## Aim and Scope

***Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits***, published by the Assistive Technology Industry Association,is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles specifically addressing the *benefits* and *outcomes* of assistive technology (AT) for Persons with Disabilities across the lifespan. The journal’s purpose is to advance the AT industry by (a) fostering communication among stakeholders interested in the field of AT, including manufacturers, vendors, practitioners, policy makers, researchers, consumers with disabilities, and family members; (b) facilitating evidence-based demonstrations and case-based dialogue regarding effective AT devices and services; and (c) helping stakeholders advocate for effective AT devices and services.

***Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits*** invites for consideration submissions of original papers, reports and manuscripts that address *outcomes and* *benefits* related to AT devices and services. These may include (a) findings of original scientific research, including group studies and single subject designs; (b) marketing research related to AT demographics, or devices and services; (c) technical notes regarding AT product development findings; (d) qualitative studies, such as focus group and structured interview findings with consumers and their families regarding AT service delivery and associated outcomes and benefits; (e) project/program descriptions in which AT outcomes and benefits have been documented; (f) case-based reports on successful approaches to service delivery; and (g) consumer perspectives on AT devices and services.

## Submission Categories

ATOB welcomes scholarly contributions. However, many stakeholders engaged in the field of AT do not have an academic background. ATOB offers a unique opportunity for these stakeholders to contribute their expertise and experience in the context of achieving successful outcomes and beneficial impacts. ATOB understands that many potential authors may lack experience in authoring papers for peer-reviewed journal publication. Therefore, the ATOB Editorial Board is pleased to offer assistance in preparing and refining relevant submissions.

Articles may be submitted under three categories—

### Voices from the Field

Articles submitted under this category should come from professionals who are involved in some aspect of AT service delivery with persons having disabilities, or from family members and/or consumers with disabilities. Submissions may include case studies, project or program descriptions, approaches to service delivery, or consumer perspective pieces. All submissions should have a clear message and be written with enough detail to allow replication of results.

### Voices from the Industry

Articles submitted under this category should come from professionals involved in developing and marketing specific AT devices and services. Case studies, design, marketing research, or project/ program descriptions are appropriate for this category.

### Voices from Academia

Articles submitted under this category should come from professionals conducting research or development in an academic setting. Submissions are likely to include applied/ clinical research, case studies, and project/ program descriptions.

## Types of articles that are appropriate include

Within each of the voices categories, authors have some latitude regarding the type of manuscript submitted and content to be included. However, ATOB will only accept original material that has not been published elsewhere, and is not currently under review by other publishers. Additionally, all manuscripts should offer sufficient detail to allow for replication of the described work.

Applied/Clinical Research**.** This category includes original work presented with careful attention to experimental design, objective data analysis, and reference to the literature.

Case Studies.This category includes studies that involve only one or a few subjects or an informal protocol.

Design. This category includes descriptions of conceptual or physical design of new AT models, techniques, or devices.

Marketing Research. This category includes industry-based research related to specific AT devices and/or services, demographic reports, and identification of AT trends and future projections.

Project/Program Description. This category includes descriptions of grant projects, private foundation activities, institutes, and centers having specific goals and objectives related to AT outcomes and benefits.

Approaches to Service Delivery. This category includes descriptions of the application of assistive technology in any setting (educational, vocational, institutional, home-life) to improve quality of life for people with disabilities.

Consumer and Caregiver Perspectives. **This category offers an opportunity for product end users, family members, and caregivers to share their experiences in achieving successful outcomes and benefits through the application or use of AT devices and services.**

## Mandatory Components of all articles

* Authors must include a section titled *Outcomes and Benefits* containing a discussion related to outcomes and benefits of the AT devices/services addressed in the article.
* Authors must include a short description of the article’s target audience, and indicate the article’s relevance to that target audience. Authors may describe their work as it relates to more than one audience, and should specify the value that each group may derive from the work.

## Publishing Guidelines

* Each manuscript must reflect the style guidelines of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition, 2009).
* Manuscripts should be no more than 25 pages in length (double-spaced), including references, tables, and figures. Due to the electronic format of the journal, all submissions should be submitted as email attachments in a Microsoft® Word format.
* See detailed [***Manuscript Preparation Guidelines for Authors***](http://www.atia.org/atob/manuscriptguidelines) for more information on formatting requirements and submission instructions.

