

Choosing and using an author name

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Recommendations

- Early in their career, academics and scientists should choose the version of their name they want to use as an author. When they submit or co-author a paper, they must tell the journal editor how their name should be alphabetized.
- They should *always* check that this alphabetization is used consistently in all their publications and in the various databases relevant to their field.
- They should avoid using more than two initials as many journals and databases will not accept them.
- They should avoid using a first name that does not correspond to their first initial since this can also be a source of confusion.
- For women who get married, it is best to continue using their own name for their professional work rather than switching to their husband's name.
- They should check Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, Web of Knowledge, PubMed, and other online repositories in their field at least once a year for incorrect naming options used in their papers or citations.
- They should register for a unique researcher ID, e.g. as set up by Thomson Reuters and ORCID.
- Editors and those teaching writing courses should help raise awareness of the problem of name ambiguity.

Background

How prefixed or complex surnames are alphabetized can have far-reaching consequences for academics and scientists. Researchers whose surnames are complex or have a prefix (e.g. de, van, van der) run the risk of being alphabetized differently by various journals, databases and publications. As a result, their citations may be split between various versions of their name, their citation score and H-index will be lower than they should be, and a retrieved list of publications will be incomplete.

It is important for prefixed, complex or non-English surnames to be consistently alphabetized in English and cited correctly, as a full, easily retrievable, publication record, and its related parametrics are crucial for academic and scientific careers.

Purpose

This poster aims to raise awareness of the problem of name ambiguity among editors, other language professionals, and teachers working with career academics and scientists. These should offer advice to authors when they come across such issues.

Example 1

Dr. Johannes-Kristian Ploos van Amstel (a real Dutch geneticist) is known as 'Hans-Kristian'.

He has been cited as: **Johannes / Johannes-Kristian / Hans-Kristian / Hans / J. / H. / J-K. / J.K. / H-K. / H.K.**
with **Ploos van Amstel / P. van Amstel / PvAmstel / Van Amstel, etc.**

Example 2

Dr. Ecaterina Golea is known as 'Katje' and cited as: **K. Golea / E. Golea**

Figure 1. Researcher ID (Thomson Reuters) <http://wokinfo.com/researcherid/>

Figure 2. ORCID. Website: about.ORCID.org
ORCID, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to solving the name ambiguity problem in scholarly research and brings together the leaders of influential universities, funding organizations, societies, publishers and corporations from around the globe.

