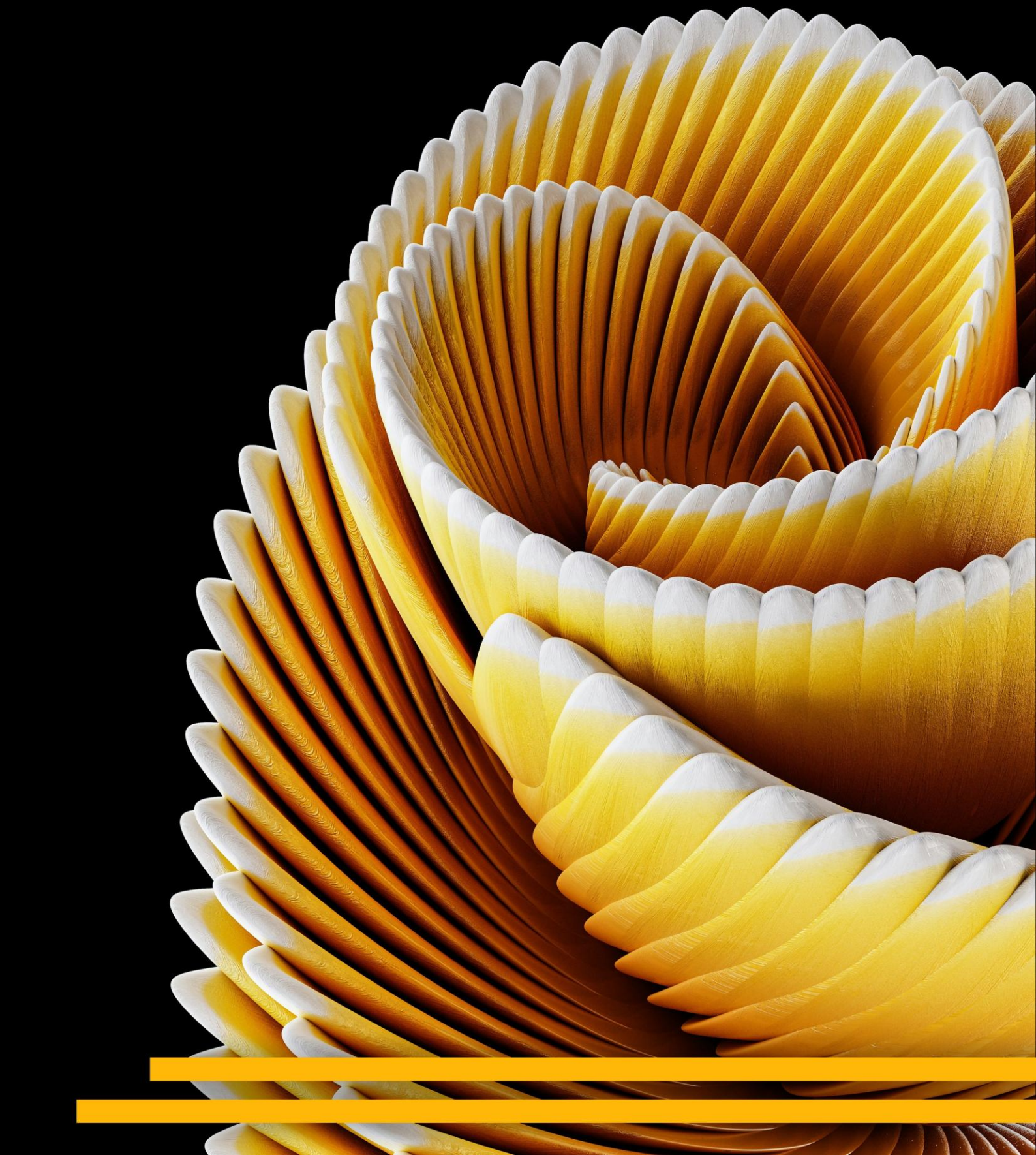
OnScientia

AUTHOR GUIDELINES



Author Guidelines



IMPRINT

OnScientia — International Journal of Business, Law & Health
Author Guidelines, Version 1.1, September 2026

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1. About the journal

These guidelines tell you how to prepare and submit a manuscript to OnScientia, the International Journal of Business, Law & Health, published by OnScientia Press LLC in Florida, USA. The journal publishes peer-reviewed empirical research in business, law, and health. Read the guidelines in full before you submit: a manuscript that does not follow them is returned at the desk-compliance check, before peer review. Every rule below is followed by a worked example.

