



Interfaces

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Interfaces Instructions to Authors

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Interfaces

Instructions to Authors

The goals of *Interfaces* are to improve the exchange of information between managers and professionals in operations research and management science (OR/MS) and to inform the academic community about practice. Therefore, the most appropriate papers are descriptions of the practice of OR/MS in commerce, industry, government, or education with strong emphasis on implementation. Issues of *Interfaces* often feature an article on an application with demonstrable value. We ask authors describing applications to obtain letters from the organizations verifying the actual use and resulting benefits.

Interfaces also publishes opinion papers about operational problems with less quantifiable results, tutorials, reports on OR/MS training programs, news items on specific applications, state-of-the-art reviews and surveys of use, and comments from corporation managers. Papers that detail the design or development of a model or algorithm (especially those that are largely mathematical) should be sent to *Operations Research* or to *Management Science*.

Please submit all papers to the editor-in-chief:

Terry P. Harrison

Department of Supply Chain and
Information Systems

509-L Business Administration
Building

Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

You may submit articles suitable for a particular column to the column editor, but please send a copy to the editor-in-chief.

It is understood that papers submitted are not currently under consideration elsewhere, accepted for publication, or published. We screen papers carefully for appropriateness and then review those suitable for the journal as rapidly as possible.

Form

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Please include a short, informal note (under 100 words) about each author's life, activities, and interests, not a professional vita.

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The following outline suggests an effective way of organizing a paper:

- (1) Describe the problem;
- (2) Explain what you did, how you did it, and what obstacles you encountered;
- (3) List the resulting benefits, both quantitative and qualitative; and
- (4) Provide an appendix giving the particulars of the model or data.

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Make your title short and specific. Instead of "Systems analysis and order processing in a multiechelon sys-

tem,” try “Systems analysis speeds telephone orders.” When we are told we’re going to read about a telephone company, we have a vivid image that includes the notion of a “multiechelon system.” Preferably, titles should be five or six words long, never more than 10.

Abstract

Please write a brief abstract (no more than 150 words) that functions as a miniature version of the paper, setting forth the main points of the paper. The abstract should not be an introduction nor should it be a prediction of what readers will find if they read on. Many people decide whether to read the paper on the basis of the abstract. Write the abstract in a clear and vigorous way in the active voice. Eliminate all unnecessary words. Instead of “This paper describes the application of a vertex coloring procedure to . . .” say: “We applied vertex coloring to . . .”

Headings

Please use only one level of heading.

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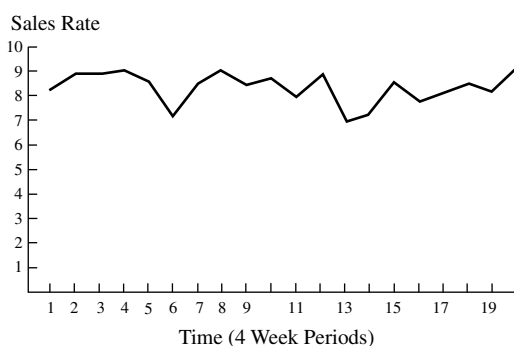


Figure 4: The healthy sales of a line of unadvertised food products show that advertising is not always required to sell something (Source: Little 1979).

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After the paper is accepted, authors must send reducible camera-ready drawings of all figures that cannot be typeset. Please be sure that figures are effective and efficient in their use of space. Labels interior to the figure should be large enough to be legible when the figure is reduced. Figures must be professionally prepared in black ink on vellum or on good-quality white paper and should be equivalent in quality to typeset material. Show the figure number and, if necessary, the vertical direction on the reverse side of the paper. Since the captions will be typeset, they should be typed on a separate sheet, not on the drawings. Figures produced by computer printers are acceptable only if they are indistinguishable in quality from those prepared by a graphic artist. Generally, machine-readable graphics should be provided in EPS or TIFF and be laser printed and suitable for photographic reproduction.

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Write the body of the paper in words and use an appendix for mathematical details. If equations will be referred to elsewhere, they should have numbers enclosed in parentheses flush with the right margin.

References

Cite references in the body of the text: “Thrupp (1998) quibbled that. . .” or if 1998 was a prolific year for Thrupp “(1998b).” If the author is not cited in the text, then use (Thrupp 1998). Alphabetize the list of references according to the name of the first author. For articles use the form

Smith, James Q. 1978. Title of article. *Interfaces* 10(5) 45–50.

and for books:

Toklas, Alice B. 1947. *Book Title*. Publisher’s name, City, State (or Country).

and for collections of papers:

Beedle, Albert A. 1979. Title of chapter. J. J. Fox, ed.
Book Title. Publisher's name, City, State (or Country),
556–572.

and for material online,

Bly, Laura. 2000. Upstart airfare site beats the big boys.
USA Today.com, April 21, retrieved on October 23,
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Strunk, William, Jr., E. B. White. 2000. *The Elements of
Style*, 4th ed. Allyn & Bacon, Needham Heights,
MA.

For a more complete, formal treatment of the process
of preparing a paper for publication, see:

The University of Chicago Press. 1993. *The Chicago
Manual of Style*, 14th ed. University of Chicago
Press, Chicago, IL.

For sound advice on figures, refer to the series of
books by Edward R. Tufte:

Tufte, Edward R. 1983. *The Visual Display of Quantita-
tive Information*. Graphics Press, Cheshire, CT.

———. 1990. *Envisioning Information*. Graphics Press,
Cheshire, CT.

———. 1997. *Visual Explanations*. Graphics Press, Chesh-
ire, CT.