



Last updated: September 17, 2024 [View the latest guidelines online](#)

Preliminary Approval of Articles

Manuscripts are submitted in response to an invitation, which may come at the advice of the editorial board or in response to an author's proposal. Authors wishing to [submit a proposal](#) for an article or a viewpoint should follow the instructions given in detail below. Proposals will be reviewed by the editorial board, who may consult the editorial advisory board or other experts, and final decisions regarding a subsequent invitation to submit will be forwarded by the Editor-in-Chief. The editorial board will not consider proposals from authors whose work has been recently highlighted in the journal (typically, the past two years), except under special circumstances. Key to a successful proposal is a convincing statement that addresses the following questions: Why this topic? Why these authors? Why now?

When responding to an invitation, authors should closely follow the instructions presented in the Preparation of Manuscripts section below to expedite the review and publication of their work. Each submission must include the author's postal and e-mail addresses and telephone numbers.

All manuscripts, whether specifically solicited by the Editor-in-Chief or invited in response to a proposal, are sent to competent readers for criticism both of scientific content and of readability.

Scope of the Journal

Accounts of Materials Research is a journal of concise articles describing recent research developments in materials science and engineering. Each Account is directed not only to specialists in the field but also to a broad range of scientists who wish to keep abreast of the best current research in fields other than their own. Readability by the non-expert is therefore essential. Most manuscripts are submitted after invitation by the Editor-in-Chief, but unsolicited proposals, which may result in an invitation to submit a manuscript, are also considered.

Materials research is diverse and inclusive by nature. We believe in the strength of diversity in all its forms because inclusion of and respect for diverse people, experiences, and ideas lead to superior materials solutions to societal challenges and advancement of materials research itself globally.

Manuscript Types

Articles

A typical *Account* discusses a topic of intense interest to the author and focuses primarily on the author's own experimental or theoretical results. Unpublished data may be included, but only to a minor extent. Articles should present salient experimental discoveries and theoretical results, interpret their significance, establish perspective with respect to earlier work and to contemporary research by other investigators, evaluate the present state of the subject, and cast a glance to the

future.

A good introduction, including a historical orientation, is critical. Terms and concepts unique to the research area must be carefully explained or defined. A short section of concluding remarks should discuss the broader significance of the work, view it in perspective, and mention applications or future prospects. *Accounts* looks with favor on styles of presentation somewhat less formal than those that prevail in much scientific writing. Comprehensive reviews do not fall within the mission of *Accounts*.

Viewpoints

Viewpoints examine critically a question of current interest and draw new generalizations or new perspectives from the evidence. These brief non-peer reviewed opinions include theoretical implications, mechanistic interpretation, significance of data, or definitive experiments and should not be laudatory or for establishing priority. Controversial viewpoints are welcome, as are ones expressing opinions contrasting with those in published *Accounts*. Viewpoints are substantially shorter than articles. The author should be an expert in the field.

ACS Researcher Resources

While this document will provide basic information on how to prepare and submit the manuscript as well as other critical information about publishing, we also encourage authors to visit [ACS Researcher Resources](#) for additional information on everything that is needed to prepare (and review) manuscripts for ACS journals and partner journals, such as

- [Mastering the Art of Scientific Publication](#), which shares editor tips about a variety of topics including making your paper scientifically effective, preparing excellent graphics, and writing cover letters.
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- [ACS Reviewer Lab](#), a free online course covering best practices for peer review and related ethical considerations.
- [ACS Author Lab](#), a free online course that empowers authors to prepare and submit strong manuscripts, avoiding errors that could lead to delays in the publication process.
- [ACS Inclusivity Style Guide](#), a guide that helps researchers communicate in ways that recognize and respect diversity in all its forms.

Manuscript Preparation

Submit with Fast Format

All ACS journals and partner journals have simplified their formatting requirements in favor of a streamlined and standardized format for an initial manuscript submission. Read more about the requirements and the benefits these serves authors and reviewers [here](#).

Manuscripts submitted for initial consideration must adhere to these standards:

- Submissions must be complete with clearly identified standard sections used to report original

- research, free of annotations or highlights, and include all numbered and labeled components.
- Figures, charts, tables, schemes, and equations should be embedded in the text at the point of relevance. Separate graphics can be supplied later at revision, if necessary.
 - When required by a journal's structure or length limitations, manuscript templates should be used.
 - References can be provided in any style, but they must be complete, including titles. For information about the required components of different reference types, please refer to the [ACS Style Quick Guide](#).
 - Supporting Information must be submitted as a separate file(s).

