DESCRIPTION

Optik publishes articles on all subjects related to light and electron optics and offers a survey on the state of research and technical development within the following fields:

- Optics: Optics design, geometrical and beam optics, wave optics, optical and micro-optical components, diffractive optics, devices and systems. Photoelectric and optoelectronic devices. Optical properties of materials, nonlinear optics, wave propagation and transmission in homogeneous and inhomogeneous materials. Information optics, image formation and processing, holographic techniques, microscopes and spectrometer techniques, and image analysis. Optical testing and measuring techniques. Optical communication and computing. Physiological optics. As well as other related topics.

- Electron optics: All methods strongly related to light optics, e.g. geometrical electron optics, imaging theories and methods, GRIN optics, geometrical aberration. Instrumentation and equipments for guiding, focusing and imaging of charged particles, spectrometers and beam lithography. Image reconstruction and analysis, holographic methods. It publishes original papers and short notes on theoretical and experimental research in English. OPTIK addresses itself especially to scientific and technical working specialists in this field.

AUDIENCE

Scientists and Engineers working in the fields of Optics, Laser optics and Electron optics.

IMPACT FACTOR

2018: 1.914 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2019
ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Bulletin Signalétique
Chemical and Earth Sciences
Chemical Abstracts
Compendex
Current Contents - Engineering, Technology & Applied Sciences
Current Contents - Physical, Chemical & Earth Sciences
Engineering Index
Engineering Information Compendex
Geographical Abstracts
INSPEC
Mathematical Reviews
Metals Abstracts
Physics Abstracts
Physikalische Berichte
Research Alert
Science Citation Index
Web of Science
Scopus
Technology and Applied Sciences
TEMA - Technik und Management
ZDEE - Elektrotechnik, Elektronik, Informationstechnik

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Theo Tschudi, INOPTEC GmbH, Hasenberg 5, 3210, Kerzers, Switzerland

Section Editors
Fibre Optics
H. Bartelt, Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology Fiber Optics Workgroup, Jena, Germany

Nonlinear Dynamics in Optics and Photonics, Optical Solitons
A. Biswas, Alabama A&M University Department of Physics Chemistry and Mathematics, Alabama, United States

Metamaterial Optics
P.K. Choudhury, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Institute of Microengineering and Nanoelectronics, Selangor, Malaysia

Thin Films and Plasmonics
M. Faryad, Lahore University of Management Sciences Department of Physics, Lahore, Pakistan

3D Display
D. Li, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics Chinese Academy of Sciences, Jia Ding Qu, China
J. Liu, Beijing Institute of Technology School of Optoelectronics, Hai Dian Qu, China

Optical Networks
L. Zhao, National Engineering Research Center for E-Learning, Wuhan, China

Nonlinear Optics and Matter Waves
Q. Zhou, Wuhan Donghu University School of Electronics and Information Engineering, Wuhan, China

Board
Hartmut Bartelt, Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology Fiber Optics Workgroup, Jena, Germany
Milivoj Belic, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar
Eusebio Bernabeu, Complutense University of Madrid Faculty of Optics and Optometry, Madrid, Spain
Chaoqing Dai, Zhejiang A and F University Department of Optical Engineering, Lin’an, Zhejiang, China
Michael J. Damzen, Imperial College London Department of Physics, London, United Kingdom
Francois Flory, Fresnel Institute Marseille, Marseille, France
John Healy, University College Dublin School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Dublin, Ireland
Henryk Kasprzak, Wroclaw University of Technology Faculty of Fundamental Problems of Technology, Wroclaw, Poland
Damien Peter Kelly, Ilmenau University of Technology Department of Mechanical Engineering, Ilmenau, Germany
Akhlesh Lakhtakia, Pennsylvania State University Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics, University Park, Pennsylvania, United States
Baida Lü, Sichuan University Institute of Laser Physics and Laser Chemistry, Chengdu, China
Kaoru Minoshima, University of Electrocommunications Faculty of Informatics and Engineering Graduate School of Informatics and Engineering, Chofu, Japan
Serguey Odoulov, Institute of Physics National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine
Yukitoshi Otani, Utsunomiya University Center for Optical Research and Education, Tochigi, Japan
John Sheridan, University College Dublin School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Dublin, Ireland
Serguej Stepanov, Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education of Ensenada Department of Optics, Ensenada, Mexico
Jari Turunen, University of Eastern Finland Department of Physics and Mathematics, JOENSUU, Finland
Lingli Wang, Jos Schneider Optical Works GmbH, Bad Kreuznach, Germany
Guo-Cheng Wu, Neijiang Normal University, Neijiang, China
Chunming Zhang, Xi'an Jiaotong University School of Science, Xian, China
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Authors can submit their manuscript the Elsevier Online Submission System http://ees.elsevier.com/ijleo

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing
Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

Declaration of interest
All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors should complete the declaration of interest statement using this template and upload to the submission system at the Attach/Upload Files step. If there are no interests to declare, please choose 'Declarations of interest: none' in the template. This statement will be published within the article if accepted. More information.

