

TABLE OF CONTENTS

•	Description	p.1
•	Audience	p.1
•	Impact Factor	p.1
•	Abstracting and Indexing	p.1
•	Editorial Board	p.2
•	Guide for Authors	p.3



DESCRIPTION

Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders (RASD) publishes high quality empirical articles and reviews that contribute to a better understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) at all levels of description; genetic, neurobiological, cognitive, and behavioral. The primary focus of the journal is to bridge the gap between basic research at these levels, and the practical questions and difficulties that are faced by individuals with ASD and their families, as well as carers, educators and clinicians. In addition, the journal encourages submissions on topics that remain under-researched in the field. We know shamefully little about the causes and consequences of the significant language and general intellectual impairments that characterize half of all individuals with ASD. We know even less about the challenges that women with ASD face and less still about the needs of individuals with ASD as they grow older. Medical and psychological co-morbidities and the complications they bring with them for the diagnosis and treatment of ASD represents another area of relatively little research. At RASD we are committed to promoting high-quality and rigorous research on all of these issues, and we look forward to receiving many excellent submissions.

Benefits to authors

We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our [author services](#).

Please see our [Guide for Authors](#) for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our support pages: <http://support.elsevier.com>

AUDIENCE

Researchers and clinicians with advanced degrees in the areas of mental health, education, communication disorders, rehabilitation and allied disciplines.

IMPACT FACTOR

2015: 1.317 © Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports 2016

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

ERIC

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

Sebastian Gaigg, Autism Research Group, City University London, Northampton Square, EC1V 0HB, London, England, UK

Associate Editors

David Beversdorf, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, USA

Grace Iarocci, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

Sophie Lind, City University London, London, UK

Isabel M. Smith, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

David Williams, University of Kent, Canterbury, England, UK

Extended Board Members

Anwesha Banerjee, Emory University, Georgia, USA

Elina Birmingham, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada

Jessica Brian, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Ontario, Canada

Kristelle Hudry, La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia

Micah O. Mazurek, University of Missouri, Missouri, USA

Pat Mirenda, University of British Columbia, British Columbia, Canada

John T. Rapp, Auburn University, Alabama, USA

Amanda Richdale, La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia

Lisa Ruble, University of Kentucky, Kentucky, USA

Mikle South, Brigham Young University, Utah, USA

Janine P. Stichter, University of Missouri, Missouri, USA

Zohreh Talebizadeh, Children's Mercy Hospital, Missouri, USA

David Trembath, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia

Greg Wallace, George Washington University, District of Columbia, USA

Andrew Whitehouse, University of Western Australia, Western Australia, Australia

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Editorial Process

All submissions will first be checked against the Aims and Scope and Guide for Authors by the Editor-in-Chief. Papers found to conform, in principle, to the journal's remit and standards will be assigned to a handling Editor (an Associate Editor or the Editor-in-Chief) for further evaluation. If a paper meets the journal's criteria a minimum of two independent reviewers will be invited to comment on the paper's methodological rigour and significance. Based on these comments and additional opinions if necessary, the handling Editors will make a decision. All accepted papers will therefore have received comments from a minimum of two independent reviewers and be reviewed by one or more editors. **Please note that RASD currently operates single-blinded peer review.**

Human and Animal Rights

If the work involves the use of animal or human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans <http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>; EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm; Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals <http://www.icmje.org>. Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed. All animal studies need to ensure they comply with the ARRIVE guidelines. More information can be found at <http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=1357>

Elsevier supports responsible sharing

Find out how you can [share your research](#) published in Elsevier journals.

The open access publication fee for this journal is **USD 2150**, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: <https://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing>.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

The Elsevier Publishing Campus (www.publishingcampus.com) is an online platform offering free lectures, interactive training and professional advice to support you in publishing your research. The College of Skills training offers modules on how to prepare, write and structure your article and explains how editors will look at your paper when it is submitted for publication. Use these resources, and more, to ensure that your submission will be the best that you can make it.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION & SUBMISSION

Use of word processing software

Files must be saved in the native format of the word processor and the text should be in 10-point Arial font, single-column format, double spaced, with standard 1 inch page margins (2.54 cm). Please keep the layout of the text as simple as possible, as most formatting codes will be replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the options to justify text or hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. Note that source files of figures and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed them in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork below for details on preparing figures and graphics.

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 they require support in 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 WebShop (<http://webshop.elsevier.com/languageediting/>).

In relation to terminology, we prefer authors to refrain from using the terms 'low-functioning' or 'high-functioning' to describe individuals with ASD who either have additional intellectual or language impairments or not (see Kenny et al., 2015; <http://aut.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/06/10/1362361315588200.abstract>). Instead authors should consider whether it may be appropriate to provide details about their participants in terms of the severity specifiers of the DSM-5 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).

