



# Author Pack

## A guide to publishing in scholarly journals

### Ethics and plagiarism

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 the work of the authors and the institutions that support them.

An important role of the publisher is to support the extensive efforts of external journal editors to ensure that articles follow ethical guidelines and authors' work is protected.

#### Author responsibilities

- **Reporting standards:** Authors of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed as well as an objective discussion of its significance.
- **Data access and retention:** Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with an article for editorial review, and should be prepared to provide public access to such data.
- **Originality and plagiarism:** 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 publication:** Authors should not publish articles describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication.
- **Acknowledgment of sources:** Proper acknowledgment of the work of others must always be given.
- **Permissions:** Authors are responsible for seeking (and paying) for permission to use third-party material.
- **Authorship of the article:** This should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors.
- **Conflicts of interest:** Authors should disclose in their article any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their article.
- **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 article.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics>



Reported cases of misconduct are on the rise, as the growth in electronic publishing and the wider dissemination of research make it easier for editors, reviewers and authors to identify questionable articles. A new resource has been launched by Elsevier to give academic guidance on how to deal with ethical and plagiarism disputes.

The Publishing Ethics Resource Kit (PERK) provides a single point of access to information, procedures and guidelines for dealing with alleged misconduct and recommends steps to follow to resolve the dispute. Although designed for use by editors, the kit is accessible to all at <http://www.elsevier.com/publishingethicskit>