# Writing The Research Paper A Handbook PDF

Writing the Research Paper: A Handbook

*Writing the research paper: a handbook* is an essential guide for students, researchers, and academics aiming to produce high-quality, impactful scholarly work. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced writer, understanding the step-by-step process of crafting a research paper is vital for academic success and professional development. This comprehensive guide aims to demystify the process, offering practical tips, structured advice, and SEO-optimized strategies to enhance your writing and ensure your research paper stands out.

## Understanding the Basics of a Research Paper

### What Is a Research Paper?

A research paper is a detailed document that presents your findings on a specific topic, backed by evidence and critical analysis. It demonstrates your ability to gather, evaluate, and synthesize information, contributing to the academic community's knowledge base.

### Types of Research Papers

Depending on your discipline and purpose, research papers can take various forms:

- Analytical Research Paper: Analyzes existing data or literature.
- Argumentative Research Paper: Presents a viewpoint supported by evidence.
- Experimental or Empirical Paper: Reports on original research or experiments.
- Review Paper: Summarizes existing research on a topic.
- Case Study: Focuses on a particular instance or event.

## Planning Your Research Paper

### Choosing a Topic

Start with selecting a research topic that interests you and aligns with your field of study. Consider:

- Relevance to current issues
- Availability of resources

- Scope and feasibility
- Personal interest and expertise

### Conducting Preliminary Research

Gather initial information to refine your topic. Use reputable sources such as academic journals, books, and credible websites to identify gaps in existing research.

### Formulating a Thesis Statement

Your thesis statement is a concise summary of your research purpose and main argument. It guides your writing and informs readers of your paper's focus.

## Structuring Your Research Paper

### Standard Sections of a Research Paper

A well-structured research paper typically includes:

- Title: Concise and descriptive.
- Abstract: Brief summary of the research, methodology, and findings.
- Introduction: Presents background, research questions, and thesis.
- Literature Review: Summarizes existing research and identifies gaps.
- Methodology: Details research design, data collection, and analysis methods.
- Results: Presents findings objectively.
- Discussion: Interprets results and relates them to existing literature.
- Conclusion: Summarizes key points, implications, and future research directions.
- References: Lists all sources cited.
- Appendices: Includes supplementary material.

### Creating an Outline

Outline your paper to organize ideas logically. An outline helps ensure coherence and flow, making the writing process more efficient.

## Writing Your Research Paper: Step-by-Step Guide

### Step 1: Drafting the Introduction

Begin with a hook to capture interest, provide background information, state your research problem,

and present your thesis statement.

### Step 2: Conducting and Writing the Literature Review

Summarize relevant research, highlighting key findings, methodologies, and gaps your study aims to address.

### Step 3: Detailing the Methodology

Explain your research design, participants, data collection instruments, procedures, and analysis techniques. Clarity and transparency are crucial here.

### Step 4: Presenting Results

Display your findings using text, tables, and figures. Focus on clarity, accuracy, and objectivity.

### Step 5: Analyzing and Discussing Results

Interpret what your results mean in the context of your research questions. Discuss implications, limitations, and potential biases.

### Step 6: Concluding Your Paper

Summarize your main findings, restate their significance, and suggest avenues for future research.

### Step 7: Writing the References and Appendices

Ensure all sources are properly cited following the required citation style (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.). Include any supplementary data.

## SEO Tips for Writing and Publishing Your Research Paper

### Optimize Your Title and Abstract

- Use relevant keywords naturally.
- Make the title descriptive yet concise.
- Write an engaging abstract with keywords for better discoverability.

### Use Keywords Strategically

Incorporate keywords throughout your paper, especially in headings, subheadings, and in the abstract, to improve search engine ranking.

### Follow Formatting and Style Guidelines

Adhere to the style guide recommended by your institution or publication to ensure consistency and professionalism.

### Publish in Reputable Databases

Aim to publish your research in reputable journals, repositories, or academic platforms to increase visibility.

## Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

### Procrastination and Writer?s Block

- Set realistic goals and deadlines.
- Break the writing process into smaller tasks.
- Use writing prompts or brainstorming techniques.

### Ensuring Academic Integrity

- Properly cite all sources.
- Use plagiarism detection tools.
- Understand and follow ethical guidelines.

