

12.04.2013, Janne I. Hukkinen

PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE WRITING AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY RESEARCH GROUP (EPRG), UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

The purpose of these principles is to facilitate collective thinking, writing and co-authorship.

I

Whenever an EPRG researcher plans to write a text together with another EPRG researcher, s/he makes an offer of collective authorship to all EPRG researchers.

II

If an EPRG researcher planning to write with a non-EPRG researcher would like to involve another EPRG researcher in the writing, s/he makes an offer of collective authorship to all EPRG researchers.

III

The offer of collective authorship is as detailed as possible, preferably including a paragraph outlining the idea, potential publication avenues and a timeline for the writing project. Those invited respond in a timely manner.

IV

Every person mentioned as an author ought to participate actively in text production. All contributions are qualitatively equally valuable (theoretical work, empirical research, writing, etc) (NOTE: it's not a collective publishing machine).

V

The initiator of the text is always mentioned as the first author—assuming that s/he belongs to the primary researchers. The initiator is the person responsible for the first significant input of work in text production (such as writing up the first main body of the text) (NOTE: purpose is to encourage initiators and ensure writing project leadership).

VI

Individuals belonging to the same class of research contributors (i.e., theoretical work, empirical work, writing, etc.) are listed in alphabetical order (NOTE: when all authors are in the same class, then all are mentioned in alphabetical order).

VII

Otherwise authors are listed in the order of class of research contribution.

VIII

The input of each author is explained in the text (such as footnote or endnote) (NOTE: purpose is to be explicit about the type of input, which is particularly important in article-based doctoral dissertations).

IX

The first author is responsible for communication with the journal, unless the authors decide otherwise (NOTE: purpose is to ensure clear communication among authors and between authors and publisher).

X

All authors participate in revising the text on the basis of reviewer comments. Author input to revision is proportionally equivalent to input to original text. The main responsibility therefore rests with the primary authors (NOTE: it is important to agree on text follow-up and division of labour once original text is submitted—often this is when the real work begins).

XI

Assistants to text production are acknowledged in the text (such as footnote or endnote).

XII

The type of assistant input is explained in acknowledgements (such as research assistance, language checking, translation, commenting, etc.) (NOTE: the role of assistants should not be underestimated—it may be an encouragement to research career).

XIII

Nothing in these principles is intended to restrict EPRG researchers in their individual writing projects.

Sources:

Deliberations with EPRG researchers.

J. Hukkinen, H. Bruun, 2001, ”Tekijyys ja avustajuus kollektiivisessa tutkimuksessa”, *Tieteessä Tapahtuu*, Vol. 19, No. 4, pp. 51-52,
<http://www.tieteessatapahtuu.fi/014/kesk.htm#huk>