OnScientia publishes peer-reviewed empirical research at the intersection of business, law, and health — for example, the regulation of digital health, governance and compliance, health-systems economics, and the legal and commercial dimensions of new technologies in care. The Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Mathias Kunze, LL.M. The journal appears in four issues per year, forming one annual volume, and every article is free to read under the Creative Commons Attribution license (CC BY 4.0) from the day of publication. The journal name keeps its registered form in every reference to it.

> **EXAMPLE**
> `OnScientia — International Journal of Business, Law & Health, Volume 1 (2026)`

2. What we publish

OnScientia publishes four article types, each with a required empirical element: empirical research articles (a stated data source, a described method, and results in author-created tables or figures); doctrinal or comparative legal analyses (named statutes and/or decided cases as the analyzed corpus, with the method described); systematic reviews (a stated protocol, search strategy, and selection criteria); and documented case studies (at least one fully documented case analyzed against a stated framework). Purely conceptual argument with no data, no documented cases, and no statutory or case-law analysis is out of scope. Technology on its own is out of scope as well: a machine-learning architecture paper does not fit even with a clinical dataset, while a study of how liability rules apply to digital health platforms does.

What counts as empirical. This depends on the field. Business: systematic quantitative or qualitative evidence, market or financial data, or documented business cases analyzed systematically. Law: doctrinal analysis of statutes and case law, or comparative analysis across jurisdictions, with the method described. Health: clinical, epidemiological, or systematic evidence to a recognized protocol.

Length. 5,000 to 8,000 words, excluding the references and any appendix. 8,000 words is a firm ceiling. If your study needs more room, move the supporting detail — additional tables, the survey instrument, robustness checks — into an appendix rather than exceeding the limit.

Scope questions. Unsure whether your work fits? The editorial office answers presubmission questions on scope through the Help Desk (see §13) before you format.

> **EXAMPLE**
> `Fits OnScientia: a study testing whether a 2021 data-protection rule changed disclosure practices across 120 telemedicine providers.`
> `Out of scope: a conceptual essay with no data and no stated doctrinal method, or a technology paper with no business, law, or health question.`

3. Before you submit

Originality. Submitted work must be original and not published before. Text or results reused from your own earlier work are cited like any other source; verbatim reuse without citation — self-plagiarism — is not permitted.

One journal at a time. Submit to OnScientia only; do not submit work that is under consideration elsewhere.

Preprints. You may post your work on a recognized preprint server before or during submission. If you do, cite the preprint in your reference list.

Ethics. Research involving human participants must have appropriate ethics approval and informed consent, declared in the statements (see §7).

Review model. OnScientia uses double-blind peer review: neither the reviewers' identities nor yours is disclosed to the other party. Reviewers are independent experts in the manuscript's field and are not part of the editorial team. Your first and last name still appears under the title in the manuscript file (see §4.3); the editorial office removes it from the copy sent to reviewers. Keep every other identifying detail out of the file (see §4.2).

ORCID iD. Every author needs an ORCID iD (free at orcid.org). No author is listed in the published volume without one (see §6).

> EXAMPLE
> A paragraph carried over from your earlier paper is quoted and cited, "(Mueller, 2025, p. 12)", rather than pasted without attribution.

