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MMU Psychology Journal (Dissertations) UK

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your interest in the MMU Psychology Journal (Dissertations) UK. This initiative is being introduced in order to afford students of Psychology the opportunity to have their work recognised by publication.

All UK Departments of Psychology have been invited to submit (up to) two final-year undergraduate dissertations to the MMU Journal of Psychology (Dissertations) UK. The submissions should normally be the two highest-scoring pieces of work produced by students completing their degree at the end of the current (2015 – 2016) academic year. Approximately 50 UK Psychology Departments have participated since the first edition appeared in September 2010.

This journal is published electronically on the public domain of the MMU web site at:

<http://e-space.mmu.ac.uk/e-space/handle/2173/560869>

Provided in this document are further particulars. These are provided as itemised (numbered) sections for ease of reference. Hopefully all the necessary details are covered, but if you have any questions (or comments), do please send an email to Andy Bell at: A.Bell@mmu.ac.uk

(1) **The issue of ownership:** several participating UK Psychology Departments raised concerns regarding 'ownership' of materials submitted to the MMU Psychology Journal (Dissertations) UK. (Hereafter referred to as the MMU journal). They pointed out that students' work is sometimes (eventually) published in more

'established' (high profile) journals. Regarding any work published by the MMU journal, ownership (copyright) will remain with the submitting university. Hence submitting universities will have the right to go on to publish the submitted work elsewhere – provided, of course, that the 'target' journal allows previous publication by the MMU.

(2) **Definition of the term 'dissertation'**: The term 'dissertation' here refers to the empirically-based research that students of Psychology normally complete during their final year of undergraduate studies. This research could be based on qualitative; quantitative or mixed methods approaches. Some Psychology Departments (including the MMU) have moved away from the traditional dissertation and now require students to produce work in a format more in line with the type of product that would be offered for publication in journals. At the MMU, for example, the term 'dissertation' has been replaced by the term 'journal report'.

(3) **Submission deadline**: UK universities are invited to submit up to two students' dissertations by 01 August 2016. The target publication for work submitted by this date is October (possibly November) 2016.

(4) **Format of submissions**: whilst this may appear rather 'prescriptive' please note that (in order to achieve a uniform style for the journal) the following format must be adhered to. You are asked to make every effort to conform to these prescriptions:

- Each piece of work to be submitted as one Word document as an email attachment to A.Bell@mmu.ac.uk
- Entire work in justified text (Arial, font 12). The only exception here is that the key words (provided just after the Abstract) will be in font size 8. One blank space between paragraphs.
- Entire work single-spaced. (1 inch margin to the right and 1 inch margin to the left).
- Headings (and any sub-headings) in bold. Headings should not be 'centred' on the page.
- No Appendices to be added.
- Pages to be numbered in the same style as this document. Numbering to start at page 1 on the very first page of the submitted work. Just in case you are

not familiar with how to do this, please refer to page 4 of the Appendix provided as a separate file/document alongside this letter.

- Page 1 is to be presented as indicated in the example provided in the Appendix. You are encouraged to provide your own university's logo in the top-right corner – as in the example provided here. (Refer to page 1 of the Appendix).
- Page 2 is to provide the Abstract – you are asked to refer to the attached example and to edit it accordingly. (Refer to page 2 of the Appendix).
- For an itemised summary of the details regarding the formatting of pages 1 and 2, please refer to page 3 of the Appendix.
- Tables and figures should be presented as indicated on page 5 of the Appendix.
- Only the author's name should be indicated. As this is an opportunity for students to have their work recognised, the supervisor's name should not be indicated as a co-author. The name of the supervisor should appear at the bottom-left of page 1 of submitted work.
- References section to be provided at the end of the submitted work. Single-spaced with one space between each reference. An example is provided at the very end of page 4 of the Appendix. Harvard or APA (BPS) style is acceptable.
- With regards to work submitted that is founded on quantitative methods (and data analysis) the Results section must be presented according to the prescriptions outlined by the BPS. (In fact, the BPS refers psychologists to the APA conventions). Below are two useful web-links relating to the APA conventions:

<http://web.psych.washington.edu/writingcenter/writingguides/pdf/stats.pdf>

<http://www.ilstu.edu/~jkhahn/apastats.html>

(5) **Selection criteria and editorial process:** all work must be submitted (a) with the student's permission and (b) after minor corrections have been made in terms of eliminating avoidable spelling mistakes, etc. Other than such minor corrections, it is intended that students' work will be published as presented for assessment at his/her university. Needless to add, individuals visiting the site will be alerted to the fact that

minor errors may possibly be present in work published because it is published as presented for assessment purposes.

