

IMRAD

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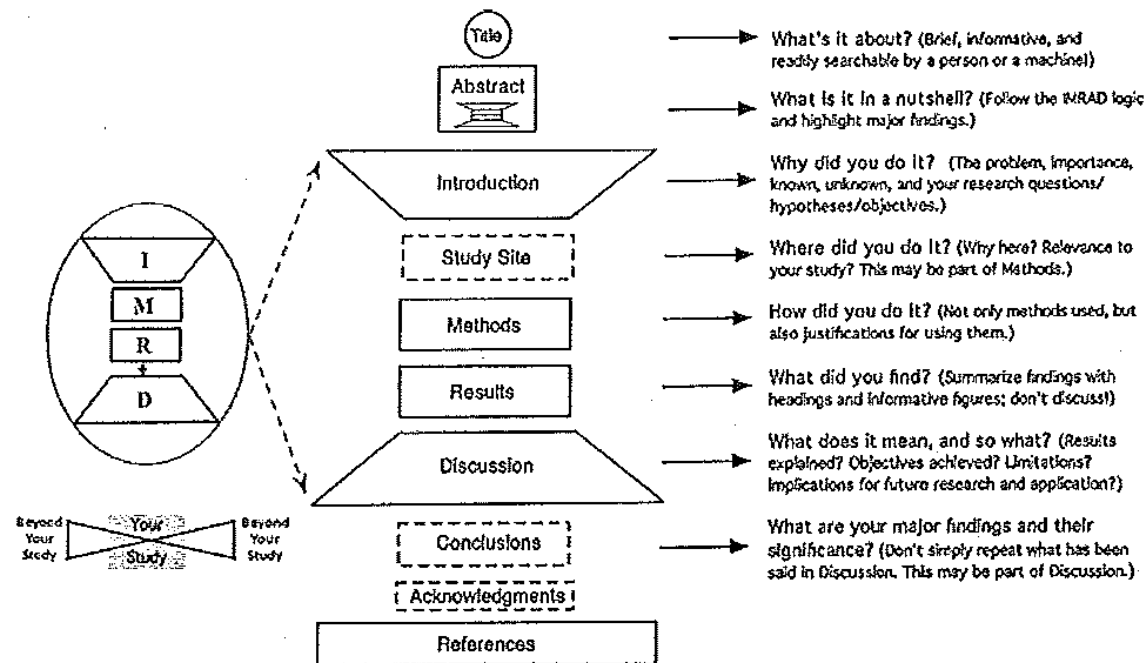


Fig. 1 Diagrammatic representation of the IMRAD structure of research papers (modified from a diagram at <http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/asu/writing/>). The basic structure of IMRAD has only four sections: introduction (I), methods (M), results (R), and discussion (D). Most original research papers today have 6–10 sections, with those in dotted-lined boxes being optional. The

shape of each section is meaningful as it suggests how that section should proceed in terms of specificity (focusing on your study) and generality (relating to studies by others). The size of each box is roughly proportional to the relative length of each section. The text with *arrows* indicates what main questions each section should address