Submission declaration and verification
Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service Crossref Similarity Check.

Preprints
Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy. Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

Use of inclusive language
Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Articles should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader, should contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of race, sex, culture or any other characteristic, and should use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, for instance by using 'he or she', 'his/her' instead of 'he' or 'his', and by making use of job titles that are free of stereotyping (e.g. 'chairperson' instead of 'chairman' and 'flight attendant' instead of 'stewardess').

Authorship
Please enter details of all Authors who contributed to the work reported in the manuscript based on their seniority and contribution. The corresponding author of the paper must be indicated in the paper. All communication regarding this submission will be sent to the person who is selected as the Corresponding Author during submission. Please note that we will not be able to make any changes to the author names (adding/removing authors, change of order of authors) after the paper is accepted and moved to typesetting.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.

Role of the funding source
You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

Funding body agreements and policies
Elsevier has established a number of agreements with funding bodies which allow authors to comply with their funder's open access policies. Some funding bodies will reimburse the author for the gold open access publication fee. Details of existing agreements are available online.
Green open access
Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our open access page for further information. Authors can also self-archive their manuscripts immediately and enable public access from their institution's repository after an embargo period. This is the version that has been accepted for publication and which typically includes author-incorporated changes suggested during submission, peer review and in editor-author communications. Embargo period: For subscription articles, an appropriate amount of time is needed for journals to deliver value to subscribing customers before an article becomes freely available to the public. This is the embargo period and it begins from the date the article is formally published online in its final and fully citable form. Find out more.

This journal has an embargo period of 24 months.

Language (usage and editing services)
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier's Author Services.

Submission
Articles may be submitted online to this journal. The online system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail. Contributions to this journal may be submitted either online or outside the system. Please do not submit via both routes; doing so may cause your manuscript to be reviewed and published twice!

Text should be typed double-spaced, in a single column using 12-point type

Authors can submit their manuscript to our online Elsevier Online Submission System http://ees.elsevier.com/ijleo

PREPARATION
Use of word processing software
It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

LaTeX
You are recommended to use the Elsevier article class elsarticle.cls to prepare your manuscript and BibTeX to generate your bibliography.
Our LaTeX site has detailed submission instructions, templates and other information.

Article structure
Appendices
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulæ and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

Essential title page information
• Title. Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulæ where possible.
• Author names and affiliations. Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation
addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lowercase superscript letter immediately after the author’s name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.

- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.**

- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author’s name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

**Highlights**

Highlights are optional yet highly encouraged for this journal, as they increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: [example Highlights](#).

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

**Abstract**

- Abstract (200 words maximum) should be a summary of the paper and not an introduction. Because the abstract may be used in abstracting journals, it should be self-contained (i.e., no numerical references) and substantive in nature, presenting concisely the objectives, methodology used, results obtained, and their significance.

**Graphical abstract**

Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view [Example Graphical Abstracts](#) on our information site. Authors can make use of Elsevier’s [Illustration Services](#) to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements.

**Keywords**

- Subject terms or keywords are required, maximum of eight. Key words referring to the special contents of the publication, and not to its methods. The editor retains the right to change the Key words.

**Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

**Formatting of funding sources**

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder’s requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:
This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

**Math formulae**

Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

**Artwork**

*Electronic artwork*

**General points**

- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
- Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Provide captions to illustrations separately.
- Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
- Submit each illustration as a separate file.
- Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.

A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.

**You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.**

**Formats**

If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format.

Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'Save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

- EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/halftone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.