4. Preparing your manuscript

4.1 File and layout

Submit one Microsoft Word file (.docx only — no PDF and no other format), in a current version of Microsoft Word so that letters, numbers, and special characters (the section symbol §, the degree sign °, and subscripts and superscripts) are preserved and do not shift on opening. Body text is Times New Roman 9 pt, black. There are no italics anywhere, and no bold in body text — bold is used only for headings and for the table and figure labels. Superscripts and subscripts are allowed for indices, exponents, units, and affiliation numbers, but never as footnote markers. Footnotes are not used at all. A manuscript template with the page size, margins, and styles pre-set is available for download [link when created]; start from it.

> EXAMPLE — FILE AND LAYOUT
> File: one .docx file
> Page: A5 (148 × 210 mm)
> Margins: 2 cm on all four sides
> Spacing: 1.15, justified, no page numbers, no headers or footers
> Body: Times New Roman 9 pt, black — no italics, no footnotes

4.2 What the manuscript contains

The manuscript file carries the scholarly content plus your first and last name placed under the title. It does not contain your affiliation, your e-mail or contact details, or any acknowledgement that names a person. Those, together with your ORCID iD and every statement, are entered on the OnScientia portal

(see §6, §7, and §10). Before you submit, also clear the Author field in the file's document properties, so that the review copy carries no name in its metadata.

4.3 Order of the manuscript

Assemble the manuscript in this fixed order: title; a blank line; author name; two blank lines; abstract; keywords; classification codes; main text (numbered Section 1, 2, 3 …); references; and an optional appendix.

> **EXAMPLE — FIRST PAGE**
>
> ```
> CROSS-BORDER DATA GOVERNANCE IN EUROPEAN TELEMEDICINE
>
> Anna Mueller
>
>
> Abstract.  This study examines whether the 2021 reform of cross-border …
>
> Keywords: cross-border care; data protection; telemedicine; …
>
> Classification codes: JEL: G21; G28; K23; MeSH: Telemedicine; …
>
> 1.  Introduction
> ```

4.4 Title

A maximum of 15 words. State the subject precisely and avoid abbreviations the reader would not already know. A hyphenated compound counts as one word (use a hyphen, not an en dash), matching the word-processor count; a dash between the two halves of a title is not counted. The title is set in capitals, 9 pt bold.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> ```
> CROSS-BORDER DATA GOVERNANCE IN EUROPEAN TELEMEDICINE   (6 words)
> ```

4.5 Abstract

A maximum of 250 words, in a single block with no subheadings. Follow the empirical arc — problem and aim, data and method, results, contribution — and use no citations and no abbreviations.

> **MODEL ABSTRACT**
>
> This study examines whether the 2021 reform of cross-border data-protection rules changed the disclosure practices of telemedicine providers operating between European jurisdictions. The reform tightened the conditions under which patient records may move across borders, yet its effect on day-to-day provider behavior was unclear. Drawing on a survey of 120 providers and on the published terms of service of 40 platforms, the analysis compares disclosure practices in the year before and the year after the reform took effect. Practices are coded against eight regulatory conditions and tested for change using a paired design. Disclosure improved on five of the eight conditions, with the largest gains among smaller providers, while two conditions showed no measurable change and one declined. The pattern indicates that the reform shifted behavior where compliance was inexpensive to demonstrate and left it unchanged where demonstrating compliance required new systems. The study contributes a provider-level account of how cross-border health-data rules translate into practice, and identifies the conditions under which such rules are most and least likely to change behavior.

4.6 Keywords

Four to six keywords, separated by semicolons, on a single line directly below the abstract. The label Keywords: is bold.

> EXAMPLE
>
> ```
> Keywords: cross-border care; data protection; telemedicine; regulatory compliance;
> health platforms
> ```

4.7 Classification codes

Directly below the keywords, give three to five classification codes for the primary field your article addresses; a secondary field may carry one or two. You select the codes yourself; the editorial team verifies them at the desk-compliance check.

