



RWS
IP Services



AOP Connect



AOP Connect Quick Start Guide

www.rws.com



Welcome

The AOP Connect Quick Start Guide provides you a short introduction to the areas of the AOP Connect platform that are most important in getting you participating in our Studies – creating your Profile, qualifying for a Study, uploading your Responses, understanding the Research Requirements and Highlighting.

For a more in-depth guide to our research crowdsourcing process and the AOP Connect platform, please click the following link for our Researcher Manual: <https://app.articleonepartners.com/resources/rws-researcher-manual.pdf>

Researcher registration

When you register as a Researcher with RWS, we welcome you to our global community of Researchers through an online registration process. The registration process walks you through the creation of an account and provides valuable information to get you started. Now that you've created an account, we invite you to take these next steps before participating in our Studies.

The screenshot shows the AOP Connect Researcher Registration page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the AOP Connect logo and links for About, Solutions, Resources, Researchers, Studies, Register, Contact, and Login. The main heading is "Researcher Registration" with a sub-message: "To date, we have paid out \$9,473,643 to our Community. Register below to start earning Rewards as one of our Researchers." The registration form is divided into two columns. The left column contains input fields for First Name, Last Name, Email, Username, Password, and Country of Residence. Below these are "Email Settings" with three checked options: "Study Updates" (Strongly Recommended), "Study Suggestions", and "Additional Opportunities". At the bottom of the form is a checkbox for "I agree to the Terms of Use, Privacy Policy and Researcher Agreement" and a blue "Register" button. The right column features a vertical list of three steps: 1. Register (Give us some basic information to get your account setup.), 2. Profile (Entering information such as Technical Knowledge, Related IP Experience, Work/Education History, etc gets you closer to having a Complete Profile and taking an important step to being considered for participation in Invitation Only Studies.), and 3. Start Researching (Perform quality research and get paid! With varying Rewards you can win a study or get smaller payments for high quality work, even without winning. The more high quality research entered, the higher chance you have of being invited to guaranteed payment programs.).

Email settings

It's important to choose email settings that will ensure you're receiving communications from RWS regarding new studies and any study suggestions that may be of interest to you.

Email Settings

- Study Updates** Strongly Recommended
I would like to receive study update emails, highlighting recently launched studies and researcher news and tips.
- Study Suggestions**
I would like to receive study suggestion emails based on my expertise and prior activity.
- Additional Opportunities**
I would like to receive information from other RWS divisions and businesses about opportunities that might be of interest to me. You can find out more about other RWS divisions here: <https://www.rws.com/what-we-do/>

Study Email Settings

- I would like to receive an email confirmation for each of my response submissions.
- I would like to receive an email alert when my submission limit changes for a study.

Expert Study Invitations

- I would like to receive invitations to expert studies.

Profile

Complete your [Researcher Profile](#). The profile allows you to provide more information about your education background, work experience, and areas of expertise. We will use the information to let you know about Studies that match your skills. We will also use the profile information to invite Researchers to participate in Invitation Only Studies as Experts.

Complete the [Payment Info](#) tab in your account to select your payment method. Make sure that your Payment Info is properly and completely filled out and updated before you start working on a Study.

Participating in a Study

Once you find information that matches the Research Requirements, you are ready to submit a response. Responding to a Study is straightforward, but there are some important points to remember to improve your chances of earning a Reward.

Eligibility Questionnaire

Prior to submitting your first response to a Study, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire to determine your eligibility to participate. This questionnaire helps to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest that may prevent you from participating in the Study. You need to complete this questionnaire only once for each Study. To complete the questionnaire, please click on the Qualify button.

Qualification Questions

Please complete the eligibility questionnaire below. The questions apply to the study patent and each reference you submit for this study.

If after reviewing the study, I have a conflict of interest due to my present or prior employment involving the owners or inventors of the patent, I agree to refrain from working on the Study. If necessary (invited participant), informing RWS of such decision.

Agree Disagree

I acknowledge and confirm that I am aware of my duty and obligation not to profit (e.g. receive payment from any other company/person) from and to maintain the confidentiality of the information associated with the Study.

Agree Disagree

I acknowledge and confirm that all responses will be a result of my own research and will not be obtained from another person.

Agree Disagree

To respond to a Study you must have acknowledged our [Researcher Agreement](#) and agree to abide by our current Policies, including our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Click on each of the highlighted items to review. I confirm that I have reviewed the Researcher Agreement and agree to abide by its terms and the policies of RWS Information US LLC.

Agree Disagree

 **Success**

- Congratulations, you are eligible to participate in this study.

You may now click on the Respond button to submit a response. Clicking the Respond button on the Study page activates the form that will guide you as you complete your response.

Document upload

For some patent types, providing the bibliographic information will pull a copy of the document from our database. For such cases, you will not be asked to upload a document.

For most submissions, you will be asked to upload a primary document after providing the bibliographic information. Make sure that the file you upload includes the full text of the document, rather than the abstract. The file must not have any identifying information (e.g. your name) or other marks or highlights not part of the actual text of the document. The copy of the document must clearly indicate the relevant date, as described in the section on Response Dates in our [Research Manual](#).

If your primary document is in a language other than English, you will also be asked to upload a translation in the field provided.

No additional explanations, reports, or analyses will be accepted as part of the response. The only files you may upload are the copy of the document itself and an English translation, if applicable.

Clicking the Proceed button will save the bibliographic information and upload the file(s) you entered in the fields provided. The timestamp for your response will be based on when you click the Proceed button.