**Please do not:**

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

**Color artwork**

Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF), or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article. Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

**Illustration services**

Elsevier's Author Services offers Illustration Services to authors preparing to submit a manuscript but concerned about the quality of the images accompanying their article. Elsevier's expert illustrators can produce scientific, technical and medical-style images, as well as a full range of charts, tables and graphs. Image 'polishing' is also available, where our illustrators take your image(s) and improve them to a professional standard. Please visit the website to find out more.
Figure captions
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

Illustrations
It is important that the following instructions be followed precisely for the graphics files to be utilized in the journal production process: •Size your illustrations according to the journal’s specifications for column widths. Figures are generally reduced to either one-column width (8.8 cm) or smaller. Submit each illustration at the final size in which you would like it to appear in the journal. Each illustration should be prepared for 100% reproduction. •Avoid submitting illustrations containing small axes with oversized labels. •Ensure that line weights will be 0.5 points or greater in the final published size. Line weights below 0.5 points will reproduce poorly. •The graphic should be sent with the correct orientation. •Set the graphic for 600 dpi resolution for line art, 264 dpi for halftones, and 600 dpi for combinations (line art and halftone). •Save line art as black/white bitmap; not greyscale. •Save halftones and combinations as greyscale, not black/white bitmap. •Set the bounding box to image to avoid excess white space around the image. •Submit ALL illustrations for each article, including line art.

Tables
Tables should bear consecutive numbers. Please add headings immediately above the tables.

References

Reference links
Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, CrossRef and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is highly encouraged.

A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambhe W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. Journal of Geophysical Research, https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.

Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

References to published literature must be typed double-spaced and numbered consecutively in the order of their citation in the text. Private communications or unpublished reports should be treated as references.

Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.
Reference management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:
When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

Research data
This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.

Data linking
If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

Mendeley Data
This journal supports Mendeley Data, enabling you to deposit any research data (including raw and processed data, video, code, software, algorithms, protocols, and methods) associated with your manuscript in a free-to-use, open access repository. During the submission process, after uploading your manuscript, you will have the opportunity to upload your relevant datasets directly to Mendeley Data. The datasets will be listed and directly accessible to readers next to your published article online.

For more information, visit the Mendeley Data for journals page.

Data statement
To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.
The following list will be useful during the final checking of an article prior to sending it to the journal for review. Please consult this Guide for Authors for further details of any item.

**Ensure that the following items are present:**

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded, and contain:
- Keywords
- All figure captions
- All tables (including title, description, footnotes)
- IMPACT STATEMENT - Authors must upload personal statement together with their submission to express briefly relevance and importance of their publication in less than 250 words. The formulated declaration will not be published but will be sent to the appropriate editor and invited reviewers.

Further considerations

Please upload the source files in an Editable format (e.g., Word, LaTeX) Please upload the figures with at least 300 DPI resolution or in an editable format. Manuscript has been 'spell-checked' and 'grammar-checked' References are in the correct format for this journal All references mentioned in the Reference list are cited in the text, and vice versa Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet) Printed version of figures (if applicable) in color or black-and-white Indicate clearly whether or not color or black-and-white in print is required.

For any further information please visit our customer support site at https://service.elsevier.com

**AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

**Availability of accepted article**

This journal makes articles available online as soon as possible after acceptance. This concerns the Journal Pre-proofs (both in HTML and PDF format), which have undergone enhancements after acceptance, such as the addition of a cover page and metadata, and formatting for readability, but are not yet the definitive versions of record. A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is allocated, thereby making it fully citable and searchable by title, author name(s) and the full text. The article's PDF also carries a disclaimer stating that it is an unedited article. Subsequent production stages will simply replace this version.

**Typeset Model**

IJLEO will publish all the articles in single column format and please click on the below link for an example. download this article

**Online proof correction**

Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.

If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

The corresponding author, at no cost, will be provided with a PDF file of the article via e-mail. The PDF file is a watermarked version of the published article and includes a cover sheet with the journal cover image and a disclaimer outlining the terms and conditions of use. Additional offprints may be ordered when proofs are returned.

**Originality and plagiarism**

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. Plagiarism takes many forms, from ‘passing off’ another’s paper as the author’s own paper,
to copying or paraphrasing substantial parts of another’s paper (without attribution), to claiming results from research conducted by others. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.

**AUTHOR INQUIRIES**

Visit the Elsevier Support Center to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch. You can also check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.

For inquiries relating to the submission of articles (including electronic submission) please visit this journal’s homepage. For detailed instructions on the preparation of electronic artwork, please visit [https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions](https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions). Contact details for questions arising after acceptance of an article, especially those relating to proofs, will be provided by the publisher. You can track accepted articles at [https://www.elsevier.com/trackarticle](https://www.elsevier.com/trackarticle). You can also check our Author FAQs at [https://www.elsevier.com/authorFAQ](https://www.elsevier.com/authorFAQ) and/or contact Customer Support via [https://service.elsevier.com](https://service.elsevier.com).

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | [https://www.elsevier.com](https://www.elsevier.com)