- Business / economics — JEL codes (Journal of Economic Literature classification, American Economic Association): aeaweb.org/econlit/jelCodes.php
- Law — codes from the JEL "K" (Law and Economics) branch of the same system.
- Health — Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms (U.S. National Library of Medicine): meshb.nlm.nih.gov

> EXAMPLE — ILLUSTRATIVE CODES ONLY; CHOOSE THE ONES THAT MATCH YOUR OWN STUDY
>
> ```
> Classification codes: JEL: G21; G28; K23; MeSH: Telemedicine; Computer Security;
> Electronic Health Records
> ```

4.8 Headings and sections

Number headings with decimal numbering — 1. / 1.1. / 1.1.1. — to a maximum of three levels, with no fourth level. Each number ends with a period and is followed by a tab. Headings are 9 pt bold, in Title Case; only the article title is in capitals. An empirical article follows the arc below; doctrinal legal work keeps the same shape but states its corpus and method in place of data and method.

> EXAMPLE — SECTION SKELETON
>
> ```
> 1.  Introduction
>     1.1.  Problem and Aim
>     1.2.  Research Question and Hypotheses
>     1.3.  Contribution
> 2.  Background
>     2.1.  Regulatory Framework
>     2.2.  Prior Evidence
>           2.2.1.  Cross-border transfers
> 3.  Data and Method
> 4.  Results
> 5.  Discussion
> 6.  Limitations
> 7.  Conclusion
> ```

4.9 Voice, units, and numbers

Use neutral, impersonal wording: do not use "I", "we", "our", or "one". Spell out each abbreviation at first use, then use it consistently. Use SI units, with one space between the number and the unit, and do not use imperial units. Spell out the numbers zero to twelve and use numerals from 13 upward; always

use numerals for measured values with units and for all table contents. Use the US convention for separators — a comma for thousands and a point for decimals (10,000.25).

EXAMPLE

```
Correct:   The sample comprised 5 kg of material measured at 37 °C; the
           difference was 2.5 percentage points. The corpus held three regimes
           and 15 jurisdictions, and the largest figure was 10,000.25.
Incorrect: We measured our 5kg sample at 98.6°F.
```

4.10 Tables and figures

Every table and figure is your own work. Nothing is copied from a source — no scans and no screenshots. The one exception is a standard table or figure that forms the basis of your own analysis, which you may rebuild yourself. Place each object in the text where it is discussed, number tables and figures continuously (Table 1, Table 2 …; Figure 1, Figure 2 …), and refer to each before it appears. Tables and figures never exceed the 10.8 cm text width; their contents and captions are 8 pt. Tables use horizontal rules only — above the header, below the header, and below the final row — with no vertical lines and no shading, and a bold header row. Figures keep their aspect ratio and may use color.

A source line sits below every table and figure. It always states a basis and reads “Own illustration based on …”; a bare “Own illustration” is never used. There are two cases: the object presents your own data or study (name that basis), or it rebuilds a standard table or figure that underlies your analysis (name the published source and confirm reproduction rights).

Regulatory condition	Before (%)	After (%)	Change (pp)
Cross-border transfer logged	61	75	+14
Patient consent recorded	58	69	+11
Retention period stated	44	53	+9
Breach contact published	70	70	0
Sub-processor list shared	39	34	−5

Table 1: Disclosure practices before and after the 2021 reform (n = 120).
Source: Own illustration based on the author’s survey (Section 3).

RECONSTRUCTED STANDARD TABLE — THE ALTERNATIVE SOURCE LINE

```
Source: Own illustration based on Mueller (2026, p. 45).
(used only when you rebuild a standard table that underlies your analysis;
 confirm reproduction rights in the publishing agreement)
```