Document Templates and Format

The templates facilitate the peer review process by allowing authors to place artwork and tables close to the point where they are discussed within the text. Learn more about document templates [here](#).

General information on the preparation of manuscripts may also be found in the [ACS Guide to Scholarly Communication](#).

Acceptable Software, File Designations, and TeX/LaTeX

See the list of [Acceptable Software](#) and appropriate [File Designations](#) to be sure your file types are compatible with ACS Paragon Plus. Information for manuscripts generated from [TeX/LaTeX](#) is also available.

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A cover letter must accompany every manuscript submission. During the submission process, you may type it or paste it into the submission system, or you may attach it as a file.

Manuscript Text Components

Manuscript Length

Manuscripts are limited to 6,000 words. This includes the text, author names, biographical sketches, tables, and figure legends. Do not include the conspectus, author addresses, acknowledgments, or references in your count. A typical manuscript should have about 50 references. Authors will be expected to abide by this rule and to submit a statement from the corresponding author indicating the word count of the article and how it was obtained. Articles with word counts over 6,000 words will be returned to the authors for editing before going through the review process.

Viewpoints are substantially shorter than articles; brevity and clarity are essential. Viewpoints do not include conspectuses or TOC/abstract graphics. Authors are encouraged to discuss the format, style and length with the editors.

Conspectus

The conspectus is an enhanced and expanded one-page abstract of approximately 400–500 words that follows the structure of the manuscript and includes one helpful and eye-catching graphic. It is highlighted to stand out from the article and serves two principal purposes:

- To summarize the Account for the general reader who may not have the time or deep interest in the material to read beyond the conspectus
- To entice the reader into reading the rest of the Account

The conspectus should summarize the reason for the work, the most significant results, and the conclusions. Each conspectus should include motivation (why every chemist should care about the problem and its results), techniques used, results and discoveries, and conclusions and implications.

Supporting Information

This information is provided to the reviewers during the peer-review process (for Review Only) and is available to readers of the published work (for Publication). Supporting Information must be submitted at the same time as the manuscript. See the list of [Acceptable Software by File Designation](#) and confirm that your Supporting Information is [viewable](#).

If the manuscript is accompanied by any supporting information files for publication, these files will be made available free of charge to readers. A brief, nonsentence description of the actual contents of each file, including the file type extension, is required. This description should be labeled Supporting Information and should appear before the Acknowledgement and Reference sections. Examples of sufficient and insufficient descriptions are as follows:

Examples of sufficient descriptions: “Supporting Information: ^1H NMR spectra for all compounds (PDF)” or “Additional experimental details, materials, and methods, including photographs of experimental setup (DOC)”.

Examples of insufficient descriptions: “Supporting Information: Figures S1-S3” or “Additional figures as mentioned in the text”.

When including supporting information for review only, include copies of references that are unpublished or in-press. These files are available only to editors and reviewers.

Research Data Policy

All ACS journals strongly encourage authors to make the research data underlying their articles publicly available at the time of publication.

Research data is defined as materials and information used in the experiments that enable the validation of the conclusions drawn in the article, including primary data produced by the authors for the study being reported, secondary data reused or analyzed by the authors for the study, and any other materials necessary to reproduce or replicate the results.

The [ACS Research Data Policy](#) provides additional information on Data Availability Statements, Data Citation, and Data Repositories.

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The quality of illustrations in ACS journals and partner journals depends on the quality of the original files provided by the authors. Figures are not modified or enhanced by journal production staff. All graphics must be prepared and submitted in digital format.

Graphics should be inserted into the main body whenever possible. Please see Appendix 2 for additional information.

Any graphic (figure chart, scheme, or equation) that has appeared in an earlier publication should include a [credit line](#) citing the original source. Authors are responsible for [obtaining written permission](#) to re-use this material.

