### Guidelines to Authors

LUANAR Research Journal (LURJ) is a biannual, double-blinded peer-reviewed, open-access journal that publishes original research papers, short communications and review papers on the following subject areas: animal production and veterinary sciences; aquaculture and fisheries sciences; bio-resources systems, engineering, and technology; biotechnology; crop sciences; agricultural and development economics, agribusiness, extension, and rural development; natural resources, energy, and climate change; health, nutrition and food science, cross-cutting issues and any other related areas

### 1.0 Submission of Manuscripts

#### 1.1 Types of articles

**Original research articles:** These should describe new and carefully confirmed findings. Experimental procedures should be given in sufficient detail so that others can reproduce the results. The length of a full paper should be the minimum required to describe and interpret the work clearly, most preferably a minimum of 4-8 double-spaced printed pages) and not exceeding 15 pages maximum or 9500 words maximum.

**Short communications:** Short communications present preliminary but significant research results. These are results of complete small investigations or details of new models or hypotheses, innovative methods, techniques, or apparatus. The style of the main sections need not conform to that of full-length paper. Short communications are 2 to 4 double-spaced printed pages with a maximum of 5200 words.

**Reviews:** Submissions of reviews and perspectives covering topics of current interest are welcomed and encouraged. Reviews should be concise and no longer than (about 4 to 6 double-spaced printed pages). The maximum number of words is 2600. Reviews are also peer-reviewed.

#### 1.2. Submission process

Manuscripts for LURJ should be submitted to the following email address: lurj@luanar.ac.mw. The submitting author, generally the corresponding author, is responsible for the manuscript during the submission and peer-review processes. The corresponding author must ensure that all co-authors have been included in the author list and that they all have read and approved the submitted version of the manuscript. Authors must use Microsoft WORD to prepare and submit their manuscripts.

#### 1.3. Cover letter

A cover letter must be included with each manuscript submission. It should be concise and explain why the content of your paper is significant, placing your findings in the context of existing work and why it fits the scope of the journal. Please confirm that the manuscript is currently not under consideration for publication in another journal.

### 2.0. Preparation of the Manuscript

#### 2.1. Manuscript layout and structure

Manuscripts should be typewritten in English. Any non-English words are prohibited in the papers (if not the subject of the reported research). British English should be used. Your paper must use a page size corresponding to A4 which is 210 mm (8.27 inches) wide and 297 mm (11.69 inches) long. The margins must be set as follows:

* Top and Bottom, 25 mm (0.98 inches)
* Left and Right, 30 mm (1.18 inches)
* The manuscript should be prepared using Time Roman font size 10-12 with wide margins of 1.5cm lines. Number lines will be included in the left margin for the review process. All pages must be numbered at the bottom.

Research manuscripts should comprise:

* Front Matter - Title, Author list, Affiliations, Abstract, Keywords
* Research manuscript section - Introduction, Materials and Methods (or Methodology), Results, Discussion (or Results and Discussion), and Conclusions
* Back Matter - Acknowledgments, Author Contributions, Conflict of Interests, and References

#### 2.1.1. Front Matter

The following sections of Front matter should appear in all manuscript types:

**Title:** The title of your manuscript should be concise, specific, and relevant i.e. it should reflect the subject of the manuscript. When gene or protein names are included, the abbreviated name rather than the full name should be used. Generally, no acronym is allowed in the title.

**Author names and affiliations.** Authors’ full first and last names must be provided. The initials of any middle names can be added. Authors’ names will be followed by an upper-script number indicating the affiliation(s) of the authors. Affiliations are numbered and listed and include the full postal address, country, and e-mail address. An author may provide one or more affiliations, if necessary, but all of them will be referenced by upper-script numbers. The corresponding author will be indicated with an asterisk (\*) and should include contact telephone and email address. If an author has moved since the work was done or was visiting at the time, a “present address” may be provided.

**Abstract.** The abstract should be a maximum of 250 words. The abstract should be a single paragraph and should follow the style of structured abstracts, but without headings: 1) Background: Place the question addressed in a broad context and highlight the purpose of the study; 2) Methods: Describe briefly the main methods or treatments applied; 3) Results: Summarize the article’s main findings; and 4) Conclusion: Indicate the main conclusions or interpretations. The abstract should be an objective representation of the article: it must not contain results that are not presented and substantiated in the main text and should not exaggerate the main conclusions.

**Keywords.** Authors should provide 4-6 keywords separated with semicolons (;). The keywords should be up-to-date and specific to the article, yet reasonably common within the subject discipline.

#### 2.1.2. Research manuscript sections

**Introduction:** The introduction should briefly place the study in a broad context and highlight its importance. It should define the purpose of the work and its significance. The current state of the research in the field should be reviewed carefully and key publications should be cited. Highlight controversial and diverging hypotheses when necessary. Finally, briefly indicate the aim of the work and highlight the main conclusions. As much as possible, keep the introduction comprehensible to scientists outside your particular field of research.

**Materials and Methods (or Methodology):** This section should be divided into subheadings. Materials and Methods (or Methodology) should be described with sufficient details to allow others to replicate and build on published results. Note that publication of your manuscript implies that you must make all materials, data, and protocols associated with the publication available to readers on request. Disclose at the submission stage any restrictions on the availability of materials or information. New methods and protocols should be described in detail while well-established methods can be briefly described and appropriately cited.

