function or tab spacing should be used in preparing tables. The use of graphics in the preparation of tables is discouraged and will not be accepted. Tables should be subdivided by three horizontal lines differentiating column headings from the body of the table, and a final horizontal line at the foot of the table. All other lines within a table must be removed.

For example,

**Table 1.** Submit your manuscript

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title 1</b>	<b>Title 2</b>
Decent 1	Decent 1	Decent 1
Decent 2	Decent 2	Decent 2
Decent 3	Decent 3	Decent 3
Decent 4	Decent 4	Decent 4

3. Tables, figures, and schemes should be accompanied by a brief caption. Also, do not combine the caption and table in a textbox (Please refer to the table above for clarity).
4. Figures, tables, schemes and equations should appear as they are mentioned in the body of the manuscript in numerical order. For the convenience of our reviewers and editors,

figures, tables and schemes should be inserted just after they are first mentioned in the text.

### **Literature section/References**

1. All references in the body of the manuscript or to footnote should be presented in square brackets as superscripts (e.g. <sup>[1]</sup>, <sup>[1,2]</sup>, <sup>[1-4]</sup>) after any punctuation.
2. All references mentioned in the manuscript should be listed at the end of the main text and numbered consecutively in square brackets not as superscripts.
3. All authors should be listed, starting with the family name (surname) and followed by the initials of the first and middle names.

e.g. [1] James, W. I., Paul, C., Danjuma, D., **2019** (bold), Title of the study. *Name of Journal Title* (Italicise), Vol. no., first page no (if not available, use article number).

### **Authorship, acknowledgments, permissions**

4. All articles published on DECENT Database must clearly highlight the contributions of each author in a section after the reference section. This means a brief description of each author's contribution must be provided in the published article.
5. All research work involving human participants must follow and abide by all internationally accepted standards. Consent and approval must be obtained from the appropriate ethics committee/bodies in your country of research. A statement must be included in the experimental section to state that appropriate permission was obtained.
6. All research work involving the use of animals must follow the same standards as research in humans and must abide by all internationally accepted standards. Institutional approval for the use and care of experimental animals must be obtained from the appropriate ethics committee/bodies in your institution or country of research. A statement must be included in the experimental section to state that appropriate permission was obtained.
7. It is important to acknowledge all funding sources used in relation to the reported research work.