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Prior Publication Policy

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Editorial Policies

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- Proposed title
- Corresponding author names, affiliations, websites and number of potential coauthors
- Comments addressing the following questions: **Why this topic?** Is this subject of interest to a broad range of materials researchers? **Why now?** Does the topic address a current question at the frontiers of research in materials? Has the topic been overly reported in recent literature? **Why these authors?** Has this group of authors made substantial contributions to the field? Do the authors have a unique perspective? What is the stage of career of the lead or corresponding authors?
- A short (~400-word) description of the focused topic. Please bear in mind that an Account is not a comprehensive review nor a mini-review but rather a concise summary and analysis of a topic in which the author is an expert. Ideally, this description might be a draft of the Conspectus (see author guide for more detail) and be accompanied by an informative graphic. Alternatively, it can be a list of bullet points describing the key messages the Account intends to deliver.
- A list of up to 10 lead references that might form the foundation of the final manuscript. Please list all authors and include the title of each reference. Typically, these are ones from the author's own laboratory, but others may be included. It will be helpful to briefly explain (1-2 sentences) the relevance of these references to the proposed Account.
- Notes about recent reviews on this topic written by the submitting authors or others and how the proposed Account would differ in focus.

Authors are encouraged to use the Proposal template for preparing proposals, but it is not required.

- [Proposal Template](#) [Microsoft Word for Windows]

Submission of supporting information is not required. However, if the authors wish to upload additional materials, such as a key unpublished manuscript that might help inform the editorial board, it may be uploaded in PDF format as supporting information.

Preparation of Manuscripts

Preparation of Copy

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Empirical and structural formulas and mathematical and chemical equations should be arranged to fill adequately the width of a single column. Avoid complicated superscripts and subscripts, and use fractional exponents instead of root signs. Structural formulas should be submitted as graphics and should fill space economically, using bonds and arrows vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, whenever possible. Do not use chemical structures when a simple formula will suffice, e.g., $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CONH}_2$.

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References must include article titles. References and all notes regardless of their nature (except those in tables) should be numbered in one consecutive series. Use the superscript number corresponding to the original reference to avoid repetition of references. Reference numbers in the text should be prepared as superscripts without parentheses, and in the references and notes section following the text, the reference numbers should be formatted as Arabic numerals on baseline as shown in the examples 1–4. Do not include bibliographic references to classified documents and reports or to unpublished material not generally available to the scientific public. The accuracy of the references is the responsibility of the author. Because hyperlinks are now added to many references in the Web edition of the journal, reference accuracy is critical.

Bibliographic references should be arranged and punctuated as shown:

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Include the initials of authors, article title, and the journal abbreviation used in the Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (CASSI) 1907–2004 Cumulative and its supplements. Inclusive pagination as indicated in example 1 is required.

References to all other publications should include author(s), title, volume, publisher, address, date of publication, and pages, thus:

3. Smith, A. B. *Textbook of Organic Chemistry*; D. C. Jones: New York, 1961; pp 123–126.

4. Wawzonek, S. Potentiometry: Oxidation–Reduction Potentials. In *Techniques of Chemistry*; Weissburger, A., Rossiter, B. W., Eds.; Wiley-Interscience: New York, 1971; Vol. IIA, Chapter 1.

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Biographical Information should be submitted for each author and include universities attended and degrees obtained, principal professional posts held, present title, a line or two about other major research interests, and anything else professionally relevant that is of special interest. This information must be included with the manuscript submission. Biographical information is required for Accounts and may be included for some types of Viewpoints. Authors are encouraged to discuss the format with the editors.

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- Color or black and white (grayscale) photos are ok.
- Various file formats can be used. .tif., .pdf, .eps are preferred..tif and .eps files are used directly. Other formats are converted to .tif format.Color .tif files should have 300 dpi resolution. Grayscale .tif files should have 600 dpi resolution.

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Manuscript Review

All manuscripts, whether specifically solicited by the Editor-in-Chief or invited in response to a proposal, are sent to competent readers for criticism both of scientific content and of readability.

Although the Editor-in-Chief is fully responsible for decisions about the manuscript, the author is invited and encouraged to recommend appropriate reviewers for his or her work at the time of submission. The name of a reviewer will not be disclosed to an author without the reviewer's consent.

Antiredundancy

Articles are not acceptable if they substantially duplicate a contemporary review or book chapter on the same subject by the same author, unless (a) the review or book is far more comprehensive than the Account or (b) the point of view is wholly different (for example, if one article emphasizes synthesis and another problems of structure). The author is expected to inform the Editor-in-Chief of the existence of other reviews or book chapters on the same subject recently published or

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Please suggest 5-6 reviewers. Authors are encouraged to avoid suggesting reviewers from the authors' institutions. Do not suggest reviewers who may have a [real or perceived conflict of interest](#). Whenever possible, suggest academic email addresses rather than personal email addresses.