Research requirements

The Research Requirements are presented in outline form to establish the relationship of the elements to each other. An icon next to each element indicates if it is a priority, conditional, or optional element. To facilitate the review of your response, you will be asked to highlight the specific sections of the text that correspond to the elements of the Research Requirements.

- A priority element has a ★ black star next to it. Ideally, all priority elements are present in your response. While a response may still be In-Scope even if it does not cover all the Priority elements, it will have a higher chance of winning a Reward if it covers most, if not all the Priority elements.
- A conditional element has a ☆ white star next to it. Refer to the parent requirement of the conditional element to understand when this element is required. For example, a parent requirement may ask for two out of six listed elements. In this case, all six elements under the parent are marked with a white star ☆, and you have to meet at least two to fulfill the requirement.
- An optional element has an * eight-pointed asterisk next to it. Optional elements are not required to be present in your response. The Client, however, prefers to see these elements if they are present.

A Study may have special instructions based on the type of research required. Special instructions will be provided in the Study page as needed.

Response highlights

The AOP Connect highlighting tool allows a Researcher to match the relevant section of the response to the corresponding Research Requirements. Upon clicking the Proceed button in the response form (as described in the Response Process), you have 120 minutes (two hours) to complete your response highlights. If you send your response less than two hours before the Study expires, you will only have until 12 noon ET US of the Expiration Date to complete the highlights. Edits to the highlights are not allowed after the allotted time.

To view your responses to a Study, please follow the My Responses link for each Study through the [My Studies](#) page, listed under Actions. For each response, the Highlights column in the table will provide a link to view your highlights. You may edit your highlights through the link within the allotted time.

Adding a highlight

- › **Text** – Select the text you wish to highlight using the text selection tool. Choose the element(s) corresponding to the highlight. Click Save. If the text cannot be selected, switch to the area selection tool.

Once you have added the highlight, the corresponding element of the Research Requirements in the right panel will also be highlighted. This will allow you to see which elements are not yet covered by your highlights. Please provide highlights for as many Priority elements as possible. While a response may still be In-Scope even if it does not cover all the Priority elements, it will have a higher chance of winning the Reward if it covers most, if not all the Priority elements.

Highlighting Example - Research Requirements

To further assist, the following research requirements are used to provide visual examples of each Highlight status (eg. Excellent, Acceptable and Unacceptable). These are examples in a very simple study. Please keep in mind that the stringency or strictness of review will vary with the difficulty level of the study.

Priority

To satisfy, complete 4 priority

1. An aerodynamic toy comprising:
 - 1.1 a circular central portion (12) having a center surrounded by a substantially flat circular surface area whose boundary is defined by a predetermined radius;
 - 1.2 a rim circumscribing the central portion (14).
 - 1.3 a surface of curvature (16) extending from the central portion boundear and curving downwardly to a point of junction with the rim to form an upper convex surface and a lower concave surface of the toy.
 - 1.4 and air flow spoiling means located on the convex surface of a curvature and extending substantially from the boundary to the point of juncture at the rim, said spoiling means comprising a plurality of concentric circular raised ribs being concentric about the center (22).

Highlighting tips cont'd.

An example of Excellent highlighting (Every highlight is relevant, accurate, and specific. The response is eligible for a Reward).



An example of Acceptable Highlighting (The highlights are accurate and specific. The response is eligible for a Reward.)

SHARPSHOOTER™ GOLF DISC

EXTREMELY STRAIGHT AND ACCURATE FLYERS

Aerodynamic Steps Balance the Lift

1.1
1.2, 1.4

SHARPSHOOTER #1 Golf Disc
Case of 12 Stock #76R12

SHARPSHOOTER #2 Golf Disc
Case of 12 Stock #77R12

SHARPSHOOTER #3 Golf Disc
Case of 12 Stock #78R12

SHARPSHOOTER Assortment
6 of SharpShooter #1, 3 each of SharpShooters #2 and #3
Stock #79S12

Perfectly matched for grip and stability, all three discs can be thrown using the same motion. Just choose the disc for the distance you need.

Precision Long-Range Driver #1—
When you need the distance of a long range driver combined with the accuracy of Aerobie's Step Technology.

Precision Mid-Range Driver #2—
When you need slightly less distance, you will benefit from even greater accuracy with this disc.

Precision Approach and Putter #3—
Use this disc when you need an accurate approach or putt.

GOLF DISC Assortment
3 each of Epic and SharpShooter #1, 2 each of SharpShooters #2 and #3, and Arrow.
Stock #79G12

An example of Unacceptable Highlighting (The highlights are inaccurate, excessive or not specific. The response is not eligible for a Reward). The reason is: The highlight is excessive. To highlight additional matter beyond what is included in the Acceptable or Excellent example would be considered excessive.

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Recommended for ages 13 and up

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Case of 12 Stock #76R12

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SHARPSHOOTER #3 Golf Disc
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SHARPSHOOTER Assortment
6 of SharpShooter #1, 3 each of SharpShooters #2 and #3
Stock #79S12

▶ **PGA approved**
▶ **170-174 grams**
▶ **Made in the U.S.A.** 🇺🇸

GOLF DISC Assortment
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An example of Unacceptable Highlighting (The highlights are inaccurate, excessive or not specific. The response is not eligible for a Reward). The reason is: The highlight is not specific.





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**For more information and to access the
researcher manual, click here.**