Academic Writing Best Practices

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1 INTRO

Read this:

- Technical Writing Courses by Google

2 PREAMBLE

Use `acmart` document style and read their Best Practices. Start the document with this:

```
\documentclass[11pt,nonacm,natbib=false]{acmart}
\settopmatter{printfolios=false,printccs=false,printacmref=false}
\usepackage[maxnames=1,minnames=1,natbib=true,
  citestyle=authoryear,bibstyle=authoryear]{biblatex}
\addbibresource{main.bib}
```

Use `biblatex` and `biber`, here is why. Place your citations into `main.bib` file. Later in the document print the bibliography with `\printbibliography` command.

3 TYPOGRAPHY

Use single dash inside words, e.g.: `micro-service`. Use double "endash" between numbers, e.g.: `pages 15--28`. Use triple "emdash" between words avoiding spaces, e.g.: `We---since you ask---disagree`.

4 FONTS

Prefer `\emph` over `\textit`, here is why.

Avoid `\textbf` and all other font changing commands at all cost. Here is my rant on this very problem of technical people trying to make their products look visually attractive and failing miserably.

5 COLORS

Don't use them. Keep your documents strictly black-on-white.

6 CODE SNIPPETS

Use `ffcode` package, which allows writing both code snippets and fixed-width-font in-paragraph text blocks.

7 TABLES

Prefer a list over a table and a table over a graph.

Align text cells by left, center headings, and align cells with numbers by right; here is a more detailed discussion. Here is an example of a table properly formatted:

```
\begin{tabularx}{\columnwidth}
  {lr>{\raggedright\arraybackslash}X}
\toprule
Name & Age & Role \\
\midrule
Jeff & 35 & The creator of the main
algorithm and the owner of the code \\
Sarah & 38 & The architect of all
microservices and the developer of
Java modules \\
\bottomrule
\end{tabularx}
```

Name	Age	Role
Jeff	35	The creator of the main algorithm and the owner of the code
Sarah	38	The architect of all microservices and the developer of Java modules

Put all tables into `table` environment:

```
\begin{table}
.. content goes here
\caption{Caption}
\label{tab:my-table}
\end{table}
```

8 BULLETS

Prefer in-paragraph itemization over a vertical one and use `paralist`:

```
The following sources were analyzed:
\begin{inparaenum}[1)]
\item GitHub,
\item Google, and
\item Stack Overflow
\end{inparaenum}
```

The following sources were analyzed:
1) GitHub, 2) Google, and 3) Stack Overflow

In all itemization use Oxford comma, as in the list above before the "and" (provided there are more than two items).

9 CITATIONS

This code demonstrates how to use APA-style citations with natbib commands:

```
In \citeyear{west2004} it was
already mentioned
by \citeauthor{west2004}
that object-oriented design is
declarative~\citep{west2004}.
Later, \citet{eolang2021}
suggested a new programming
language in this paradigm.
```

In 2004 it was already mentioned by West that object-oriented design is declarative (West, 2004). Later, Bugayenko (2021) suggested a new programming language in this paradigm.

Bugayenko, Yegor (2021). *EOLANG and phi-calculus.*

West, David (2004). *Object Thinking*. Pearson Education.

Place `~` (tilde) symbol before `\citep` to avoid line breaks.

Prefer `\citet` over `\citep`, making references more obvious, as in the second sentence in the example above.

Don't type author names or reference titles directly, only use `\cite*` commands.

10 REFERENCES

The references in `.bib` file are usually imported from Google Scholar or similar sources. Unfortunately, such imports often contain typos and mistakes. Check the items printed in the "References" section for the following:

- Year is not printed twice;
- Dashes in titles are printed as `---` without surrounding spaces;
- All nouns and verbs are capitalized in all titles.