

SFS Suomen Standardit ry
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REF: YOUR STATEMENT REQUEST, MAY 19, 2025

ISO/DIS 24495-3 Plain language – Part 3: Science Writing

The Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing thanks for the opportunity to comment on this draft and wishes to state the following:

The purpose and goals of the document, as described in the introduction, are important and commendable. We support the publication of this document as an international standard but make some suggestions before finalization:

3 Terms and definitions / 3.1. Author

The definition of Author is very broad in this draft. A consideration should be given to separating Author and Contributor.

Authorship is a contested topic which may motivate ethical concerns. The definition here seems to contradict somewhat with instructions about ethical constitution of authorship. See, e.g.,

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>

Committee on Publication Ethics <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/discussion-document/authorship>

Please note that an Author is a copyright holder (who may keep or let go of his/her rights).

5.1.3. Genre

Genre is a broader concept than "a document type" and is understood more broadly in science writing, as well. By way of example: prose, lyrics, and drama are three different genres of literature, all published in one document type (books).

5.1.6. Present content ethically

We suggest highlighting the importance of evaluating the reliability of source publications and their publishers, in the present era of preprints, misinformation, and predatory journals.

5.3.2. Indicate the status of information

In addition to dating the document, all updates and changes to online contents should be dated and identified.

The example in the last point ("as heavy as a washing machine") seems contradictory to the request to use precise language in 5.3.3. We would recommend inventing a more precise (more standardized) plain-language comparison, e.g., "twice the size of a football field."

5.3.4. Design effective images

Please note that images can be effective in unintended or unwanted ways. The document should encourage awareness of the power images have in creating new meanings. Furthermore, captions steer the attention of the reader. Cultural conventions and differences (including the direction of reading) should be taken into account in the design, where appropriate.

The same applies, to some extent, in **5.3.7. Create effective tables**.

We would recommend highlighting **accessibility** more explicitly in the final document text.

Table B.1 – Sample Checklist

This is most useful.

On behalf of the Board of the Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pauliina Raento".

Pauliina Raento
Director

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