### Managing Data and References

- Use reference management software (e.g., EndNote, Zotero).
- Keep organized notes and data logs.

## Final Tips for Successful Research Paper Writing

- Start early to allow ample time for research, writing, and revisions.
- Seek feedback from peers, mentors, or editors.
- Revise thoroughly, focusing on clarity, coherence, and correctness.

- Proofread meticulously to eliminate grammatical and typographical errors.
- Stay motivated by reminding yourself of the importance of your research.

In conclusion, mastering the art of writing a research paper requires careful planning, structured writing, and attention to detail. Using this handbook as a guide, you can navigate each phase of the process confidently, produce compelling and credible research, and share your findings effectively with the academic community. Remember, consistent effort and adherence to best practices are key to transforming your ideas into a polished scholarly document that makes a meaningful contribution to your field.

Writing the Research Paper: A Handbook is an essential resource for students, academics, and professionals aiming to master the art of scholarly writing. This comprehensive guide offers step-by-step instructions, practical tips, and structured frameworks to help writers produce clear, impactful, and well-organized research papers. Whether you are a novice just starting your academic journey or an experienced researcher looking to refine your skills, this handbook serves as a valuable roadmap to navigate the complexities of academic writing with confidence and precision.

## Introduction to Research Paper Writing

Understanding the importance of a well-crafted research paper is fundamental. A research paper not only contributes to the body of academic knowledge but also showcases your ability to analyze, synthesize, and present information effectively. The handbook begins by emphasizing the significance of clarity, coherence, and scholarly integrity, setting the stage for the detailed guidance that follows.

Key features:

- Clarifies the purpose of research papers in academia
- Highlights common challenges faced by writers
- Introduces essential writing principles

## Planning and Preparing for Your Research Paper

Effective research begins before writing. Proper planning ensures that your effort is focused and your arguments are coherent.

### Choosing a Topic

Selecting a suitable topic is vital. It should be relevant, specific, and manageable within your scope.

Tips:

- Identify areas of interest or gaps in existing literature
- Ensure the topic aligns with your course or research objectives
- Check for available resources and data

### Conducting Literature Review

A thorough review of existing research informs your work and helps avoid duplication.

Features:

- Summarizes current debates and findings
- Identifies gaps or unresolved questions
- Guides the formulation of research questions

### Formulating Research Questions and Hypotheses

Clear, focused questions direct your research and structure your paper.

Pros:

- Provides clarity and purpose
- Facilitates systematic investigation

Cons:

- Overly broad questions can be unwieldy
- Poorly defined hypotheses hinder progress

### Developing a Research Plan

Outline your methodology, timeline, and resources needed to keep your project on track.

## Structuring Your Research Paper

A well-organized paper enhances readability and logical flow. The handbook emphasizes the classic

IMRaD structure: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion, with additional sections as needed.

## Title and Abstract

Your title should be concise yet descriptive; the abstract summarizes your key findings.

Features:

- Should entice the reader
- Summarizes the research purpose, methods, results, and conclusions

## Introduction

Sets the context, states the research problem, and articulates objectives.

Tips:

- Capture attention with relevant background
- Clearly state your research questions or hypotheses

## Literature Review

Provides an overview of existing research, establishing the groundwork for your study.

## Methodology

Details your research design, participants, procedures, and data analysis methods.

Pros:

- Ensures reproducibility
- Demonstrates rigor

Cons:

- Overly detailed descriptions can overwhelm readers

### Results

Present your findings objectively using text, tables, and figures.

### Discussion

Interprets the results, links back to literature, and discusses implications.

### Conclusion

Summarizes key findings, limitations, and suggestions for future research.

### References

Cite all sources appropriately according to the required style guide.

## Writing and Style Tips

Effective writing requires clarity, precision, and adherence to academic standards.

### Clarity and Conciseness

Avoid jargon and complex sentences; aim for straightforward language.

### Consistency and Style

Follow your discipline?s formatting and citation rules meticulously.

Features:

- Use active voice where appropriate
- Maintain a formal tone

### Editing and Proofreading

Revise multiple drafts, check for grammatical errors, and ensure logical flow.

