

[Home](#) / [About COPE](#)

Core practices

The Core Practices were developed in 2017, replacing the Code of Conduct. They are applicable to all involved in publishing scholarly literature: editors and their journals, publishers, and institutions. The Core Practices should be considered alongside specific national and international codes of conduct for research and are not intended to replace these.

Journals and publishers should have robust and well described, publicly documented practices in all of the following areas for their journals:

Allegations of misconduct

Journals should have a clearly described process for handling allegations, however they are brought to the journal's or publisher's attention. Journals must take seriously allegations of misconduct pre-publication and post-publication. Policies should include how to handle allegations from whistleblowers.

Latest resources

Citation manipulation in a conference proceeding (Case)

Concurrent submissions of a manuscript to multiple journals (Resource)

How to exclude AI-generated articles (Case)

Authorship and contributorship

Clear policies (that allow for transparency around who contributed to the work and in what capacity) should be in place for requirements for authorship and contributorship as well as processes for managing potential disputes

Latest resources

Experiment reported in a submitted manuscript was not carried out by the author (Case)

Handling contentious authorship disputes (Case)

Is it possible for an article to have two corresponding authors? (Case)

Complaints and appeals

Journals should have a clearly described process for handling complaints against the journal, its staff, editorial board or publisher

Latest resources

Handling an undisclosed conflict of interest which is attracting controversy (Case)

Potential image integrity flags on 15-year-old published papers (Case)

Post-publication corrections (Resource)

Conflicts of interest / Competing interests

There must be clear definitions of conflicts of interest and processes for handling conflicts of interest of authors, reviewers, editors, journals and publishers, whether identified before or after publication

Latest resources

Handling an undisclosed conflict of interest which is attracting controversy (Case)

Conflicts of interest between authors and editors (Case)

Introduction to publication ethics and the COPE ethics toolkit (Resource)

Data and reproducibility

Journals should include policies on data availability and encourage the use of reporting guidelines and registration of clinical trials and other study designs according to standard practice in their discipline

Latest resources

Authors request withdrawal of a 19-year old article (Case)

Stolen ownership of a rare case (Case)

Potential image integrity flags on 15-year-old published papers (Case)

Ethical oversight

Ethical oversight should include, but is not limited to, policies on consent to publication, publication on vulnerable populations, ethical conduct of research using animals, ethical conduct of research using human subjects, handling confidential data and ethical business/marketing practices

Latest resources

When institutions are contacted by journals (Resource)

Suspicion that signed informed consent forms are forged (Case)

Inclusive language: policing or progressive? (Resource)

Intellectual property

All policies on intellectual property, including copyright and publishing licenses, should be clearly described. In addition, any costs associated with publishing should be obvious to authors and readers. Policies should be clear on what counts as prepublication that will preclude consideration. What constitutes plagiarism and redundant/overlapping publication should be specified

Latest resources

Text recycling: Lightning talk summary (News)

Plagiarism by a possible predatory journal (Case)

Legal and regulatory restrictions of published data: dealing with concerns (Resource)

Journal management

A well-described and implemented infrastructure is essential, including the business model, policies, processes and software for efficient running of an editorially independent journal, as well as the efficient management and training of editorial boards and editorial and publishing staff

Latest resources

Inadvertent duplicate publication of the same article a month apart in the same journal (Case)

Handling an undisclosed conflict of interest which is attracting controversy (Case)

Authors request withdrawal of a 19-year old article (Case)

Peer review processes

All peer review processes must be transparently described and well managed. Journals should provide training for editors and reviewers and have policies on diverse aspects of peer review, especially with respect to adoption of appropriate models of review and processes for handling conflicts of interest, appeals and disputes that may arise in peer review

Latest resources

Citation manipulation in a conference proceeding (Case)

Correction, retraction, or expression of concern? (Case)

Retracting a 'Just Accepted' article (Case)

Post-publication discussions and corrections

Journals must allow debate post publication either on their site, through letters to the editor, or on an external moderated site, such as PubPeer. They must have mechanisms for correcting, revising or retracting articles after publication

Latest resources

Inadvertent duplicate publication of the same article a month apart in the same journal
(Case)

Citation manipulation in a conference proceeding (Case)

Late addition of co-authors (Case)

Useful links

Become a member

Contact Us

Events

Guidance

Membership

News & Opinion

Sign up to COPE's latest news

Sign up

COPE Newsletter | **Governance** | **Press** | **COPE position statements** |
Subcommittees | **Policies** | **Privacy Policy** | **Website Terms and Conditions**

Registered charity No 1123023, Registered in England and Wales, Company No 6389120, Registered office:
COPE, New Kings Court, Tollgate, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO53 3LG, United Kingdom

© Committee on Publication Ethics 2024