

Publication ethics and publication malpractice statement

(based on Elsevier's Publishing Ethics Resource Kit)

Responsibilities of Editor

- The editor of the journal is responsible for deciding which of the articles submitted to the journal should be published.
- The editor will at any time evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors.
- The editor and any editorial staff must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher.
- Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript must not be used in the editor's own research.

Responsibilities of Reviewers

- Peer review assists the editor in making editorial decisions and through the editorial communications with the author may also assist the author in improving the paper.
- Any selected referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its prompt review will be impossible should notify the editor and excuse himself from the review process.
- Any manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to or discussed with others except as authorized by the editor.
- Reviews should be conducted objectively, personal criticism of the author is inappropriate, referees should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.
- Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors and call to the editor's attention any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under consideration and any other published paper of which they have personal knowledge.
- Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage, reviewers should not consider manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest or other relationships with any of the authors.

Responsibilities of Authors

- Authors of original research papers and research reports should present an accurate account of the work performed and underlying data should be represented accurately in the paper.
- A paper should contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work.
- Authors should be able to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, when asked by the editor.
- The authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works, and if the authors have used the work and/or words of others that this has been appropriately cited or quoted.
- An author should not in general publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication.
- Proper acknowledgment of the work of others must always be given. Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work.