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Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

Editors' responsibilities

Publication decisions

The editor is responsible for making a decision which papers will be published in the journal. The editor shall evaluate received manuscripts regardless of authors' race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political convictions. The decision on the publication shall be made on the basis of the paper's importance, originality and clarity, as well as the study's relevance to the journal's scope. Legal provisions on libel, copyright infringement, and plagiarism shall also be considered.

Confidentiality

The editor and members of the Editorial Board shall not disclose any information on the received manuscripts to anyone other than the corresponding author and (potential) reviewers.

Disclosure and conflicts of interest

Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted paper shall not be used by the editor or the members of the Editorial Board for their own research purposes without the author's explicit written consent.

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The peer-reviewing process is key to the editor and the members of the Editorial Board in making editorial decisions. It may also serve the author in improving the submitted paper.

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Any selected referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript should promptly notify the editor and withdraw from the review process.

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All manuscripts must be treated as confidential. They must not be disclosed to or discussed with others except as authorized by the editor.

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Reviews should be conducted objectively without any personal criticism of the author. Referees shall express their views, opinions and assessments clearly with supporting arguments.

Acknowledgement of sources

It is necessary that all sources used for writing the paper be acknowledged. Reviewers should identify cases in which relevant published work referred to in the paper has not been cited in the reference section. Reviewers shall notify the editor if they come across any substantial similarity between the reviewed manuscript and any other published paper.

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Privileged information and ideas obtained through peer review process must be kept confidential. It must not be used for gaining personal advantage. Reviewers should not take part in reviewing manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships with any of the authors, companies, or institutions associated with the papers.

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Authors of original research reports shall give a precise account of the research they have carried out, as well as an objective discussion of its scientific relevance. Underlying data should be presented accurately. A paper should contain necessary detail and references to allow others to replicate the work. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate data or statements constitute unethical behavior and are unacceptable.

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Authors may be asked to submit the raw data of their study along with the paper and should be prepared to make the data publicly available. In any event, authors should be prepared to be asked to ensure accessibility of such data to other competent professionals or experts for at least a month after publication, provided that the confidentiality can be protected and legal rights concerning proprietary data do not preclude their release.

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Authors shall submit only original works and shall cite or quote the work and words of other authors. Publications that have been vital in determining the nature of the reported research shall also be cited.

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In general, papers describing the same research should not be published in more than one journal. Submitting the same paper to more than one journal constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.

Manuscripts which have been published as copyrighted material elsewhere shall not be received by the Editorial Board.

Manuscripts which are under review by the journal shall not be resubmitted to copyrighted publications. Naturally, by submitting a manuscript, the author(s) retain(s) the rights to the published material.

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Authorship of the paper should be limited to those who have had a significant role in the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those significantly involved in contributing should be listed as co-authors.

It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to ensure that all contributing co-authors (and no uninvolved persons) are included in the list of authors. The corresponding author shall also verify and confirm that all co-authors have approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its publication.

Disclosure and conflicts of interest

Upon successfully passing the reviewing process, all authors whose papers have been accepted for publication should send to the editor a statement disclosing any financial or other conflicts of interest that may be construed to influence the research results or their possible interpretation. All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed in the footnote following the title of the paper.

Fundamental errors in published works

If it happens that an author discovers a significant error (inaccuracy) in his/her own published paper, it is the author's obligation to promptly notify the editor and to cooperate with the editor to correct the data in form of an erratum.

References

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). (2011, March 7). *Code of Conduct and Best-Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors*. Retrieved from

http://publicationethics.org/files/Code_of_conduct_for_journal_editors_Mar11.pdf

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