NAL-live

Concept for editorial management and running of NAL-live

as of 8 April 2019
NAL-live builds on *Nova Acta Leopoldina*, which has the tradition of being the oldest uninterrupted scientific publication in the world, with its roots going back to 1652.

The journal is now being transformed into a peer-reviewed open access journal published in English. It publishes review type articles under a “living document” model that allows for continuous updates in response to comments or progress in research fields.

Similar to software releases, there will be version cycles, representing either smaller updates, i.e. version 1.0, 1.1, 1.2 etc., or major revisions of full versions, i.e. version 2.0, 3.0 etc. Each full version, as well as scientific comments provided by others, will be citable.
Manuscripts can be solicited by editors or proposed by authors to an editor.
Standardized format for an initial submission

**Short title:** [should consist of up to 5 words; serves for citing the manuscript]

**Full title:** [standard descriptive title]

**Author(s):** [name(s)] [ORCID ID(s)]

**Address:** [address of professional affiliation(s)]

**Reviewing Editor:** [may have solicited the manuscript, or was contacted by authors before]

**Document elements:**

- Abstract (technical)
- Introduction
- Methodology for literature search on the topic,
- General text, including figures and tables – optional: hyperlinked elements
- Conclusion
- Statement on author contributions and conflicts of interest
- Acknowledgement, including funding sources
- Cited references
Additional elements for revised submission after review

- Non-technical Abstract [suitable for general public and translated into different languages]
- List of keywords
- Response to reviewer/editor recommendations; to be published with the recommendations
Example for the timeline of a version history after initial publication

Version 1.0

- ER1
- SC1
- rSC1.1
- rSC1.2
- rSC1.3
- rSC1.4
- rSC1.5

Version 1.1

- SC2
- rSC2.1
- rSC2.2

- NP1

- SC3

Each item hyperlinked, time axis scrollable

Version 1.1 should be written by the original authors. In case new authors come in, the new version should receive a new number.

ER: Error Correction
SC: Scientific Comment
rSC: response to SC
NP: New Publication
Online view of a document with comments

- Title/authors/addresses
- Non-technical abstract plus keywords
- Technical abstract
- Text

Original manuscript and comments are displayed in separate scrollable windows.

Each timeline entry hyperlinked to appear in the comment box below.
Document addition types and workflows

(all with consecutive numbering schemes)

ER: Error Correction
  to correct factual errors
  > submitted by author(s) or editor
  > only checked by editorial office

SC: Scientific Comment
  to comment on scientific contents
  > submitted by any registered person
  > has a standardized format
  > checked by editorial office for eligibility and added online with own doi
  > author(s), editor and last reviewer(s) are acknowledged and notified

rSC: response to Scientific Comment
  to respond to an SC
  > submitted by author(s) and/or editor and/or reviewers and/or other person
  > has a standardized format
  > checked by editorial office for eligibility and added online (with own doi?)
  > person(s) who submitted the original comment is (are) acknowledged and notified

NP: New Publication
  to alert to another and/or new publication that adds data to a discussed topic
  > submitted by author(s) of the other paper, or other person in reference to the respective paper
  > has a standardized format
  > checked by editorial office for eligibility and added online
  > author(s), editor and last reviewer(s) are acknowledged and notified

Comments become citable through the doi – hence authors can list them in their CVs.
Standardized format for SC: Scientific Comment

Scientific Comment on:
[title and version of original publication or previous comment]

Author(s): [name(s)] [ORCID ID(s), if applicable]

Address: [whenever eligible, address of professional affiliation, otherwise only city]

Conflict of interest: [chosen from standardized list]

Refers to: [line numbers in manuscript]

> Text can include figures and tables, new analyses of existing data, references
> Cannot include new data [see separate format for additional data]
Standardized format for rSC: response to Scientific Comment

response to Scientific Comment on:
[title and version of original publication associated comment(s)]

Author(s): [name(s)] [ORCID ID(s), if applicable]

Address: [whenever eligible, address of professional affiliation, otherwise only city]

Conflict of interest: [chosen from standardized list]

Refers to: [line numbers in comment(s)]

> Text can include figures and tables, new analyses of existing data, references
> Cannot include new data [see separate format for additional data]
New Publication in the context of:
[title and version of original publication]
Author(s): [name(s)] [ORCID ID(s)]
Address: [address of professional affiliation]
Conflict of interest: [chosen from standardized list]
Refers to: [line numbers in manuscript]
Reference: [provides full reference to published paper, plus link if possible]
> Text: Short explanation why the new publication is of relevance; if this leads to re-interpretation of statements in the original publication, a SC should be submitted in addition.

This is submitted by the authors of new publications on the topic to point to their new data or analyses.
Workflow for a living manuscript: Commenting phase

After version 1.0 has been published online

- **Error Correction (ER) submitted by author(s)**
  - Editorial office checks eligibility
  - Eligible
  - Directly online without DOI

- **New Publication (NP) submitted by author(s)**
  - Editorial office checks eligibility
  - Eligible
  - Directly online without DOI

- **Scientific Comment (SC) submitted by anyone**
  - Editorial office checks eligibility
  - Eligible
  - Reviewing Editor checks scientific content
  - Optionally consults
  - Reviewer

- **Author(s) of SC add(s) corrections**

- **Original author(s)**
  - Editorial office checks response
  - Suitable
  - Directly online with DOI
  - Original author(s) reply to comments

- **Online publication of V1.1 with DOI**
Once a publication has received a number of scientific comments, a new version can be initiated by the editorial office (or on request by the original authors).