Types of Articles

Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders publishes the following types of manuscripts:

Brief reports: Papers of no more than 2,500 words that report an original piece of research of limited scope and/or that serves as proof-of principle for larger-scale studies.

Regular Articles: Papers of up to 6,000 words that report a substantive piece of research that makes a significant contribution and has clear implications for practice. Manuscripts reporting the results of randomized trials or interventions must demonstrate adherence to the CONSORT guidelines (<http://www.consort-statement.org/>) and include the relevant flow diagram and completed checklist.

Reviews: Papers of up to 10,000 words that provide a comprehensive overview of a significant area of research. Quantitative (e.g., meta-analyses) and qualitative reviews are welcome as long as they go beyond a mere description of the available literature and synthesise new knowledge with clear implications for future directions and practice. For systematic reviews and meta-analyses, authors must demonstrate adherence to the PRISMA guidelines (www.prisma-statement.org) and include the relevant flow diagram and checklist.

Commentaries: We welcome brief commentaries of no more than 1,000 words that offer new insights on papers published in RASD or elsewhere. Commentaries on government policy and/or items in the media are also welcome.

NOTE: Word limits do not include the title page, abstract, figure legends, tables and reference list.

Submission

Our online submission system guides authors stepwise through the submission process. The system converts 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.

Elsevier accepts electronic supplementary material such as supporting applications, high resolution images, background datasets, sound clips and more. These will be published online alongside the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect: <http://www.sciencedirect.com>. For further information, please visit our artwork instruction pages at <http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>

The journal also encourages authors to submit an AudioSlides presentation with their published article. AudioSlides are brief, webinar-style presentations that are shown next to the online article on ScienceDirect, giving authors the opportunity to showcase their work more readily. More information and examples are available at <http://www.elsevier.com/audioslides>. Authors of articles in this journal will automatically receive an invitation e-mail to create an AudioSlides presentation after acceptance of their paper.

To increase the transparency of editorial information within the framework of single/ double blind peer review, RASD displays the number of unique reviewer reports received in the first round of review with each published article. This policy will be in place for original research articles submitted from 1 January 2016 that are accepted for publication.

Manuscript Format

All manuscripts must include a Title, Abstract and Highlights on separate pages, followed by the main manuscript text. The main manuscript text of brief reports, regular articles and quantitative reviews should include subsections carrying the headings Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion & Implications. Reviews may deviate from this structure but must include a methods section that provides details on how the relevant literature was searched. The structure of commentaries is at the discretion of authors.

Essential Title Page Information

Title: Titles must be concise and informative and should have no more than 20 words. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae 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. Present the author's 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. **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.

Abstract & Keywords

The abstract page must include a structured abstract of no more than 250 words that includes the following subsections:

Background: A brief summary of the research question and rationale for the study.

Method: A concise description of the methods employed to test the stated hypotheses, including details of the participants where relevant.

Results: A brief description of the main findings.

Conclusions: This section must include a clear statement about the implications of the findings for practice.

Immediately after the abstract, a maximum of 6 keywords should be provided, avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (for example, avoid 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible (e.g., ADOS, ASD, etc). These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

Graphical Abstract

Graphical abstracts are optional but encouraged to draw 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. Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 X 1328 pixels (h X w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 X13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types include TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. See <http://www.elsevier.com/graphicalabstracts> for examples. Authors can make use of Elsevier's Illustration and Enhancement service to ensure the best presentation of their images.

<http://webshop.elsevier.com/illustrationservices/>

Introduction

The introduction should develop a clear rationale for the presented work on the basis of a concise overview of the relevant literature. Detailed literature reviews should be avoided.

Methods

This section will typically include sub-headings for a description of the Participants, Materials & Design, Procedures and Analysis. However, alternative sub-headings may be used to suit particular research approaches (e.g., case-studies, meta-analyses, imaging studies etc.)

The participants section should provide demographic information (age, sex, ethnicity, socio-economic status, etc.), and include details on where and how participants were recruited and how relevant clinical diagnoses were verified. Additional clinical information (e.g., intellectual functioning, co-morbidities, use of medication etc.) is desired and may be necessary for some research designs. Sample sizes should be justified by suitable power calculations although it is appreciated that it is not always feasible to obtain desired numbers of participants.

The materials, design and procedures must be described in sufficient detail for the work to be replicable. Authors must also include a statement confirming that the work was carried out in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional and national) and with the Declaration of Helsinki as revised in 2000. In this context confirmation should also be given that participant or guardian informed consent was obtained where appropriate.

The analysis section should provide details of the statistical methods used including information on the significance thresholds and the methods used to correct for multiple comparisons where necessary. Information on inter-rater reliability and any data filtering / transformation that was applied should also be included here.