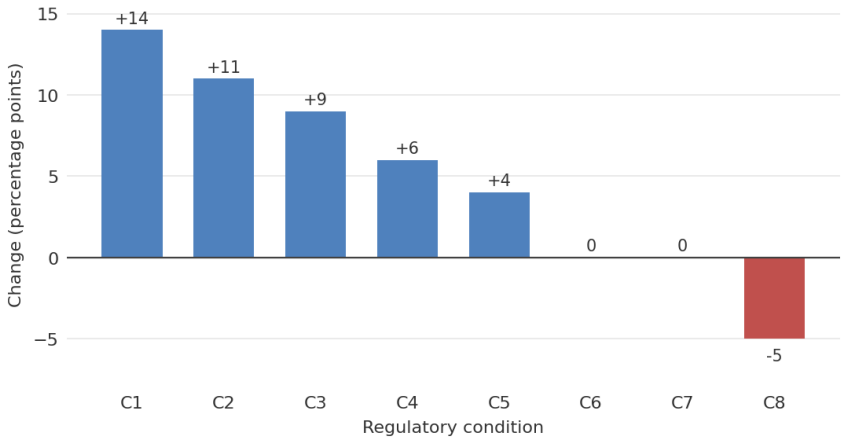

Figure 1: Change in disclosure practice after the 2021 reform, by regulatory condition (n = 120). Color is permitted in figures. Source: Own illustration based on the author's data (Section 4).

Non-compliant — do not do this. The table below uses vertical lines and cell shading, which are not allowed; a pasted screenshot of a third party's table or figure is also rejected.

Condition	Result
Consent recorded	69%

Non-compliant: vertical rules and shading are not used; rebuild the object in the house style instead.

4.11 Quotations and footnotes

Quote sparingly, and only when the exact wording matters. Direct quotations go in double quotation marks with the page number. Footnotes are not used — put supporting material in the main text or in an in-text citation.

> EXAMPLE
>
> ```
> Quotation: The court held the duty to be "non-delegable in the circumstances"
>            (Mills v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 2001, p. 14).
> Paraphrase: The duty could not be delegated on these facts (Mills v Ministry of
>            Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 2001).
> ```

5. Citations and references

OnScientia uses the Harvard system, following Cite Them Right (12th edition) with a few OnScientia additions: an ampersand (&) between author names instead of "and"; a colon after the year; single quotation marks around article, chapter, conference, and preprint titles; sentence-case titles and Title-Case journal names; and no italics anywhere. DOIs are given as full https://doi.org/… links, and an entry that ends with a DOI or URL carries no closing period.

5.1 In-text citations

Cite as (Author, Year) or, for a quotation or a specific point, (Author, Year, page). Name one, two, or three authors; for four or more, use et al. Cite several works alphabetically, separated by semicolons. A page number is required for direct quotations.

EXAMPLE — EVERY IN-TEXT CASE

```
One author:              (Mueller, 2026)
Two authors:             (Mueller & Schmidt, 2026)
Three authors:           (Keller, Weber & Schmidt, 2026)
Four or more:            (Mueller et al., 2026)
Several works:           (Keller, 2025; Mueller, 2026; Weber, 2026)
No author:               (World Health Organization, 2026)
Same author, same year:(Mueller, 2026a); (Mueller, 2026b)
Direct quotation:        (Mueller, 2026, p. 145)
Statute pinpoint:        (Children Act 2004, s. 31); (§ 433(1) BGB)
```

5.2 Reference list

Head the list References. Arrange entries alphabetically by the first author's surname and list all authors. Put a colon after the year; set titles in sentence case and journal names in Title Case; keep the place of publication in book references; give a DOI for every source that has one; and put ISBN or ISSN at the end where available. Place legislation and case law in separate Legislation and Case law sections. The templates and worked examples for every source type follow.

Monograph (book)

Template: Surname, Initial. (Year): Title. Edition (if not 1st). Place: Publisher. ISBN.
Example: Mueller, A. (2026): Strategic management in regulated markets. Berlin: Springer. ISBN: 978-3-16-148410-0.

Edited book

Template: Surname, Initial. (ed.) (Year): Title. Place: Publisher. ISBN.
Example: Keller, B. (ed.) (2026): Health systems in transition. London: Routledge. ISBN: 978-1-03-256789-1.

