

Ethical Policy for Octa Journal of Environmental Research

Ethics

The publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal is an essential building block in the development of a coherent and respected network of knowledge. It is a direct reflection of the quality of work of the author and the institutions that support them. Peer-reviewed articles support and embody the scientific method. It is therefore important to agree upon standards of expected ethical behavior.

Plagiarism

Reproducing text from other papers without properly crediting the source (plagiarism) or producing many papers with almost the same content by the same authors (self-plagiarism) is not acceptable. Submitting the same results to more than one journal concurrently is unethical. Exceptions are the review articles. Authors may not present results obtained by others as if they were their own. Authors should acknowledge the work of others used in their research and cite publications that have influenced the direction and course of their study.

Duplicate Submission

Simultaneous submissions of the same manuscript to different journals will not be tolerated. The submitted article will be removed without consideration.

Corrections and Retractions

All authors have an obligation to inform and cooperate with journal editors to provide prompt retractions or correction of errors in published works.

- The journal will issue retractions if:
 - There are clear evidence that the findings are unreliable, either as a result of misconduct (*e.g.* data fabrication) or honest error (*e.g.* miscalculation or experimental error),
 - The findings have previously been published elsewhere without proper cross-referencing, permission or justification (*i.e.* cases of redundant publication);
 - It constitutes plagiarism,
 - It reports unethical research.
- The journal will issue errata if:
 - A small portion of an otherwise reliable publication proves to be misleading (especially because of honest error);
 - The author list is incorrect (*i.e.* a deserving author has been omitted or somebody who does not meet authorship criteria has been included).

Other forms of misconduct include failure to meet clear ethical and legal requirements such as misrepresentation of interests, breach of confidentiality, lack of informed consent and abuse of research subjects or materials. Misconduct also includes improper dealing with infringements, such as attempts to cover up misconduct and reprisals on whistleblowers.

The primary responsibility for handling research misconduct is in the hands of those who employ the researchers. If a possible misconduct is brought to our attention, we will seek advice from the referees and the Editorial Board. If there is the evidence, we will resolve the matter by

appropriate corrections in the journal; by refusing to consider an author's future work, for a given period, and by contacting affected authors and editors of other journals.

Minor misdemeanors may not lead to formal investigations, but are just as damaging given their probable frequency, and should be corrected by teachers and mentors.

Ethics topics to consider when publishing:

- **Authorship of the Article:** Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study.
- **Data access and retention:** Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, and should be prepared to provide public access to such data.
- **Originality and plagiarism:** 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.
- **Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication:** An author should not in general publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication.
- **Disclosure and conflicts of interest:** All submissions must include disclosure of all relationships that could be viewed as presenting a potential conflict of interest.
- **Reporting standards:** Authors of reports of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed as well as an objective discussion of its significance.
- **Fundamental errors in published works:** When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is the author's obligation to promptly notify the journal editor or publisher and cooperate with the editor to retract or correct the paper.
- **Use of patient images or case details:** Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper.
- **Acknowledgement of sources:** Proper acknowledgment.
- **Hazards and human or animal subjects:** Statements of compliance are required if the work involves chemicals, procedures or equipment that has any unusual hazards inherent in their use, or if it involves the use of animal or human subjects.

Peer Review Process and Publication of article with Octa Journal

