

ASM STYLE

This style guide summarizes the formatting guidelines for papers submitted to the American Society of Microbiology (ASM) journals, generally used by students and scholars in microbiology.

CONTENT

This section outlines and describes the sections typically included on the title and body pages. All text should be double-spaced, including the figured legends, footnotes, and references. All pages should be numbered continuously.

Title Page	Includes the title of the work, the name of the author(s), and the affiliations of each author at the time of writing.
Abstract	Summarize the basic content of the study without presenting extensive experimental details in no more than 250 words.
Importance	Provides a non-technical explanation of the significance of the study to the field. Avoid abbreviations and references in no more than 150 words.
Introduction	Supplies sufficient background information to allow readers to understand and evaluate the study without needing to go read previous scholarship. Must also provide the hypothesis.
Materials & Methods	Supplies sufficient technical information to allow experimental repetition. Centrifugation, media preparation, and alternative methods should be reference or outlined.
Results	Presents the findings concisely and may include text, data tables, or figures.
Discussion	Provides an interpretation of the results in relation to previously published, related work, and to the present study. Should not contain raw data from the Results section or reiteration of the introduction. The Results and Discussion sections may be combined in shorter papers.
Conclusion	Summarizes the main points of the thesis or hypothesis; should not include new information or sources.
Acknowledgements	Includes statement(s) regarding sources of direct financial support (e.g., grants, fellowships, and scholarships, etc.).
Appendix	Contains additional material to aid reader understanding.
References	Lists referenced sources numerically in the order in which they are cited in the article.

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REFERENCES

References in this journal are numbered and ordered sequentially as they appear in the text. Each reference should include the full last name and first initial(s) of every author and/or editor for each reference. Do not abbreviate author lists with “et al.”. Common journal title abbreviations can be found in the [National Center for Biotechnology Information databases](#). The next page illustrates how the references should be numbered and aligned in the ASM References page.

Example:

Formula:

<p>Journal Article</p> <p>Caserta E, Haemig, HAH, Manias DA, Tomsic J, Grundy FJ, Henkin TM, Dunny GM. 2012. <i>In vivo</i> and <i>in vitro</i> analyses of regulation of the pheromone-responsive <i>prgQ</i> promoter by the PrgX pheromone receptor protein. J Bacteriol 194:3386-3394.</p>	<p>Last Name First Initials. Year of publication. Title. Abbreviated journal name volume number:page-page</p>
<p>Book</p> <p>Madigan MT, Martinko JM, Stahl DA, Clark DP. 2001. <i>Brocke Biology of Microorganisms</i>.(13th ed.) Pearson, Boston.</p>	<p>Last Name First Initials. Year of publication. <i>Title in italics</i>. Publisher, City.</p>
<p>Article in Book</p> <p>Forman MS, Valsamakis A. 2011 Specimen collection, transport, and processing: virology, p 1276-1288. <i>In</i> Versalovic J, Carroll KC, Jorgensen JH, Funk G, Landry ML, Warnock DW (ed), Manual of clinical microbiology, 10th ed, vol 2. ASM Press, Washington, DC.</p>	<p>Last Name First Initials. Year of publication. Title, p page-page. <i>In</i> Last Name First Initials of Editor (ed), Title of book, # ed, vol #. Publisher, City, State.</p>
<p>Dissertation</p> <p>O'Malley DR. 1998. PhD thesis. University of California, Los Angeles, CA.</p>	<p>Last Name First Initials. Year of publication. Title (optional). PhD/Master's thesis. Institution Name.</p>
<p>Patent</p> <p>Odell JC. 1970. Process for batch culturing. US patent 484,363,770.</p>	<p>Last Name First Initials. Year of patent. Title. Patent number.</p>
<p>Presentation or Lecture</p> <p>Smith J. 2012. How to be a scientist. PowerPoint.</p>	<p>Last Name First Initials. Year of presentation. Title. Format.</p>
<p>Conference Proceedings</p> <p>Green PN, Hood D, Dow CS. 1984. Taxonomic status of some methylotrophic bacteria, p 251-254. In Crawford RL, Hanson RS (ed), Microbial growth on C1 compounds. Proceedings of the 4th International Symposium. American Society for Microbiology, Washington, DC.</p>	<p>Last Name First Initials. Year of publication. Title, p page-page. <i>In</i> Last Name First Initials of Editor (ed), Title of Symposium. Title of Proceedings. Publisher, City, State.</p>

SAMPLE REFERENCES PAGE

References

1. Madigan MT, Martinko JM, Sthal DA, Clark DP. 2001. *Brook Biology of Microorganisms* (13th ed.). Pearson, Boston.
2. Leboffe MJ, Pierce BE. 2010. *Microbiology, laboratory theory & application* (3rd ed.). Morton Publishing, Englewood.
3. Staley JT. 2006. The Bacterial Species Dilemma and the Genomic-phylogenetic Species Concept. *Philos Trans R Soc Lond B Biol Sci* 361:1899-1909.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

ASM utilizes a citation-sequence system where references are listed in the order in which they appear in a paper. Each reference receives a unique number and citation numbers in-text are placed in parentheses following the quoted or paraphrased writing, as follows:

- Selective media are used to bolster the growth of a certain organism while inhibiting the growth of others (1).

The following refence exceptions that are **cited in-text** rather than on the refences page and appear parenthetically in the text. Other exceptions include citations in the abstract and supplemental material, information about which can be found at <https://journals.asm.org/references>.

Unpublished data	. . . in a process described above (E. Ramirez and G. Schneider, unpublished data).
Websites	. . . as suggested by the World Health Organization (https://www.who.int/campaigns/immunization-week/2017/en/).
Manuscripts submitted for publication	. . . system was used (J. L. McInerney, A. F. Holden, and P. N. Brighton, submitted for publication).
Unpublished conference presentations	. . . as described previously (M. G. Gordon and F. L. Rattner, presented at the Fourth Symposium on Food Microbiology, Overton, IL, 13 to 15 Jun 1989).
Patent applications and patents pending	. . . this new process (V. R. Smoll, 20 June 1999, Australian Patent Office).