



Clarifying the Distinction Between Review Articles and Survey Research

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ABSTRACT

Extensive Reviews continues to receive numerous submissions that fall outside its publication scope, particularly in the form of survey research, case studies, and other empirical formats submitted as review articles. As the managing editor, I have observed that many authors misunderstand the fundamental differences between a review article and a survey article. This editorial seeks to clarify the conceptual and methodological distinctions between review articles and survey research, and to restate the journal's scope for acceptable submissions. I intend to help authors better understand what constitutes a review article and encourage contributions that align with the journal's scope, namely, the publication of in-depth, critical, and literature-based scholarly reviews. Clear understanding of article types not only supports the integrity of the journal but also enhances the efficiency of the peer review process. I hope this clarification will improve submission quality and promote a better understanding of article types within academic publishing.

Keywords: Review Articles, Survey Research, Survey Article

1 Introduction

As the managing editor, I frequently encounter manuscript submissions that do not align with the journal's stated scope. The most common issues arise when authors submit survey-based research articles, case studies, or interview-based manuscripts under the assumption that these are suitable as review articles. This persistent misunderstanding suggests a need to more clear description that what constitutes a review article and how it differs from other forms of scholarly writing, particularly survey research, which is often confused with literature reviews due to the overlapping use of the word "survey". While the term "survey" in everyday language may suggest a broad overview or general review, within scholarly publishing it has a much more specific meaning, often associated with original research involving questionnaires or interviews. It is my intention to help authors better understand the journal's expectations and guide them toward more suitable publication choices. At *Extensive Reviews*, manuscripts are selected based on academic merit and undergo a standard peer-review process to ensure quality and relevance, in line with best practices previously discussed in my editorial on peer review [1]. This editorial aims to address this misunderstanding by clearly outlining the types of submissions accepted by *Extensive Reviews*, explaining the critical differences between review articles and survey research, and encouraging authors to submit work that aligns with the journal's scholarly focus.

2 Defining the Review Article

A review article is a scholarly work that synthesizes, critiques, and evaluates the existing body of literature on a specific topic [2]. It does not present new experimental or survey data but instead offers a comprehensive and critical overview of past research with new insight or interpretation on already published data. A review article also highlights trends, identifies gaps in the literature, evaluates methodological and theoretical contributions, and proposes directions for future research. Ideally, a well-developed review article will not only summarize existing findings but will also offer new perspectives, organize the literature in meaningful ways, and propose directions for future research.



At *Extensive Reviews*, we accept only full-length review articles that demonstrate deep engagement with the literature and make a meaningful scholarly contribution. These articles must be grounded in a broad and diverse selection of peer-reviewed literature, reflecting a high standard of academic maturity. These articles must go beyond summarization; they should reflect analytical depth and a structured synthesis that offers readers new insights into the subject matter. We expect authors to provide interpretative insight and scholarly critique that enhances understanding within their field.

3 Book Reviews in *Extensive Reviews*

In addition to full-length review articles, we also consider book reviews that critically evaluate recently published scholarly books. A book review in our journal should go beyond a basic summary and engage with the book's arguments, structure, relevance, and impact on the field. Authors submitting book reviews are expected to provide thoughtful, balanced, and scholarly assessments that contribute to the academic discourse. Authors should approach book reviews with the same level of critical thinking and analytical rigor as they would a literature review, situating the book within the context of existing scholarship.

4 Survey Research and Survey Article Misunderstanding

One of the most persistent sources of confusion is the misinterpretation of the word “survey.” In academic publishing, the term “survey article” refers to a specific type of empirical research paper that presents findings based on primary data collection, typically through questionnaires, polls, or interviews. These articles involve statistical analysis and are grounded in methodologies that capture responses from defined populations. This is significantly different from a review article, which is based on existing, published literature rather than newly gathered data. Survey research is an important part of scholarly inquiry, but it belongs to journals that accept survey articles as a formal article type. *Extensive Reviews* does not publish such research. Authors who submit empirical survey studies to this journal may be under the impression that any article offering a broad view of a subject qualifies as a review, but this is not the case in scholarly publishing. The goals, structures, and evidentiary bases of survey articles and review articles are fundamentally different. The survey articles involve research design, data collection, statistical analysis, and interpretation of findings based on responses from participants. It is important to emphasize that survey research is a form of original, data-driven research, and as such, belongs to journals that publish empirical articles, especially those that list "Survey Article" as an accepted article type. These are not review articles, even if the word “survey” is used in the title or description. At *Extensive Reviews*, we do not publish survey articles, regardless of the topic or quality of the research design. This includes studies based on structured questionnaires, opinion polls, interviews, or field investigations. Authors who submit such work are advised to seek publication in journals that specifically welcome empirical studies.

5 Case Studies and Mini-Reviews

Similarly, other article types such as case studies and mini-reviews are not suitable for publication in *Extensive Reviews*. Case studies typically focus on a single subject, organization, or event and involve direct data collection. Mini-reviews or short-format reviews, although sometimes useful, often lack the depth, comprehensiveness, and critical analysis expected in a full-length review article. We only accept full-length, detailed, and critical reviews. To maintain the academic integrity and focus of the journal, such submissions are routinely rejected during the initial editorial screening phase. Authors are encouraged to carefully read our scope & submission guidelines to ensure their work fits our criteria. By clarifying these distinctions, I hope to assist authors in making informed decisions about the suitability of their manuscripts for this journal.

6 Journal's Scope

Extensive Reviews is committed to publishing review articles that engage deeply with the literature and provide readers with thorough, critical, and well-organized overviews of current knowledge in specific academic

domains. As managing editor, I am committed to upholding the journal's focus on critical, literature-based synthesis. *Extensive Reviews* aims to publish in-depth review articles that contribute to deeper understanding by offering well-structured, analytical, and insightful assessments of existing research. We do not publish primary research, whether quantitative or qualitative, including studies based on surveys, interviews, or case-specific data. While these forms of articles are essential in their own way, they are simply not within the scope of *Extensive Reviews*. By maintaining this clear editorial boundary, we ensure that the journal remains a trusted source for in-depth reviews and remains distinct in its contribution to the academic community.

7 Conclusion

I urge authors to review their manuscripts carefully and assess whether they align with the scope of *Extensive Reviews*. Submissions must be either full-length review articles or book reviews. I respectfully request that authors do not submit survey research, case studies, or any manuscript based on original data collection, as these fall outside the scope of this journal. Survey research has its specific place in scholarly literature, but it should be submitted to journals that publish survey articles as an accepted article type. At *Extensive Reviews*, our focus is on critical synthesis, not empirical data collection. Understanding this distinction will help reduce desk rejections, improve the efficiency of the editorial process, and ensure that high-quality review articles continue to publish. These distinctions, though sometimes subtle, are crucial for maintaining the focus and integrity of the journal. Authors who wish to submit to *Extensive Reviews* are encouraged to ensure their manuscripts are comprehensive review articles or scholarly book reviews grounded entirely in secondary literature I look forward to receiving thoughtful, structured submissions that reflect critical reviews of the literature and advance understanding within their respective fields to advance scholarly dialogue.

8 Competing Interests

The author is the managing editor of AIJR Publisher.

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