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Retractions

Articles may be retracted for scientific or ethical reasons and may be requested by the article author(s) or by the journal Editor(s), but are ultimately published at the discretion of the Editor. Articles that contain seriously flawed or erroneous data such that their findings and conclusions cannot be relied upon may be retracted in order to correct the scientific record. When an article is retracted, a notice of Retraction will be published containing information about the reason for the Retraction. The originally published article will remain online except in extraordinary circumstances (e.g. where deemed legally necessary, or if the availability of the published content poses public health risks).

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Appendix 1: PREPARING FOR SUBMISSION

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Appendix 2: Preparing Graphics

Resolution

Digital graphics pasted into manuscripts should have the following minimum resolutions:

- Black and white line art, 1200 dpi
- Grayscale art, 600 dpi
- Color art, 300 dpi

Size

Graphics must fit a one- or two-column format. Single-column graphics can be sized up to 240 points wide (3.33 in.) and double-column graphics must be sized between 300 and 504 points (4.167 in. and 7 in.). The maximum depth for all graphics is 660 points (9.167 in.) including the caption (allow 12 pts. For each line of caption text). Lettering should be no smaller than 4.5 points in the final published format. The text should be legible when the graphic is viewed full-size. Helvetica or Arial fonts work well for lettering. Lines should be no thinner than 0.5 point.

Color

Color may be used to enhance the clarity of complex structures, figures, spectra, and schemes, etc., and color reproduction of graphics is provided at no additional cost to the author. Graphics intended to appear in black and white or grayscale should not be submitted in color.

Type of Graphics

Table of Contents (TOC)/Abstract Graphic

Consult the Guidelines for [Table of Contents/Abstract Graphics](#) for specifications.

Our team of subject-matter experts and graphical designers can also help generate a compelling TOC graphic to convey your key findings. Learn more about our [Graphical Abstract service](#).

Figures

A caption giving the figure number and a brief description must be included below each figure. The caption should be understandable without reference to the text. It is preferable to place any key to symbols used in the artwork itself, not in the caption. Ensure that any symbols and abbreviations used in the text agree with those in the artwork.

Charts

Charts (groups of structures that do not show reactions) may have a brief caption describing their contents.

Tables

Each table must have a brief (one phrase or sentence) title that describes the contents. The title should be understandable without reference to the text. Details should be put in footnotes, not in the title. Tables should be used when the data cannot be presented clearly in the narrative, when many numbers must be presented, or when more meaningful inter-relationships can be conveyed by the tabular format. Tables should supplement, not duplicate, information presented in the text and figures. Tables should be simple and concise.

Schemes

Each scheme (sequences of reactions) may have a brief caption describing its contents.

Chemical Structures

Chemical structures should be produced with the use of a drawing program such as ChemDraw.

Cover Art

Accounts of Materials Research authors are encouraged to submit images to be considered for use on the journal's front cover or [Supplementary Covers](#) at the time of the submission of their revised manuscript. If your article is accepted for publication, your suggestion may also be selected for use on one of the journal's covers. Images chosen for the front cover will be published at no cost to the author. If your art is selected for front cover, ACS will send you information about how to request one complimentary 18" by 24" printed poster featuring your work.

Cover image submissions should be colorful and visually engaging, with minimal text. The cover image should not resemble a graphical abstract or data figure, but rather should be an attractive, chemically relevant illustration representative of the manuscript.

Image files should be submitted as TIF, JPG, PNG or EPS files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi for pixel-based images. Images should be 8.19 in. x 10 in. (or 20.9 cm x 25.4 cm). Please note that the journal title will cover the top 2 in. (5.08 cm) and a color bar covers the left 1.75" (4.45 cm) of the image. Authors should submit the cover image, along with a short, clear legend explaining the image, as supplementary files to ACS Paragon Plus with their revised manuscript.

If you wish to be considered only for the front cover, and not a paid supplementary cover, please respond NO accordingly to the Journal Covers question in ACS Paragon Plus. For more information on the Supplementary Covers program, please see [this webpage](#). All art submitted for consideration for a supplementary cover will also be considered for a front cover.

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