Chapter in an edited book

Template: Surname, Initial. (Year): 'Chapter title', in Initial. Surname (ed.) Book title. Place: Publisher, pp. xx–xx. ISBN.
Example: Weber, C. (2026): 'Compliance costs for small enterprises', in B. Keller (ed.) Health systems in transition. London: Routledge, pp. 88–110. ISBN: 978-1-03-256789-1.

Journal article (with DOI)

Template: Surname, Initial. (Year): 'Article title', Journal Name, Volume(Issue), pp. xx–xx. https://doi.org/… ISSN.
Example: Mueller, A. & Schmidt, B. (2026): 'Liability rules and digital health platforms', Journal of Business, Law & Health, 4(2), pp. 145–168. https://doi.org/10.1234/jblh.2026.0042. ISSN: 2700-1234.

Journal article (online, no DOI)

Template: Surname, Initial. (Year): 'Article title', Journal Name, Volume(Issue), pp. xx–xx. Available at: URL (Accessed: date). ISSN.
Example: Keller, B., Weber, C. & Schmidt, B. (2026): 'Cross-border data governance', European Review of Regulation, 9(1), pp. 12–34. Available at: https://www.errjournal.org/2026/9-1/12 (Accessed: 12 June 2026). ISSN: 2500-9876.

Website

Template: Author/Organization (Year): Title of page. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).
Example: World Health Organization (2026): Digital health guidelines. Available at: https://www.who.int/publications/digital-health-2026 (Accessed: 12 June 2026).

Report or grey literature

Template: Author/Organization (Year): Title of report. Place: Publisher. https://doi.org/… or Available at: URL (Accessed: date). ISBN (if available).
Example: OECD (2026): Health at a glance 2026. Paris: OECD Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1787/health-2026-en. ISBN: 978-92-64-99999-0.

Working paper

Template: Surname, Initial. (Year): Title (Working Paper No. X). Place: Institution. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).

Example: Mueller, A. & Keller, B. (2026): Automation and regulatory lag (NBER Working Paper No. 31234). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research. Available at: https://www.nber.org/papers/w31234 (Accessed: 12 June 2026).

Thesis or dissertation

Template: Surname, Initial. (Year): Title. Type of thesis. Institution. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).

Example: Schmidt, B. (2026): Regulatory arbitrage in cross-border telemedicine. PhD thesis. University of Vienna. Available at: https://opus.univie.ac.at/2026/telemedicine (Accessed: 12 June 2026).

Conference paper

Template: Surname, Initial. (Year): ‘Paper title’, in Title of proceedings. Conference name, Place, date. Place: Publisher, pp. xx–xx. https://doi.org/…

Example: Weber, C. (2026): ‘Algorithmic pricing and competition law’, in Proceedings of the 12th European Conference on Business Law. Vienna, 4–5 May 2026. Vienna: ECBL Press, pp. 220–235. https://doi.org/10.1234/ecbl.2026.018

Dataset

Template: Author/Organization (Year): Title of dataset (Version). Repository. https://doi.org/…

Example: Eurostat (2026): Health care expenditure statistics (Version 2.1). Eurostat. https://doi.org/10.2908/hlth-exp-2026

Standard

Template: Issuing body (Year): Standard number: Title. Place: Publisher.

Example: International Organization for Standardization (2022): ISO/IEC 27001:2022: Information security management systems, requirements. Geneva: ISO.

Preprint

Template: Surname, Initial. (Year): ‘Title’ [Preprint]. Repository. https://doi.org/…

Example: Mueller, A. (2026): ‘Capital buffers under stress’ [Preprint]. SSRN. https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4567890

Software

Template: Author/Organization (Year): Title of software (Version) [Software]. Place: Publisher. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).

Example: R Core Team (2026): R: a language and environment for statistical computing (Version 4.5.0) [Software]. Vienna: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. Available at: https://www.R-project.org (Accessed: 12 June 2026).