As we are inviting the two best pieces of work from your Department's undergraduate cohort, all submitted work will be accepted for publication. No work will be rejected.

Submissions must be sent via email as a Word document. This will allow any necessary minor corrections to be made by the editorial team at the MMU. You will not be alerted to any corrections because they will be limited to dealing only with formatting errors that may have 'crept in', obvious typos, etc. Prior to publication on the web all work will be converted into 'locked down' pdf files. However, individuals visiting the website will be able to print off published articles.

The 'home' (front) page of the MMU journal web site will provide a statement pointing out that, whilst appendices might be referred to in published work, they will not be available to the reader.

(6) **Submission details:** we do hope that your university will be able to participate. You are encouraged to submit up to two dissertations by 01 August 2016. If submitting two dissertations, please submit these as two separate email attachments. Each piece of work must be submitted as just one Word file. When submitting it would be very helpful if the file name (for each piece of work) indicated the (a) name of the author (surname first followed by first name in brackets); (b) year of submission; (c) name of submitting university (in brackets) and (d) whether the work would be best described as being based on quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods. For example:

Searle (John) 2012 (Nottingham) Quantitative.doc

Receipt of submitted work will be acknowledged (via email) within three working days.

It is intended that the MMU journal will continue to run indefinitely and the Heads of Department of participating universities will be contacted each year with updates of the journal's progress – and, of course, with an invitation to participate further.

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An investigation into the factorial structure of a German version of Goldberg's 'big-five' factor markers

Nancy Borngraeber

Supervised by: Andy Bell

March 2010

An investigation into the factorial structure of a German version of Goldberg's 'big-five' factor markers

ABSTRACT

Previous studies have suggested the cross-cultural generalisability of a five-factor structure for personality traits. In this article, the utility of a translated version of the 50-item IPIP Big-Five factor markers was investigated in identifying five broad personality dimensions in a German context. A sample of German-speaking participants ($N = 236$) used the translated German version of the 50-item IPIP Big-five factor markers to describe themselves. Exploratory Factor Analysis demonstrated a five-factor structure that was nearly identical to the American structure. The reliabilities of the five factors were high except for the measure of Openness which was slightly lower but within acceptable limits. The homogeneity of the scales was analysed using confirmatory factor analysis to test the fit of a single-factor model. All scales were homogeneous with all of the items on each scale tapping a single factor. In line with previous research, the results of this study supported the generalisability of the five-factor IPIP structure in a German context. However, the analysis highlighted a number of items which needed to be discarded and should be revised to improve scale development of this measure.

KEY WORDS:	PERSONALITY	SCALE DEVELOPMENT	FIVE-FACTOR MODEL	IPIP	GERMAN
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Specific instructions regarding the format of pages 1 and 2