Pros:

- Improves readability
- Eliminates errors and inconsistencies

Cons:

- Time-consuming process

## Utilizing Tools and Resources

Leverage technology to streamline writing, research, and citation management.

### Reference Management Software

Tools like EndNote, Zotero, or Mendeley help organize sources and generate citations.

Features:

- Automates bibliography creation
- Supports multiple citation styles

### Writing Software and Templates

Word processors with templates or specialized software (e.g., LaTeX) facilitate formatting.

### Plagiarism Checkers

Ensure originality and proper attribution.

## Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Writing a research paper can be daunting, but understanding common pitfalls aids in effective management.

### Procrastination

Set realistic goals and deadlines; break tasks into manageable parts.

### Writer?s Block

Take breaks, change environments, or discuss ideas with peers.

### Data Management

Maintain organized records and backups.

## Finalizing and Submitting Your Research Paper

Preparation for submission involves meticulous review and adherence to guidelines.

### Formatting and Style

Ensure your paper meets all formatting requirements of the target journal or institution.

### Peer Review and Feedback

Seek constructive criticism from colleagues or mentors.

### Submission Process

Follow submission instructions carefully, including file formats and cover letters.

Pros:

- Increases chances of acceptance
- Enhances quality through feedback

## Conclusion: Mastering Research Paper Writing with the Handbook

Writing the Research Paper: A Handbook provides a detailed, systematic approach to scholarly writing that demystifies the process and empowers writers at all levels. By emphasizing planning, organization, clarity, and adherence to standards, the handbook helps transform complex research into compelling, credible papers. Its features include practical tips, structured frameworks, and resource recommendations, making it an indispensable tool for academic success.

Pros:

- Comprehensive coverage from conception to submission
- User-friendly structure with clear headings and sections

- Practical advice applicable across disciplines

Cons:

- May require adaptation for discipline-specific conventions
- Could be overwhelming for absolute beginners without prior guidance

In conclusion, investing time to understand and utilize the principles outlined in this handbook can significantly improve the quality and impact of your research papers, ultimately advancing your academic and professional goals.

QuestionAnswer What are the essential steps outlined in 'Writing the Research Paper: A Handbook' for beginning a research paper? The handbook emphasizes selecting a clear topic, conducting thorough research, creating an outline, drafting the paper, revising for clarity and coherence, and properly citing sources to ensure a well-structured research paper. How does 'Writing the Research Paper: A Handbook' suggest handling citations and references? It recommends using consistent citation styles such as APA, MLA, or Chicago, depending on the discipline, and provides guidance on integrating in-text citations seamlessly and compiling comprehensive reference lists to avoid plagiarism. What are common pitfalls in research paper writing addressed in the handbook? Common pitfalls include poor thesis development, lack of organization, insufficient evidence, improper citation, and neglecting revision. The handbook offers strategies to avoid these issues and improve overall paper quality. How does the handbook recommend structuring a research paper? It advocates for a clear structure comprising an introduction with a thesis statement, a well-organized body that presents evidence logically, and a conclusion that summarizes findings and implications. What advice does 'Writing the Research Paper: A Handbook' give for effective writing and editing? The handbook stresses the importance of drafting multiple versions, seeking feedback, focusing on clarity and conciseness, and thoroughly proofreading to ensure grammatical accuracy and coherence. Are there specific tips in the handbook for incorporating sources effectively? Yes, it advises paraphrasing appropriately, integrating quotations smoothly, analyzing sources critically, and ensuring all evidence supports the thesis while maintaining academic integrity. How does the handbook address the importance of the research process beyond writing? It emphasizes careful planning, effective research strategies, time management, and critical thinking as integral to producing a comprehensive and impactful research paper.

**Related keywords:** research paper guide, academic writing, research methodology, citation and referencing, scholarly writing, research paper structure, thesis writing, literature review, research tips, writing techniques

# written research in moi university

## Written Research in Moi University: An Overview of Academic Excellence and Innovation

**Written research in Moi University** plays a pivotal role in shaping the academic landscape of one of Kenya?s leading higher education institutions. As a university committed to fostering innovation, critical thinking, and scholarly excellence, Moi University emphasizes the importance of rigorous research output across various disciplines. This article explores the significance of written research at Moi University, the processes involved, and how it contributes to societal development and academic advancement.