## Submission and Review Process

1. To submit a manuscript, authors should email the following to atobeditor@atia.org : Manuscript, cover letter, Author Agreement, and Manuscript Submission Form.
2. Manuscripts will undergo a desk review by the ATOB Editorial Board. Decisions to either reject or move manuscripts on for peer review will be communicated with authors.
3. For those manuscripts undergoing peer review, the Editorial Board will make acceptance/rejection decisions, while taking peer reviewer feedback into consideration.
4. After a manuscript has been accepted for publication and subsequent to making changes recommended by peer reviewers and the Editorial Board, authors must email a copy of the revised manuscript and a cover letter describing all changes to the Editor at: [atobeditor@atia.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Clageist%5CDesktop%5Catobeditor%40atia.org).
5. Galley proofs will be shared with authors for approval prior to publication.

## Copyright Policy

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## Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

The Editorial Board of *Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits* exercises great care to ensure that each volume is published to the highest ethical standards. The Editorial Board recognizes ATOB’s unique position as a journal that publishes not only scholarly work, but also practical pieces.

The following standards are derived from guidance put forth by the [Committee on Publication Ethics](http://publicationethics.org/) (COPE).

**Duties of Editors**

-Editors evaluate manuscripts on the basis of their merit and potential contribution to a wide range of audiences in the field of assistive technology.

-Editors will not discriminate against authors or peer reviewers on the basis of their citizenship, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religious belief, political philosophy.

-Editors will maintain confidentiality of unpublished submissions, including author identity, and peer reviewer identity.

-Editors will not use unpublished information for their own purposes.

-Editors will ensure that appropriate peer reviewers are engaged to comment on manuscript submissions. Editors will consider peer reviewer input in making publication decisions, and in requesting revisions from authors.

-Editors will investigate unethical publishing behavior following COPE recommendations. Corrections and retractions will be shared with the Journal’s readership on a timely basis.

-Editors will not change the content of peer reviewer’s reports, except in rare cases of removing offensive language or comments.

-In cases where peer reviewer comments drastically conflict with one another, the Editors reserve the right to act as referees. In these cases, Editors will provide guidance to help authors best align their manuscript with ATOB’s aim and scope.

**Duties of Peer Reviewers**

-Peer reviewers are expected to contribute to the quality of ATOB by sharing thoughtful comments and criticisms related to manuscripts.

-Peer reviewers are expected to disclose any potential conflicts of interest, and avoid reviewing any manuscript where a known bias is present.

-Peer reviewers provide input regarding the following areas: significance to the field; relevance to the specific issue’s focused topic area; adequacy of discussion regarding state of the practice; organization; clarity; appropriateness of the research design, data analysis, and interpretation of results; adequacy of discussion of outcomes and benefits; and relevance to readers.

-Peer reviewers are asked to make recommendations regarding publication decisions. However, final publication decisions rest with the Editorial Board.

-Peer reviewers are expected to maintain confidentiality of the information under review. They are not to share the manuscript or disclose any information regarding the manuscript’s contents to individuals outside of the ATOB Editorial Board.

**Duties of Authors**

-Upon submission of a manuscript, all lead authors must complete an Author Agreement form for themselves, and on behalf of any co-authors. The Agreement includes information regarding originality, compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), human subjects protection, and conflicts of interest. The following points provide additional detail regarding these important assurances:

-Authors must only submit original work, and use appropriate citations when describing the work of others. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

-Authors must affirm that submitted manuscripts have not been published elsewhere, and are not under review by other publications.

-Authors must disclose relevant financial and non-financial relationships that could pose a conflict of interest. This includes sources of funding for work described in the manuscript.

- To comply with HIPAA, ATOB requires that all authors ensure the privacy of their patients/clients by refraining from using names, photographs, or other patient/client identifiers in manuscripts without the patient’s/client’s knowledge and written authorization.

-When describing work that involves human participants, authors must provide evidence that adequate human subject protections were employed. An approval letter from an Institutional Review Board is typically adequate for meeting this requirement.

-Authors of manuscripts describing research studies should include sufficient detail to allow for replication of the work.

-In cases where significant errors or inaccuracies are noted by an author after publication of their work, authors are asked to promptly contact the editor to make corrections or retractions.

**Duties of the Publisher**

-The Publisher is committed to ensuring that ATOB maintains the highest ethical standards. As such, they will ensure that all errors or retractions are handled in a timely manner.

-The Publisher will maintain the ATOB website to ensure the continued availability of ATOB content.