Legislation

Template: Title of the act, year, number/chapter (jurisdiction). Available at: URL (Accessed: date).

Example: Children Act 2004, c. 31. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents (Accessed: 12 June 2026).

Case law

Template: ‘Case name’ (Year): Court, case number. Available at: URL (Accessed: date).

Example: ‘Mills v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food’ (2001): EWCA Civ 1346. Available at: https://www.bailii.org (Accessed: 12 June 2026).

5.3 A reference list, assembled

Seen together, the list is alphabetical with a hanging indent, uses the ampersand between authors, takes no closing period after a terminal DOI, and keeps legislation and case law in their own sections.

EXAMPLE — REFERENCE LIST

```
References
Keller, B. (ed.) (2026): Health systems in transition. London: Routledge. ISBN: 978-1-
03-256789-1.
Mueller, A. & Schmidt, B. (2026): 'Liability rules and digital health platforms',
Journal of Business, Law & Health, 4(2), pp. 145–168.
https://doi.org/10.1234/jblh.2026.0042. ISSN: 2700-1234.
Weber, C. (2026): 'Algorithmic pricing and competition law', in Proceedings of the 12th
European Conference on Business Law. Vienna, 4–5 May 2026. Vienna: ECBL Press, pp. 220–
235. https://doi.org/10.1234/ecbl.2026.018
World Health Organization (2026): Digital health guidelines. Available at:
https://www.who.int/publications/digital-health-2026 (Accessed: 12 June 2026).

Legislation
Children Act 2004, c. 31. Available at:
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents (Accessed: 12 June 2026).

Case law
'Mills v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food' (2001): EWCA Civ 1346. Available
at: https://www.bailii.org (Accessed: 12 June 2026).
```

6. Authorship, ORCID, and contributions

Authorship follows the ICMJE criteria. To be listed as an author, a person must meet all four conditions: (1) substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work, or to the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of the data; (2) drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; (3) final approval of the version to be published; and (4) agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work. Anyone who does not meet all four is acknowledged, not listed as an author.

ORCID. ORCID is mandatory. Every author must have an ORCID iD; if you do not yet have one, register a free iD at orcid.org before publication. No author is listed without an ORCID iD.

Contributions. Record each author's contribution using the CRediT taxonomy: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Writing – original draft; Writing – review & editing. Your name, affiliation, ORCID iD, and CRediT roles are entered on the portal, not in the manuscript file.

Corresponding author. One author is designated on the portal as corresponding author, handles all communication, and confirms via the portal checkboxes, on behalf of all authors, that every listed author has approved the submission.

Changes to authorship. Adding, removing, or reordering authors after submission requires the written agreement of every affected author, sent to the editorial office with the reason.

EXAMPLE — AUTHOR BLOCK AND CREDIT ROLES

```
Mueller, Anna — Conceptualization; Methodology; Writing – original draft.
               ORCID: 0000-0002-1825-0097
Schmidt, Bernd — Data curation; Formal analysis; Writing – review & editing.
               ORCID: 0000-0001-2345-6789
```

7. Required statements

Five statements are completed on the portal for every submission and published with the article. Because they name people and institutions, none appears in the manuscript file: ethics and consent (approval body and reference, or a declaration that no such research was involved); funding (sources, or a declaration of none); conflicts of interest (interests that could be seen to influence the work, or a declaration of none); AI use (tools used and how, or a declaration of none); and data availability (where the data or analyzed sources can be found, or the documented reason access is restricted).