## The Significance of Written Research at Moi University

Moi University has established itself as a hub for academic research, aiming to produce knowledge that addresses local, regional, and global challenges. The university?s research culture encourages students, faculty, and staff to engage in scholarly activities that lead to published papers, reports, theses, and dissertations.

Key reasons why written research is vital at Moi University include:

- Advancement of Knowledge: Contributing to existing academic literature with new insights and discoveries.
- Policy Development: Informing policymakers with evidence-based research to shape effective policies.
- Community Impact: Addressing societal issues such as health, agriculture, education, and technology.
- Academic Recognition: Enhancing the university?s reputation through high-quality publications.
- Capacity Building: Developing students? and staff?s research skills and analytical capabilities.

## The Role of Research in Moi University?s Academic Framework

Moi University?s academic framework emphasizes research as a core component of higher education. The university integrates research into curricula and encourages students to undertake research projects as part of their coursework.

Main aspects of research integration include:

- Undergraduate and Postgraduate Research Projects: Students undertake research projects that culminate in dissertations or theses.
- Faculty-Led Research: Academic staff are actively involved in research activities, often collaborating with industry, government, and international partners.
- Research Centers and Institutes: Specialized units focus on areas like health sciences, agriculture, engineering, and social sciences to promote targeted research.
- Research Funding and Grants: The university actively seeks funding from government agencies, development partners, and international organizations to support research initiatives.

## The Process of Conducting Written Research at Moi University

Conducting written research at Moi University follows a structured process designed to ensure quality and relevance. This process typically involves the following stages:

### 1. Identifying a Research Problem

- Recognizing gaps in existing knowledge or societal needs.
- Formulating clear, concise research questions or hypotheses.

### 2. Literature Review

- Reviewing existing studies to contextualize the research.
- Identifying theoretical frameworks and methodologies.

### 3. Designing the Research

- Choosing appropriate research methods (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods).
- Developing research instruments such as questionnaires, interview guides, or experimental setups.

### 4. Data Collection

- Gathering data through surveys, experiments, observations, or archival research.
- Ensuring ethical considerations and obtaining necessary approvals.

### 5. Data Analysis

- Analyzing data using statistical tools or qualitative techniques.
- Interpreting findings in relation to research questions.

### 6. Writing the Research Report

- Structuring the research document with sections like introduction, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion.
- Citing sources appropriately to maintain academic integrity.

### 7. Publishing and Dissemination

- Submitting research for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Presenting findings at conferences, workshops, or community forums.

## Types of Written Research Produced at Moi University

Moi University?s research output manifests in various formats, including:

- Theses and Dissertations: Completed by postgraduate students as part of their degree requirements.
- Research Articles: Published in national and international journals.
- Conference Papers: Presented at academic and industry conferences.
- Research Reports: Detailed findings shared with stakeholders, government agencies, and partner organizations.
- Policy Briefs: Summarized research insights aimed at informing decision-makers.

## Research Support and Resources at Moi University

To foster a robust research environment, Moi University provides extensive support, including:

- Research Grants and Funding Opportunities: Through internal and external sources.
- Research Centers and Laboratories: Equipped with modern facilities suitable for various disciplines.
- Training and Capacity Building: Workshops on research methodology, academic writing, and publication processes.
- Libraries and Digital Resources: Access to journals, e-books, and databases essential for literature review and data analysis.

- Mentorship Programs: Guidance from experienced faculty and researchers.

## Challenges and Opportunities in Written Research at Moi University

While Moi University has made significant strides in research, certain challenges persist:

Challenges:

- Limited funding for extensive research projects.
- Insufficient research infrastructure in some departments.
- Need for increased collaboration with international research bodies.
- Publication barriers, including access to high-impact journals.

Opportunities:

- Expanding partnerships with industry and government for applied research.
- Leveraging technology to enhance research dissemination.
- Promoting interdisciplinary research to solve complex societal problems.
- Increasing student involvement in research activities.

