Authors are encouraged keep their articles as brief as possible. The length of a manuscript should be commensurate with its contribution; there is no minimum length for a JSV article. Generally, lengthy articles take longer to review; also, busy reviewers are less willling to accept the invitation to review when the manuscript is perceived as long. The Editor notes that articles are often shortened as a condition of acceptance, following reviewer's recommendations. The following hints are intended to help authors to keep the length of their manuscripts to a minimum.

- 1. Tables and graphs should be limited in number to those needed to support the argument. Where data are offered as benchmark results for other researchers, consider placing the complete data set on your institution's website; the url can be given in the text of the article.
- 2. Established theoretical procedures that are readily available elsewhere should not be presented again, unless the focus of the paper is on criticising or further extending such procedures. Instead they should be cited.
- 3. Major steps in the derivations of new theory or procedures may need to be presented; but trivial intermediate steps -- for examples equations that could be obtained using algebra -- should be omitted.
- 4. Think carefully what the point of your paper is. Then eliminate material that does not help to convey that point.
- 5. Keep in mind that the nature of JSV as an interdisciplinary journal requires authors to write for a fairly broad readership. Therefore inclusion of background material, to explain the work's motivation and practical significance, is encouraged. Likewise authors are encouraged to explain steps in their argument. This material should take precedence over multiple graphs and tables of data.