SciFlow: A Useful Tool for Scientific Writing and Formatting

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Science Library

Thursday
23.03.2023
13:00, Zoom
What is SciFlow?

Short introduction

- Browser-based online text editor for scientists and students
- German company
- Already in use at several other research institutions
Why to use SciFlow?
What it aims at simplifying

- Formatting is time consuming (52h per person and year\(^1\)) and can be frustrating
- Collaboration is complicated:
  - Many manuscript versions are sent around via email
  - Co-authors use different tools for text editing and literature management
- Backup management needs extra efforts

SciFlow

solves these issues
– or at least simplifies the process of writing, citing and formatting

\(^1\text{LeBlanc et al. 2019: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0223116}\)
How does it work?

- All tools in one place for writing, citing and editing
- Templates for theses and papers
- Integrated spell checker
- Allows for LaTeX equations
- Good help functions incl. chat-box
- ~5000 journal templates available. If not: template will be added upon request.
- Pro-version open to all members of Bern University
- No installations needed.
- Data are securely stored in Germany, no commercial use of user data.
- Everyone with access to internet can join
- Compatible with all operating systems.
- (Re-)Formatting on one click
- Allows for real-time collaborative writing
- Quick changes between different styles and formats
- Transparent track changes
- Direct connection to major literature management systems.
- Automated backups
Getting started
Access to SciFlow at University Bern

https://sciflow.net/de/unibe/start ➔ Register to get an account
Getting started
Live Demo
For new SciFlow users

Tips and take home messages

• Regularly save revisions: as backup and for tracking changes
• Fill in your author profile and adjust your preferences
• Actively use the support function
• Ask for journal templates if they do not exist yet
• Let us know if anything does not work appropriately
More information about SciFlow
Next workshops and courses

Workshop
March 31, Uni Mittelstrasse: https://agenda.ub.unibe.ch/de/event/153

Webinars
• For students at the University of Bern: Wed, June 7, 11:00
• For scientists at the University of Bern: Wed, June 14, 11:00

Details will soon be announced.

General webinars on SciFlow homepage (incl. screencasts):
https://sciflow.net/de/all/webinars
Thank you for listening

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Thanks for your attendance.

Next Coffee Lectures:

Research Support Services
Science and Medical Libraries
University Library Bern
frnat.ub@unibe.ch
support_med.ub@unibe.ch
Thanks for your attendance

Slides and Screencast:

Science Library

Medical Library

Research Support Services
Science and Medical Libraries
University Library Bern
frnat.ub@unibe.ch
support_med.ub@unibe.ch
Thanks for your attendance.

Now there is time for...

Questions & Discussion

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SciFlow Pro Features
University of Bern

- Custom **institutional thesis and assignment** templates
- **Journal templates** can be requested from us as you need them
- **Chat support** for all your questions
- Regular **webinars** help with potential questions
- **Change Tracking** (see what changed and who did it)
- **Text check** by Duden-Mentor (DE) and LanguageTool (EN)
Abstract

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author and year. Standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but when unavoidable, defined at their first mention in the text.