Acknowledgments & the Oxford Comma

Abstract
"Acknowledgments & the Oxford Comma" explains where to put acknowledgments in JOE articles and lays down the law about commas in lists of three or more things. "JOE Editor RFP" is a reminder that Extension Journal, Inc. (EJI) is inviting proposals to provide editorial services for the Journal of Extension (JOE), starting in 2016. "December JOE" highlights too few of the excellent articles in the December issue.

Laura Hoelscher  
Editor, Journal of Extension  
Department of Agricultural Communication  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, Indiana  
joe-ed@joe.org

Acknowledgments & the Oxford Comma

Here are two JOE style points I've been meaning to discuss for ages.

Acknowledgements

Many times authors want to acknowledge the contributions of individuals who were not directly involved in the preparation of their articles and so are not authors per se but who nonetheless contributed in some way to the project or study being discussed. Lots of authors ask me where to put such an acknowledgment. Others just guess.

Ask and guess no more.


Oxford Comma

Huh?
The Oxford comma (or Harvard comma or serial comma) is the comma put before "and" (or "or" or "nor" or any coordinating conjunction) in a series of three or more things.

It's JOE (and APA) style to use the Oxford comma, including in citations.

This is not a universal rule, alas. My news colleagues, for example, follow the Associated Press Stylebook (AP), which does not require the Oxford comma in a simple series.

I spend a lot of time inserting that Oxford comma into articles. I'd sure like to spend less.

So, in JOE articles, you must insert a comma before the "and" (or "or" or "nor" or any coordinating conjunction) in a list of three or more things—no ifs, ands, or buts!

**JOE Editor RFP**

Remember that Extension Journal, Inc. (EJI) is inviting proposals to provide editorial services for the *Journal of Extension (JOE)*. The deadline for proposals is January 15, 2015, and the contract begins on January 1, 2016.


As I said in October, it's a big job. There's lots of hard work involved. But you'll love it.

**December JOE**


The last article cited is not the only one to discuss a visual communication strategy. See "Distilling Research into Actionable Knowledge: An Assessment of a Conservation Buffer Guide." <http://www.joe.org/joe/2014december/rb2.php>

And there's the second in a three-part series: "Going the Distance Part 2: Five Ways of Teaching an Extension Course: Elive, Blackboard, Teleconference, Correspondence, and Face-to-Face." <http://www.joe.org/joe/2014december/a3.php>

I can't mention every article in the issue (although I wish I could), so I'll close with calling your
attention to "Using Needs Assessment as a Tool to Strengthen Funding Proposals,"