**Results and Discussion:** This section may be divided into subheadings. It should provide a concise and precise description of the experimental results, their interpretation as well as the experimental conclusions that can be drawn. Authors should discuss the results and how they can be interpreted from the perspective of previous studies and the working hypotheses. The findings and their implications should be discussed thoroughly in the broadest context possible. Future research directions may also be highlighted.

**Conclusions:** The conclusion section is not a summary. It is based on your reasoning and on the evidence you have accumulated. This is the place to share with your readers the conclusions you have reached because of your research.

#### 2.1.3. Back matter

**Acknowledgments:** All sources of funding for the study should be disclosed. Indicate grants that you have received in support of your research work.

**Author contributions:** For research articles with several authors, a short paragraph specifying their contributions must be provided. Authorship must be limited to those who have contributed substantially to the work reported.

**Conflicts of interest:** Authors must identify and declare any personal circumstances or interests that may be perceived as inappropriately influencing the representation or interpretation of reported research results. If there is no conflict of interest, state “The authors declare no conflict of interest.” Any role of the funding sponsors in the design of the study; in the collection, analysis, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, or in the decision to publish the results must be declared in this section. If there is no role, please state “The funding sponsors had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analysis, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, and in the decision to publish the results”.

**References:** The APA style and format should be used for all references and citations in the main text and the Reference Section. Preparing the references with a bibliography software package such as EndNote or Reference Manager to avoid typing mistakes and duplicated references.

### 3.0 Figures and Tables

Figures and tables should be placed at the end of the manuscript and should be numbered (Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, etc.). Figures will include both graphical layouts and photographs. Figures and tables should be designed to be readable and reproduced in 1 column (8.5 cm) or a wide format (18 cm). If possible, the text in the figure should use Arial font.

Do not:

* Supply images that are too low in resolution or are optimized for screen use.
* Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.
* Supply images with text too small or too large. Try to use fonts approximately the same size as text fonts.

All figures should have a caption (not included in the figure) immediately below. All tables should have a caption (not included in the table) immediately above. Figure and table captions will include a brief title and a short description of the illustration. All symbols and abbreviations used in figures and tables should be explained in the notes, so that they may be read independently of the main text.

### 4.0 References

Every reference cited in the text must be listed in the references section and vice versa. Software references must also be included.

#### 4.1. Citations in the text

The reference list should be arranged alphabetically. Citations should include only published articles or books or those in press. Papers in press should be cited as “in press”, copies of the publishers’ letters of acceptance should accompany the paper for review. The references within the text (or body of the article) should appear as follows: Kassam (2010) or Edriss and Jere (2002) or Chonde et al. (2000) or for many citations as Njoloma (1998); Singa (2001); and Kaunda (2002); that is, use only surname (s) an year of publication (s). Within the same sentence, they should be in chronological order. The author’s unpublished data should be cited as “unpublished data”. Personal communication and unpublished data should not appear in the references section. List references alphabetically by author and then chronologically. The year of publication follows the authors’ name. Differentiate two or more publications by the same author or set of authors in the same year by adding lowercase letters after the date (e.g. Mchakulu, 1999a, b). Journal names can be written in full or abbreviated according to the conventional abbreviations such as those published in the Serial Sources for the BIOSIS Data Base.

#### 4.2. Reference style

**Reference to a Journal publication (Include doi):**

Safalaoh, A. C. L. (2001). Village chicken upgrading program in Malawi. World’s Poultry Science, Journal. 57: 179-188

Luis, O.J. and Ponte, A.C. (1993). Control of reproduction of the shrimp *Penaeus keratherus* held in Captivity. Journal of the World Aquaculture Society, 24:31-39

**Reference to a book:**

Kaunda, E.K., and Salanje, G. F. (1990). An Introduction to Fish Diseases Epidemiology. Dzuka Publishers, Blantyre, Malawi. 548pp.

**Reference to a chapter in an edited book:**

Mettam, G.R. and Adams, L.B. (1994). How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In: Jones, B.S. and Smith, R.Z. (Eds.). Introduction to the electronic age (pp. 281-304). New York: E-Publishing Inc.

Include conference proceedings

### 5.0 Peer Review Process

To ensure quality, all papers submitted to LURJ will undergo a full double-blind refereeing process in which:

* Each paper is sent to 3 experts, one of which is the corresponding editorial board member while the other 2 are external, for peer reviews.
* The reviewers' recommendations determine whether a paper will be accepted/accepted subject to minor changes/subject to resubmission with significant changes/ rejected.
* For papers that require changes, the same reviewers will be preferably used to ensure that the quality of the revised paper is acceptable.
* When there are contradictions among reviewers, a fourth reviewer will be identified to review the manuscript.

**5.1 Proofs and Reprints:** Electronic Gallery proofs will be sent via e-mail attachment to the corresponding author as a WORD file. Gallery proofs are considered to be the final version of the manuscript. Except for typographical or minor clerical errors, no changes will be made to the manuscript at the proof stage. Because the LURJ will be published freely online to attract a wide audience, authors will have free electronic access to the full text (in PDF) of the article. Authors can freely download the PDF file from which they can print unlimited copies of their articles.

**5.2 Copyright:** Submission of a manuscript implies that the work described has not been published before (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture, or thesis); that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere; that if and when the manuscript is accepted for publication, the authors shall use the creative commons license to do what?

For style and format, please consult the most recent issue of LURJ.