Page 1

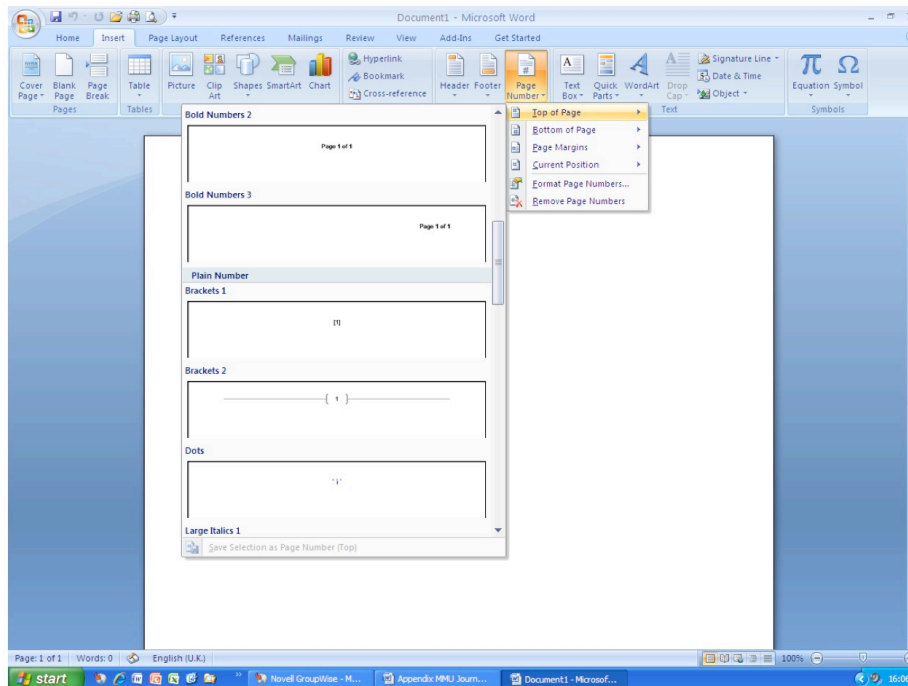
1. Page 1 – numbered as indicated
2. You are encouraged to provide your university's logo in the top-right corner of page 1, approximately the same size as in this example.
3. At approximately the same position as in the example, provide the title in justified text. Ensure that the words are in lower case – apart from the first word and wherever necessary (as in the example provided where the words German and Goldberg appear in upper case). Also ensure that the words are NOT in bold or italics. The font must be Arial size 12 and there should be NO full stop after the journal title.
4. Bottom-left of the page: supervisor's name (optional).
5. Bottom-right: month and year of submission by the student for assessment.

Page 2

1. Provide the title at approximately the same position as in page 2 of the Appendix. Otherwise, instructions are the same as provided at point 3 in the section above.
2. Abstract: The suggested maximum word length is 200 words. This should be presented in justified text. Please use (edit) the example provided to produce your own Abstract section.
3. Key words: please provide up to five key words. Font size 8 required.

Instructions regarding page numbering:

- ▶ Insert
- ▶ Page Number
- ▶ Top of Page
- ▶ [scroll down to the option:] Bold Numbers 3 [Page 1 of 1] and
- ▶ Click into that box



Example of how references are to be presented:

Schmitt, D. P., Allik, J., McCrae, R. R., & Benet-Martinez, V. (2007). The geographic distribution of Big Five personality traits: Patterns and profiles of human self-description across 56 nations. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 38, 173-212.

Example of format required for tables:

Table 1
Means and standard deviations for all groups for verbal fluency

	Aged 4		Aged 7	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Boys	5.06	1.73	14.94	1.43
Girls	10.12	2.26	14.00	1.27

Note: values are presented to two decimal places; *M* and *SD* thus in italics; three horizontal lines only (no grid within the table of values); tables numbered and title 'stands alone' to describe exactly what the table represents – these details appear above the table itself.

Example of format required for figures:

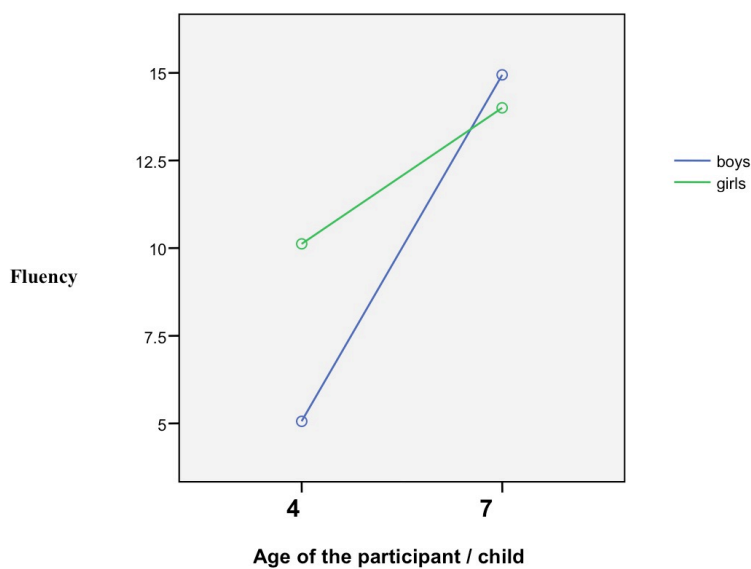


Figure 1: Plots illustrating the interaction between the two independent variables

Note: variables clearly labelled; figures numbered and title 'stands alone' to describe exactly what the figure represents – these details appear below the table itself.

END