***Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits Journal***

**Suggested Sections for Consumer and Caregiver Perspective Manuscripts**

**The following outline is provided as an example of the sections that may be presented in an ATOB manuscript submitted by consumers and caregivers under the *Voices from the Field* category. Visit** [***www.atia.org/atob***](http://www.atia.org/atob) **to review the journal’s Editorial Policy and Guidelines for Authors.**

**Abstract** – provide a 75-150 word overview of the manuscript including the purpose and overall perspective(s)/conclusions.

**Keywords** – provide 3-4 keywords that best represent the focus of the proposed manuscript.

**Introduction** – it is suggested that the authors should start with an introductory section that establishes the context and provides background information on the perspective(s) presented in the manuscript. In this section, the authors are encouraged to explain and/or support the basis for their perspective(s), and also to connect their work to the ATOB volume’s focus area. If applicable, in this section the authors may also review the current situation and/or state of the practice in the field. The logical introduction of the context in this section should lead to the purpose statement or overall perspective of the paper.

**Personal Statement** **(optional)** – following the introduction, the authors may provide a personal statement that may include more detailed description of the unique context, background, and situations that inform the first-hand account presented, a statement on the topic’s personal significance to the authors, and/or a description of the experiences, ideas, and/or motivations that have prompted the authors to share their perspective(s). In this section and throughout the manuscript, authors should avoid using personal viewpoints to make unsupported general claims, and it is recommended that authors use terminology that makes it clear that they are referring to their own experiences.

**Target Audience and Relevance**– also following the introduction, the authors should provide a short description that explains what groups of people are likely to have an interest in the article’s content and why. Authors may describe how the paper’s content relates to multiple groups or audiences and may describe multiple reasons that those groups/audiences might find value in it. Authors are encouraged to speak from personal experience and observation in identifying the groups who may be interested, and to be descriptive in suggesting the reasons for their interest to readers.

**Main Body** – the main body of the manuscript may include description of a personally experienced case study using specific technology; discussion of the impact of various historic, cultural, and practical issues on an individual’s use of technology; an experiential or first-hand review of currently available assistive technology and its advantages and limitations; discussion of personal work taking place to advance and promote positive outcomes using technology; discussion of promising developments that can be envisioned in the marketplace and in practice over the next decade; discussion of issues, needs, and service gaps experienced through first-hand acquisition and use of technology; review of existing literature (research, policies, theoretical frameworks) related to the perspectives presented in the manuscript; as well as ideas for new directions involving the use of evolving assistive technology solutions. In articles that focus on the use of assistive technology by a specific population (e.g., individuals with intellectual disability), the authors are encouraged to describe the users’ characteristics and profiles (e.g., ability/functioning levels, areas of need, attributes, experiences, etc.) rather than relying on the disability label.

**Outcomes and Benefits** –each manuscript should provide a separate section summarizing the author’s perspective(s) and offering practical implications for other assistive technology users. This section should include a discussion related to outcomes and benefits of the assistive technology devices/services addressed in the article. Authors are encouraged to specify the outcomes and benefits as it relates to their experience, and cautioned to avoid generalizations that are not supported by evidence.

**Discussion/Conclusion** – this section of the manuscript should provide a thoughtful reflection on and/or discussion of overall themes/conclusions as well as implications for research and practice (if applicable).

**References (if needed)** –all cited sources must be listed in a reference section, which should be formatted according to the 6th edition Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. See the Guidelines for Authors for more information on formatting references.