Abstract
The main purpose of this article is to give Latin American and especially Venezuelan students, teachers, researchers and writers a practical guide for using the 5th Edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual efficiently in producing and presenting their scientific papers. To this end, we provide straightforward explanations of concepts and some examples, mainly using sources in Spanish. To make it easier to understand, the article has been organized as follows: first we give a general description of the APA system; this is followed by a description of the organization and textual features of documents submitted for publication and the parts of an article; ways of presenting references in the text; and finally how to organize the references. We conclude that the APA manual as a stylistic guide favors communication, but in certain cases guidelines are lacking and other means must be resorted to.

Keywords
APA Publication Manual, scientific papers, producing written work, presenting written work.