> **EXAMPLE — REQUIRED STATEMENTS**
>
> ```
> Ethics and consent: Approved by the University of Vienna ethics board
>   (ref. 2026-014); informed consent was obtained from all participants.
> Funding: This work was supported by Grant XYZ from the Austrian Science Fund.
> Conflicts of interest: The authors declare none.
> AI use: A large-language-model tool was used to check grammar only; it was not
>   used to generate data, analysis, or conclusions.
> Data availability: The dataset is available at https://doi.org/10.2908/example
> ```

8. Reporting guidelines

Where a recognized reporting guideline applies to your study design, follow it and name it in the method. Common guidelines are STROBE for observational studies, PRISMA for systematic reviews, CONSORT for randomized trials, STARD for diagnostic-accuracy studies, and CHEERS for economic evaluations. For doctrinal legal work, state your corpus and method instead.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> ```
> An observational study of provider behavior names STROBE in Section 3.
> A systematic review names PRISMA.
> A doctrinal analysis states the body of cases and statutes examined and how
> they were selected.
> ```

9. Research integrity

Submitted work must be original. Reusing your own earlier text or results without citation — self-plagiarism — is not permitted; cite your earlier work like any other source. Do not submit the same work to more than one journal at a time. Plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification are grounds for rejection. Manuscripts are screened for plagiarism and AI use with the usual current tools.

Transparency. State data sources, method, and analytic steps so that a reader in your field can follow, and in principle repeat, what you did. Doctrinal legal work states its corpus and method with the same precision.

Use of AI tools. The AI policy is aligned with COPE and ICMJE guidance. AI cannot be an author: authorship requires accountability, which a tool cannot carry. If AI tools were used in the research or in drafting beyond basic language checking, declare the tool and the use in the AI-use statement on the portal (see §7); where a method used an AI tool, note the use in the data-and-method section as well, in impersonal terms. AI-generated or AI-modified images are not accepted. You remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of everything in the manuscript.

> EXAMPLE
> A paragraph carried over from your earlier paper is quoted and cited, "(Mueller, 2025, p. 12)", not pasted without attribution.

10. How to submit

Submit through the OnScientia portal at **[portal URL to be supplied]**. Create an account, link your ORCID iD, upload one .docx file prepared as in §4, and enter your affiliation, CRediT roles, word count, classification codes, and all statements on the portal. The article processing charge is payable on application (see §12).

> EXAMPLE — WHAT GOES WHERE
> In the file: title, author name, abstract, keywords, classification codes, main text, references, optional appendix.
> On the portal: affiliation, ORCID iD, CRediT roles, word count, and every statement (ethics and consent, funding, conflicts of interest, AI use, data availability).

11. What happens after you submit

Desk-compliance check. Every submission is first checked against these guidelines. A manuscript that does not comply is returned before review. This is a compliance stage, not a quality judgment.

Peer review. OnScientia uses double-blind review: neither the reviewers' identities nor yours is disclosed to the other party. Reviewers are independent experts in the manuscript's field and are not part of the editorial team. Peer review applies to every research article; front matter such as a volume editorial is written by the editorial leadership and is not peer reviewed.

Decision. Each reviewed manuscript receives one of four decisions — accept, minor revision, major revision, or reject. The handling editor weighs the reviews and decides, and you receive the first editorial decision within six weeks of submission, always with the reasons. Acceptance is never guaranteed at submission, and no fee or relationship influences the outcome.

Revision. Revised manuscripts are checked against the reviewers' points and these guidelines before acceptance, and they return to review where the comments require it.

Resubmission. After a rejection or a revision request, you may submit again.

Appeals. If you believe a decision rests on a factual error or a process failure, send an appeal with sufficient reasoning to the editorial office through the Help Desk (see §13).

> EXAMPLE — RECORDED DATES
> Received: 3 March 2026. Accepted: 28 April 2026. Published: 15 June 2026.

12. After acceptance

DOI, production, and dates. The journal assigns your article a DOI and publishes it Open Access in the next issue; you provide DOIs for your cited sources. Your article is produced to the journal's A5 standard, so you are not asked to re-typeset it. On acceptance, the received, accepted, and published dates are recorded for the masthead and the DOI metadata, and the metadata (title, abstract, authors,

ORCID iDs, codes) is distributed for discovery, including Google Scholar-compliant metadata, and the article appears in a volume listed in WorldCat.

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