

Instructions to Authors

The Journal of the Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction is a peer reviewed forensic journal that will accept original material that relates to crime scene reconstruction or are deemed of interest to the members of the Association. Articles generally fall into one of the following categories:

Original Article: Manuscripts submitted for peer review that provide original information on techniques, methods, or theory of crime scene reconstruction, original research, case studies, or aspects of forensic study as they contribute to reconstruction. Papers should be approximately 1000 words or more in length.

Forensic Workshop: Manuscripts for brief papers submitted for peer review that describe practical methods, equipment tutorials, or practical scene processing tips that relate to forensic study or aspects of crime scene reconstruction. Unlike original articles, Forensic Workshop articles can describe non-original topics that serve an educational role for the membership.

Research/Technical Notes: These are very short articles that document some aspect of research or unusual observation at a crime scene that contributes value to the field. These papers generally involve a topic that is too brief to yield a full-sized article.

Letters: Brief communications regarding previously published work, the business of the association, book reviews, or general information relating to crime scene reconstruction. These articles are not peer reviewed, but are printed at the discretion of the Editor.

Original material is defined as work that has not been previously published and is not under consideration for publication by another publication. Submission of original material to the Journal implies that it is original material and grants publication rights to the Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction (ACSR), if approved.

All manuscripts should include a title, author's name, abstract of 150 words or less, the main body of the manuscript, and references. The abstract is a brief summary of the key points of the article. Authors are encouraged to also include a list of suggested keywords, however, the final list of keywords is at the discretion of the Editor.

The body of the manuscript should be organized in a logical flow that best communicates the material. For original research this should include a statement of the purpose of the research, hypothesis, materials, procedures, results, and conclusions. Original research should be described in sufficient detail to allow others to repeat the experiment to verify results. However, peer review does not require actual repetition of the experiment.

Peer Review Process

Peer review and editorial review of manuscripts is generally completed within three months of submission. The review process involves the submission of a redacted manuscript to at least three peer-reviewers selected by the Editor who are qualified to review the subject matter of the manuscript. The Editor maintains an Editorial Review Board to perform most reviews, but also retains the right to use reviewers who are not on this list for the purpose of avoiding conflicts of interest, seeking specific areas of expertise, or evaluation of new reviewers. In all cases the Editor will endeavor to maintain the anonymity of the author and the reviewers. Submissions written by the Editor will require the assignment of an acting-Editor who will carry out the entire review and acceptance process in the same manner.

Acceptance of material for publication occurs only after the review process is completed and appropriate revisions have been made and accepted by the author. The final acceptance and timing of the publication is at the discretion of the Editor. The primary author must include his or her full name, affiliation, contact address, phone number, or e-mail with the submitted manuscript.

Reprint of Articles

The Journal will permit reprinting of articles based upon the wishes of the author. Such permission may be expressed through a Creative Commons licensing (see below), however, in cases where all rights are reserved or the article will be altered in some way in the new publication, the author will have to agree to the reprint in writing to the Editor. The Editor will in turn provide written authorization to the publication requesting the reprint. E-mails are accepted as written communication when received from a known e-mail address.

In some cases, the Journal may re-print an article that has been previously published in another publication. In such cases, the submitting author must include written authorization from the original publication's editor giving permission to reprint the article. The letter must contain the original article citation and author information. Final discretion regarding reprinting articles resides with the Editor.

Copyright and Access

Authors can choose from the following two options for publication of their article. In either case, the author retains copyright with unrestricted publication rights granted to the Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction.

1. Not published for public access. This is the more restrictive access option and is intended for articles that are of a sensitive subject matter that is not appropriate public access. However, an author can also choose this option if he is uncomfortable with option 2.
2. Open Access publication (available to the public free of charge) distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution- Noncommercial-No Derivative Works License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>) which permits noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction, provided the original work is properly cited and is not altered, transformed, or built upon.

Format for Submissions

The Journal will only accept electronic submissions for publication. Files larger than 5MB should be submitted on a CD. Smaller submissions can be sent via e-mail to the Editor. Electronic submissions should be written in 12pt. font and saved in Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, or generic word processing format (e.g. DOC, DOCX, WPD, or TXT).

Table and Charts

Tables and Charts should be submitted as separate files. Accepted formats include DOC, DOCX, and XCL.

Images

Images should be submitted in the highest available resolution and already cropped, if appropriate. The Editor will resize the image to a size and resolution appropriate for the article. Accepted file formats include TIF, JPG, PSD, and IA. The image files should be submitted separate from the article since the article will need to be formatted for the layout of the Journal and embedded images complicate that process.

Multimedia Content

The Journal now accepts multimedia content such as audio and video files that can be embedded and played within the PDF version of the Journal, linked through the article for web viewing, or provided as supplemental material (see below). However, the ACSR Journal is still designed as a printable publication, so the article must contain sufficient text, photographs, and/or other static images to support the article. Multimedia content is encouraged, but is to be treated as bonus content for those viewing the electronic version. Accepted audio file formats are WAV, AIF, and AU. Accepted video format are QuickTime, AVI, MPEG, and SWF.

Supplemental Material

Authors may also submitted supplemental material that enhances the content of the article. This material will be made available on the website as a download associated with the article.

Units of Measurement

In scientific fields throughout the world, including the United States, the standard measurement system is the metric system. As a journal of forensic science for an international organization it is only appropriate that all measurements in submitted articles be provided in either metric units or in English units with the metric conversion in parentheses.

Citation of References

References should be annotated in the order mentioned with a numeral in brackets. A list of references will then be provided at the end of the article showing the full citations in order of appearance in the text. Please use the CSE style for all citations. The following are a couple example citations in CSE style.

Journal Article

Format: Author(s). Article title. Journal title. Date;volume(issue);pagination.

Example: Smith AM, Doe J, Anderson CW. Reproducing an Unusual Bloodstain Pattern. *J Assoc Crime Scene Reconstr.* 2011;15(4):94-99.

Book

Format: Author(s). Title. Edition. Place of publication: publisher; date.

Example: Smith AM, Anderson CW. Crime Scene Reconstruction. Baton Rouge: ABC Publishing; 2011.

Send submissions to:

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Submission of a manuscript implies acceptance of these terms.