## Impact of Written Research on Society and Development

The research produced at Moi University has tangible impacts, including:

- Improved Healthcare Solutions: Research in medicine and public health informs better treatment protocols and health policies.
- Agricultural Innovation: Studies on crop improvement and pest management benefit local farmers and food security.
- Educational Reforms: Findings from social sciences influence curriculum development and teaching methods.
- Technological Advancements: Engineering and IT research contribute to innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Environmental Conservation: Studies on climate change and natural resource management aid sustainable development.

## Conclusion

Written research at Moi University embodies the institution?s commitment to academic excellence,

societal development, and innovation. Through rigorous research processes, diverse outputs, and strategic support, Moi University continues to contribute valuable knowledge to Kenya and the world. Embracing emerging opportunities and addressing existing challenges will ensure that the university sustains its reputation as a center of scholarly and societal impact.

By fostering a vibrant research culture, Moi University not only enhances its academic stature but also plays a vital role in solving real-world problems, thereby making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and communities.

Written Research in Moi University: A Comprehensive Analysis of Academic Inquiry and Scholarly Output

In the landscape of higher education, research serves as the backbone of academic growth, innovation, and societal contribution. Moi University, one of Kenya?s premier institutions of higher learning, has demonstrated a significant commitment to fostering a vibrant research culture. This article offers a detailed exploration of written research at Moi University, examining its history, scope, quality, impact, and the challenges faced by researchers within this esteemed institution.

## Introduction to Moi University?s Research Ecosystem

Moi University, established in 1984, has grown from its humble beginnings into a leading university in Kenya, with a reputation for academic excellence and research innovation. The university's mission emphasizes the generation, dissemination, and application of knowledge to improve society. As such, research is a core pillar of its strategic objectives.

The university's research activities are driven by various faculties, institutes, and centers, each contributing to a diverse body of scholarly output that spans disciplines such as health sciences, engineering, social sciences, education, and natural resources. The written research produced by Moi University encompasses theses, dissertations, journal articles, conference papers, technical reports, policy briefs, and books.

## The Historical Evolution of Research at Moi University

Understanding the trajectory of written research at Moi University requires a historical perspective:

- Early Years (1980s - 1990s):

During its initial decades, research output was primarily academic, focusing on postgraduate theses and dissertations. Limited funding and infrastructural challenges constrained extensive publication efforts.

- Growth and Institutional Development (2000s):

The university increased emphasis on research capacity building, establishing research offices, funding schemes, and collaborations. This period saw a rise in peer-reviewed publications and international partnerships.

- Recent Trends (2010s - Present):

Moi University has expanded its research footprint, with a significant increase in written outputs, including high-impact journal articles, policy-oriented reports, and multidisciplinary research. The institution adopted digital repositories, promoting open access and dissemination.

## Scope and Nature of Written Research at Moi University

The research output at Moi University is characterized by diversity in topics, formats, and disciplines. Its scope includes:

- Academic Theses and Dissertations:

Graduate students contribute a substantial volume of written research, often serving as foundational work for future publications.

- Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

Faculty members and postgraduate students publish findings in national and international journals, covering applied sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

- Technical and Research Reports:

Many projects, especially those funded by government agencies or development partners, produce detailed reports aimed at policymakers and practitioners.

- Books and Book Chapters:

Faculty authors contribute to scholarly books, often based on their research specialization.

- Conference Papers and Proceedings:

Participation in national and international conferences leads to the presentation and publication of research findings.

- Policy Briefs and Practice Guides:

To ensure societal impact, some research outputs are tailored into accessible formats for policymakers and practitioners.

## Quality and Rigor of Research Output

Assessing the quality and rigor of Moi University?s research involves multiple metrics and qualitative factors:

### Publication Quality

Many Moi University researchers publish in reputable, peer-reviewed international journals, including those indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. The increasing number of publications in high-impact journals indicates growing research quality.

### Research Methodology

The university emphasizes methodological rigor, with research projects often employing mixed-methods approaches, experimental designs, and systematic reviews, depending on discipline-specific standards.

### Research Funding and Grants

A rising trend in securing external funding from national bodies like the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), international agencies, and development partners reflects confidence in the quality of research.

### Ethical Standards

Research ethics committees oversee compliance with ethical standards, especially in health sciences and social sciences, ensuring integrity and societal responsibility.

