# ATOB Editorial Policy

## Aim and Scope

***Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits***, published by the Assistive Technology Industry Association,is an open access, international, 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 and the field by (a) fostering communication among stakeholders interested in the field of AT, including manufacturers, vendors, practitioners, policy makers, researchers, individuals 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 experimental research, including group studies and single subject designs; (b) qualitative and mixed method studies, such as focus group and structured interview findings with users and their families regarding AT service delivery and associated outcomes and benefits; (c) marketing research related to AT demographics, or devices and services; (d) technical notes and usability studies regarding AT product development findings; (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 traditional scholarly contributions. However, ATOB also recognizes that AT stakeholders may engaged in the field outside of academic institutions. 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 (e.g., educators, related service, and care providers), or from family members and/or AT users with disabilities. Tell us your story! Submissions may include case studies, project or program descriptions, approaches to service delivery, or consumer perspective pieces. All submissions should have a clear message about lessons learned from the experience and be written with enough detail to allow new knowledge and understanding. *Voices from the Field* manuscripts are peer-reviewed, but do not require the same level of scientific rigor as submissions in other categories. A more informal writing style with an emphasis on rich, detailed descriptions of experiences, procedures and implications is expected.

These manuscripts should NOT look like a research paper. Authors of *Voices from the Field* manuscripts are not required to support their personal perspectives with objective data or peer-reviewed literature. However, any personal viewpoints presented as generalized statements of fact should appropriately cite supporting research. Plagiarism and unsupported extension of such personal viewpoints to make general claims are not permitted. Using some literature to support specific personal experiences is appropriate, but Voices from the Field should not be just a literature review. Sample outline for the *Voices from the Field* article is available in the [***Manuscript Preparation Guidelines for Authors***](http://www.atia.org/atob/authorguidelines)***.***

Authors submitting to the Voices from the Field category may request ATOB to find a **Sponsor** among the Editorial Board members and ATOB reviewers who would provide an opportunity to discuss and improve a manuscript draft before submission. If you are interested in finding a sponsor, please contact [atobeditor@atia.org](mailto:atobeditor@atia.org)

### ***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 the Industry* manuscripts may present the results of the research (and thus, follow the same outline as *Voices from Academia*) or present project/program descriptions (and thus, follow the same outline as *Voices from the Field*).

### ***Voices from Academia***

Articles submitted under this category should come from professionals conducting research or development in an academic setting. The style of writing should adhere to guidelines generally used in scientific journals and must reflect the style guidelines of the 7th edition Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) - <https://apastyle.apa.org>. Submissions are likely to include applied/ clinical research, case studies, and project/ program descriptions. Sample outline for the *Voices from Academia* article is available in the [***Manuscript Preparation Guidelines for Authors.***](http://www.atia.org/atob/authorguidelines)

ATOB welcomes submissions both from within the U.S. as well as from around the world.

## Types of Articles

Within each of the voices categories, authors have some latitude regarding the type of manuscripts 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 for All Articles

* 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.
* 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.

## Publishing Guidelines

* See detailed [***Manuscript Preparation Guidelines for Authors***](http://www.atia.org/atob/authorguidelines) for information on formatting requirements and submission guidelines. Also make sure to review [Sample Outline for Voices from the Field](http://www.atia.org/atob/SampleOutline-Field) and/or [Sample Outline for Voices from Academia](http://www.atia.org/atob/SampleOutline-Academia) manuscripts.

## Copyright Policy

*Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits* is an open access journal. All articles published in ATOB are made freely available online immediately upon publication, without fees or registration requirements.

The journal and authors jointly retain the copyright of the articles. Permission to make digital or hard copies of part or all of this work for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear the appropriate citation, such as the following:

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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 publishing 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/or 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 in full, 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 ((or a local equivalent including but not limited to an independent ethics committee (IEC), ethical review board (ERB), research ethics board (REB), etc.) is typically adequate for meeting this requirement. See [***Manuscript Preparation Guidelines for Authors***](http://www.atia.org/atob/authorguidelines) for more information.
* 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.