

Management Consulting Journal (MCJ) - author guidelines

V6 November 2025

1. Journal focus and editorial policy

'Devoted to insight and debate on the management consulting sector and the practice of management consulting'

The Management Consulting Journal is published twice per year. It focuses on insight into the management consulting sector and management consulting practice. The issues it covers should have practical value and help build a bridge between theory and practice. The Journal encourages submissions from established academics and also new writers who have not previously written for a journal.

The Journal publishes full papers (4,000 to 8,000 words) and short articles (1,000 to 2,500 words).

2. All papers

Title

This should be no longer than 15 words. It should give the reader a good idea of the subject.

Abstract

We require a concise abstract for cataloguing and linking with academic search databases. The abstract should summarise your paper as clearly as possible, without jargon, abbreviations, links or references. It should be no longer than 150 words.

Author(s)

State the author(s) and any affiliations in the way you would like it to appear in the Journal.

3. Full papers (4,000 – 8,000 words)

Management Consulting Journal publishes full papers 4,000 to 8,000 words in length. Papers must not have been previously published, nor be in submission to any other journal (printed or electronic).

Content guidelines

- Papers should say something original about management consulting, either the role and practice of consulting or the management consulting industry/profession.
- It is important your paper has a main message and is clear on what it is saying.
- It is also important that your paper connects with what is already known on the subject, i.e. it integrates with current thinking, existing literature and referenced sources.
- The paper's main message needs to have a strong foundation, your research or study methodology (how you came up with your findings/views) should be sufficiently well described that a capable researcher could replicate your study.
- It is important your paper follows a clear logic and there is a 'storyline' that builds into any recommendations or conclusions you make.
- We use the Harvard system for referencing. Please follow Harvard referencing guidelines.

4. Short articles (1,000 – 2,500 words)

The Journal will also include some 'consulting shorts' of between 1,000 and 2,500 words. Consulting shorts are, for example, for short articles on work in progress or specific innovations and experiments which, although not yet fully trialled, may be of interest to consultants. A short article may lead to fuller articles in due course or may simply report points of interest which would not be suitable for a longer article.

Each 'short' should have an original main message, be connected to existing literature/current thinking and supported by the relevant references.

5. Submission format and style (all papers)

Please submit in MSWord (not pdf). Email papers for the attention of Simon Haslam to editor@managementconsultingjournal.com and copied to simon@researching.co.uk.

Format of articles

- Single line spacing
- A4, portrait orientation, with standard margins, align text to the left
- Font – black only (no colour), please use Arial size 12 or similar.
- In general, avoid any but the most basic formatting

Charts, tables, images and figures

- Include these within the text, placed where you want them to appear. Use a logical numbering sequence.
- Charts that originate in Excel need to be recreated by our designer, so please use them sparingly to illustrate key issues.
- Images such as photos must be saved at no less than 100 dpi resolution before you insert them in the document (and you are responsible for securing/acknowledging copyright of images)

Verbatim quotes

Identify direct or paraphrased speech by ‘single quotes’. Use quotations within your scope of confidentiality and permission.

Footnotes - use these sparingly and keep them short.

References

The Journal uses the Harvard system, please present references in accordance with the Harvard system guidelines.

6. Editorial process

All communication between authors and the Journal is channelled through the editor. Email editor@managementconsultingjournal.com and copied to simon@researching.co.uk.

Submissions will be peer reviewed by two members of the editorial board. The peer review process could take up to four weeks and the Journal’s editor will reply to authors with the decision about publication. The possible outcomes of the editorial process are:

- **Accepted**, without need for significant revision. Please note that the paper or article may need minor style changes and you may receive queries – please answer these without delay to avoid holding up the process.
- **Needs revision**. We will provide details of how the paper or article could be strengthened with a view to future publication.

- **Not accepted.** We will give reasons.

7. Additional information

Payment

The Management Consulting Journal does not pay for papers or articles, or carry paid for content.

Journal content

The Journal's content is open access and free of charge to readers. The Journal is published twice per year by the consulting firm FMR Research Ltd. Our academic publisher is Paradigm Reference Global. All published papers and articles plus all volumes of the Journal are available on the Journal's two websites.

managementconsultingjournal.com

reference-global.com/journal/MCJ

In addition, the editions of the Journal are available on the websites of the International Council of Management Consulting Institutes (ICMCI) and the UK Institute of Consulting.

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Governance

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