# Publication Ethics Subject Aid

## Author(s)

Kelly Laas

## Year

2016

## Description

A short guide to some key resources and readings on the topic of publication ethics, including authorship, peer review, and collaboration.

## Body

Publication ethics includes issues such as who gets to be an author, the correct presentation of data in a published paper, attributing credit for the ideas of others, authorship questions in collaborative research, peer review, and ethics for editors.

An author's central obligation is to present an accurate and complete account of the research being performed, including the data collected or used, as well as an objective description of the significance of the research. Authors whose names appear on the paper are responsible for the paper's contents, and should be ready to answer questions raised about the validity and significance of the work being presented to the best of their ability.

Questions of authorship often arise because of the important role publication has in advancing a researcher's career. While there are no universally agreed definitions of authorship, authors should have taken a significant role in the conception, design, analysis and writing of the study.  To avoid distributes over attribution of

academic credit, it is helpful to decide early on in the planning of research project who will be credited as authors and who will be acknowledged.

Editors are the stewards of journals, and must consider and balance the interests of readers, authors, editorial board members, owners and others in the papers they choose to accept or reject. Their decisions should be based only on the paper's importance, originality, or clarity and the study's relevance to the remit of the journal.

Peer reviewers are external experts chosen by editors to provide written opinions with the aim of improving a publication submitted for review. Peer reviewers have the duty of confidentiality in the assessment of a manuscript. Reviewers should not make any use of the data, arguments, or interpretations of their paper being reviewed without the authors' permission.

Many journals provide guidelines and advice to authors, peer reviewers and editors that can be useful in resolving common questions that arise.

**Committee on Publication Ethics. 1999. "Guidelines on Good Publication Practice." In "Code of Conduct. Last accessed June 8, 2016. http://publicationethics.org/files/u7141/1999pdf13.pdf**

# Subject Overviews

**Albert, Tim and Elisabeth Wagner. 2003. "How to handle authorship disputes: A Guide for New Researchers." *COPE Report*. http://publicationethics.org/files/2003pdf12_0.pdf**

This document seeks to help new researchers prevent and resolve authorship problems by providing suggestions on good authorship practice, a glossary of key concepts in authorship, and some reading lists and websites on this topic.

**"Authorship and Allocation of Credit", and "Sharing of Research Results"
29-38, in** *On Being a Scientist : A Guide to Responsible Conduct in
Research* **National Academies. Committee on Science Engineering and
Public Policy. 2009. 3rd ed. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press.**
**http://www.nap.edu/read/12192/chapter/11**

The third edition of this publication is designed to supplement the informal
lessons in ethics provided by research supervisors and mentors. The book
describes the ethical foundations of scientific practices and some of the personal
and professional issues that researchers encounter in their work. It applies to all
forms of research—whether in academic, industrial, or governmental
settings—and to all scientific disciplines.

**"Reporting and Reviewing Research," in** *ORI Introduction to RCR*,
**Nicholas Steneck, 129-158.  Office of Research Integrity, 2007.**
**http://ori.hhs.gov/part-iv-reporting-and-reviewing-research**

This booklet introduces the reader to the nine RCR core instructional areas in four
sections that follow research from inception to planning, conducting, reporting,
and reviewing research. The publication features case studies, text-box inserts,
discussion questions, and electronic and printed resources.

**Rockwell, Sarah. 2005.** *Ethics of Peer Review: A Guide for Manuscript
Reviewers,* **Office of Research Integrity.**
**http://ori.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/prethics.pdf**

A good introduction to some responsibilities involved in peer reviewing a paper,
including if you have the expertise to do the review, exploring possible conflicts of
interest, and issues to think about after you have reviewed the paper, including
confidentiality.

# Policy and Guidance

**American Chemical Society. 2015. "Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research by the American Chemical Society" from ACS Publications.**
[http://pubs.acs.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1218054468605/ethics.pdf](http://pubs.acs.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1218054468605/ethics.pdf)

Provides detailed guidelines for authors, editors, and peer reviewers to help ensure the advancement of science through good publication practices.

**Committee on Publication Ethics. 2016. "Guidelines from the Committee on Publication Ethics" from Committee on Publication Ethics.**
[http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines](http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines)

A collection of guidelines for editors, peer reviewers, and authors.

**International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. 2016. "Recommendations." From the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.** [http://www.icmje.org/](http://www.icmje.org/)

Made up of a dedicated group of medical journal editors, the ethical guidelines set by ICMJE are used by scholarly journals in many difference disciplines.

 **"Reporting Research Results" in** *Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise*, **81-92.  Princeton University Press, 2016.** [https://www.interacademies.org/publication/doing-global-science-guide-responsible-conduct-global-research-enterprise](https://www.interacademies.org/publication/doing-global-science-guide-responsible-conduct-global-research-enterprise)

This concise introductory guide explains the values that should inform the responsible conduct of scientific research in today's global setting. Featuring accessible discussions and ample real-world scenarios, includes a substantial section on reporting research results.

# Bibliography

**"Publication Ethics." In Online Ethics Center for Engineering and Science. Last modified June 2016. https://onlineethics.org/cases/publication-ethics-bibliography**

Includes a list of websites, books and journal articles that cover issues related to authoring and reviewing scientific publications.

## Notes

Reviewed by Marshall Thomsen, October 13, 2016

## Rights

Use of Materials on the OEC

## Resource Type

Bibliography

## Parent Collection

OEC Subject Aids

## Topics

Authorship
Peer Review
Publication Ethics
Research and Practice

## Discipline(s)

Research Ethics
Authoring Institution
Online Ethics Center