## Impact and Contributions of Moi University?s Research

The tangible impact of written research at Moi University manifests in various ways:

- Academic Advancement:

The university?s research enhances graduate training, fosters innovation, and contributes to the academic reputation.

- Socioeconomic Development:

Research outputs inform policies in health, agriculture, education, and environmental management. For example, studies on disease prevalence inform public health interventions.

- Capacity Building:

Through research mentorship and collaborations, Moi University develops skilled researchers and practitioners.

- Knowledge Dissemination:

Digital repositories, open-access journals, and conferences facilitate the broad dissemination of research findings.

- International Recognition:

Publications in high-impact journals and participation in global research networks elevate the university?s profile.

## Challenges Facing Written Research at Moi University

Despite commendable progress, Moi University faces several hurdles in research development:

- Limited Funding:

Insufficient financial resources constrain large-scale and longitudinal studies, reducing the scope and depth of research.

- Infrastructure Gaps:

Inadequate laboratory facilities, research equipment, and access to academic databases hamper research productivity.

- Capacity Constraints:

A shortage of skilled research mentors and technical staff affects the quality and mentorship of emerging researchers.

- Publication Barriers:

Challenges in navigating publication processes, language barriers, and high publication costs can impede dissemination.

- Policy and Administrative Bottlenecks:

Complex administrative procedures and slow approval processes delay research initiation and completion.

- Collaboration Limitations:

While international collaborations are growing, local interdisciplinary collaborations remain limited, affecting comprehensive research approaches.

## Strategies for Enhancing Research Output and Quality

To address these challenges and amplify research impact, Moi University can adopt several strategies:

- Increase Funding and Resource Allocation:

Boost internal grants, seek diversified funding sources, and invest in research infrastructure.

- Strengthen Capacity Building:

Conduct regular training workshops on research methodologies, academic writing, and grant writing.

- Promote Collaborative Research:

Foster interdisciplinary projects within the university and establish partnerships with other academic and research institutions.

- Encourage Open Access and Digital Repository Use:

Maximize visibility by depositing research outputs in open-access platforms.

- Enhance Mentorship Programs:

Pair early-career researchers with experienced mentors to improve research quality and publication success.

- Streamline Administrative Processes:

Simplify research approval procedures and establish clear guidelines for ethical and logistical support.

## Conclusion: The Future of Written Research at Moi University

Moi University?s commitment to scholarly inquiry is evident in its growing body of written research. As the institution navigates contemporary challenges and leverages emerging opportunities, its research ecosystem is poised to produce even more impactful and high-quality outputs. Sustained investment, capacity building, and strategic collaborations will be pivotal in realizing the full potential of Moi University?s research endeavors, ultimately contributing to societal development and academic excellence.

The trajectory of written research at Moi University exemplifies a vibrant academic community dedicated to knowledge creation, dissemination, and application. Its continued growth will not only elevate the university?s stature but also serve as a catalyst for positive change within Kenya and the broader East African region.

QuestionAnswer What are the main requirements for submitting written research at Moi University? Students are required to complete a research proposal, conduct the research adhering

to ethical standards, and submit a comprehensive research paper following the university's formatting guidelines and deadlines. How does Moi University support students in their research activities? Moi University provides research funding opportunities, access to laboratories and libraries, supervision from experienced faculty, and workshops on research methodology and writing skills. What are the common challenges faced by students when conducting written research at Moi University? Challenges include limited access to current research resources, time management issues, lack of research experience, and difficulties in data collection and analysis. Are there specific guidelines for formatting and citing sources in Moi University's research papers? Yes, Moi University follows standard academic formatting styles such as APA or Harvard, and students are provided with detailed guidelines on citation and referencing to ensure consistency and academic integrity. Can students publish their research findings externally after completing their projects at Moi University? Yes, students are encouraged to publish their research findings in academic journals and conferences, with the support of their supervisors and the university's research office. What is the role of supervision in the written research process at Moi University? Supervisors provide guidance throughout the research process, from proposal development to final writing, ensuring academic rigor, ethical compliance, and timely completion of the research project.

**Related keywords:** Moi University research, academic publications Moi University, student research projects, Moi University thesis, faculty research Moi University, research funding Moi University, research centers Moi University, research conferences Moi University, research methodology Moi University, scholarly articles Moi University

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