

Pre-Submission Checklist

Essential

yes no

- ☒ ☐ states a purpose, problem, objective, or research question
- ☒ ☐ explains why the purpose, problem, etc. is important (motivation)
- ☒ ☐ defines jargon, acronyms and key concepts

- ☒ ☐ names the methodology or methodologies used
- ☒ ☐ methodology is appropriate (not necessarily optimal) for stated purpose, problem, etc.
- ☒ ☐ describes in detail what, where, when and how data were collected (see the [Sampling Supplement](#))
- ☒ ☐ describes in detail how the data were analyzed
- ☒ ☐ identifies the target population and defines the sampling strategy (see the [Sampling Supplement](#))
- ☒ ☐ describes how the questionnaire instrument was created
- ☒ ☐ describes how participants were selected or recruited (e.g. sampling frame, advertising, invitations, incentives)
- ☒ ☐ EITHER: measures constructs using (or adapting) validated scales
OR: analyzes construct validity (including content, convergent, discriminant and predictive validity) ex post
- ☒ ☐ describes how responses were managed/monitored, including contingency actions for non-responses and drop-outs
- ☒ ☐ explains handling of missing data (e.g. imputation, weighting adjustments, discarding)
- ☒ ☐ step-by-step, systematic, replicable description of data collection and analysis

- ☒ ☐ presents results
- ☒ ☐ results directly address research questions

- ☒ ☐ enumerates and validates assumptions of statistical tests used (if any)
- ☒ ☐ analyzes response rates
- ☒ ☐ discusses implications of the results
- ☒ ☐ discusses the study's limitations and threats to validity
- ☒ ☐ states clear conclusions which are linked to research question (or purpose, etc.) and supported by explicit evidence (data/observations) or arguments
- ☒ ☐ acknowledges generalizability threats; discusses how respondents may differ from target population
- ☒ ☐ contributes in some way to the collective body of knowledge
- ☒ ☐ language is not misleading; any grammatical problems do not substantially hinder understanding
- ☒ ☐ acknowledges and mitigates potential risks, harms, burdens or unintended consequences of the research (see the ethics supplements for [Engineering Research](#), [Human Participants](#), or [Secondary Data](#))
- ☒ ☐ visualizations/graphs are not misleading (see the [Information Visualization Supplement](#))
- ☒ ☐ provides the questionnaire instrument (as an appendix or supplementary materials)
- ☒ ☐ the questionnaire design matches the research aims and the target population

Desirable

- ☐ states epistemological stance
- ☒ summarizes and synthesizes a reasonable selection of related work (not every single relevant study)
- ☒ clearly describes relationship between contribution(s) and related work
- ☒ demonstrates appropriate statistical power (for quantitative work) or saturation (for qualitative work)
- ☒ describes reasonable attempts to investigate or mitigate limitations

- ☒ discusses study's realism, assumptions and sensitivity of the results to its realism/assumptions
- ☒ provides plausibly useful interpretations or recommendations for practice, education or research
- ☒ concise, precise, well-organized and easy-to-read presentation
- ☒ visualizations (e.g. graphs, diagrams, tables) advance the paper's arguments or contribution
- ☒ clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the researchers (i.e. who did what?)
- ☐ provides an auto-reflection or assessment of the authors' own work (e.g. lessons learned)
- ☐ publishes the study in two phases: a plan and the results of executing the plan (see the [Registered Reports Supplement](#))
- ☐ uses multiple raters, where philosophically appropriate, for making subjective judgments (see the [IRR/IRA Supplement](#))
- ☒ provides supplementary materials including instrument(s), code books, analysis scripts and dataset(s)
- ☒ characterizes the target population including demographic information (e.g. culture, knowledge)
- ☒ accounts for the principles of research ethics (e.g. informed consent, re-identification risk)
- ☒ explains and justifies instrument design and choice of scales (e.g. by research objectives or by analogy to similar studies)
- ☒ validates whether the instrument's items, layout, duration, and technology are appropriate (e.g. using pilots, test-retest, or expert and non-expert reviews)
- ☒ reports how the instrument has evolved through the validation process (if at all)
- ☒ analyzes response bias (quantitatively)
- ☐ includes attention-check items in the questionnaire, and excludes participants who fail one or more of these checks
- ☐ applies techniques for improving response rates (e.g. incentives, reminders, targeted advertising)
- ☐ applies an advanced method of handling missing data (e.g. Full Information Maximum Likelihood, Multiple Imputation, Bayesian

methods)

- ☒ discusses possible effects of incentives (e.g. on voluntariness, response rates, response bias) if used
- ☐ describes the stratification of the analysis (if stratified sampling is used)
- ☐ defines and estimates the size of the population strata (if applicable)
- ☒ clearly distinguishes evidence-based results from interpretations and speculation

Extraordinary

- ☐ applies two or more data collection or analysis strategies to the same research question (see the [Multimethodology Standard](#))
- ☐ approaches the same research question(s) from multiple epistemological perspectives
- ☐ innovates on research methodology while completing an empirical study
- ☐ provides feasibility check of the anticipated data analysis techniques
- ☐ reports on the scale validation in terms of dimensionality, reliability, and validity of measures
- ☐ longitudinal design in which each respondent participates two or more times

For more information, see:

- [General Standard](#)
- [Questionnaire Surveys](#)

Empirical Standards

Empirical Standards

Empirical standards for conducting and evaluating research in software engineering