Results

The results should be set out transparently and in full and should conform to the formatting style of the American Psychological Association (<http://www.apastyle.org/>). Effect sizes must be reported for all significant and non-significant effects, and sufficient descriptive statistics must be provided for the effect size calculations to be replicated.

Tables

Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. The formatting of tables should conform to APA guidelines (<http://www.apastyle.org/>).

Figures & 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 similar fonts.
- 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.

For Vector drawings, the recommended file format is EPS or PDF (embed all used fonts).

For all other artwork, please use TIFF or JPEG file formats with the following resolutions:

- Colour or grayscale photographs (halftones): 300 dpi
- Pure black & white line drawings: 1000 dpi
- Combination halftone and black & white: 500dpi

Please do not:

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG)
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable colour figures, Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in colour online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in colour in the printed version. **For colour reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for colour: in print or online only. For further information please see <http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>.

Video Data

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance presentation of your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the files in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB. Video and animation files will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect: <http://www.sciencedirect.com>.

Please supply 'stills' with your files; you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions, please visit our video instruction pages at <http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

3D neuroimaging

You can enrich your online articles by providing 3D neuroimaging data in NIfTI format. This will be visualized for readers using the interactive viewer embedded within your article, and will enable them to: browse through available neuroimaging datasets; zoom, rotate and pan the 3D brain reconstruction; cut through the volume; change opacity and colour mapping; switch between 3D and 2D projected views; and download the data. The viewer supports both single (.nii) and dual (.hdr and .img) NIfTI file formats. Recommended size of a single uncompressed dataset is maximum 150 MB. Multiple datasets can be submitted. Each dataset will have to be zipped and uploaded to the online submission system via the '3D neuroimaging data' submission category. Please provide a short informative description for each dataset by filling in the 'Description' field when uploading a

dataset. Note: all datasets will be available for downloading from the online article on ScienceDirect. If you have concerns about your data being downloadable, please provide a video instead. For more information see: <http://www.elsevier.com/3DNeuroimaging>.

Discussion and Implications

The discussion section should draw together the findings and must end with a clear indication of the implications of the findings for practice under a separate subheading (Implications).

Acknowledgements

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the main manuscript text and before the references. List here any sources of funding (including grant numbers where relevant) and briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; the collection, analysis or interpretation of data; the writing of the report; and the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

Conflict of interest

At the end of the main manuscript text and before the references, authors must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. If no such conflict of interest exists, this must be clearly stated. For further information and examples of conflict of interest statements please visit the following: <http://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest> http://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/supporthub/publishing A decision may be made by the Journal not to publish on the basis of the declared conflict.

References

In-text citations should conform to the formatting style of the American Psychological Association (<http://www.apastyle.org/>). Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full

References in a special issue

Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference management software

Most Elsevier journals have a standard template available in key reference management packages. This covers packages using the Citation Style Language, such as Mendeley (<http://www.mendeley.com/features/reference-manager>) and also others like EndNote (<http://www.endnote.com/support/enstyles.asp>) and Reference Manager (<http://refman.com/support/rmstyles.asp>). For example, if you manage your research with Mendeley Desktop, you can easily install the reference style for RASD through this link: <http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/research-in-autism-spectrum-disorders>

Examples Reference to a journal publication: Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J. A. J., & Lupton, R. A. (2010). The art of writing a scientific article. *Journal of Scientific Communications*, 163, 51-59.

Reference to a book:

Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. (2000). *The elements of style*. (4th ed.). New York: Longman, (Chapter4).

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Mettam, G. R., & Adams, L. B. (2009). How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In B. S. Jones, & R. Z. Smith (Eds.), *Introduction to the electronic age* (pp. 281-304). New York: E-Publishing Inc.

Cover Letter

All submissions must be accompanied by a cover letter to confirm that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see <http://www.elsevier.com/sharingpolicy>), 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 CrossCheck <http://www.elsevier.com/editors/plagdetect>

If a submission is to be considered for a special issue, authors are asked to indicate this also in their cover letter.

Submission checklist

The following list will be useful during the final checking of an article prior to sending it to the journal for consideration. Please refer to relevant sections above for guidance if you are not yet in a position to confirm all of the following points.

Ensure that the following items are present:

- The title page is complete, one author has been designated as the corresponding author and contact details are provided (e-mail; full postal address)
- All necessary files have been uploaded and include all necessary sections
- All figures have been uploaded and figure captions are provided separately
- All tables are clear and include relevant captions and footnotes
- The manuscript has been 'spell-checked' and 'grammar-checked' References are in the correct format.
- 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)
- All sources of funding have been acknowledged and the authors have either declared conflicts of interest or confirmed that none exist
- The manuscript gives due consideration to the practical implications of the work, which are clearly stated in the abstract and thoroughly considered in a final section of the discussion

For any further information please visit our customer support site at <http://support.elsevier.com>.

CONTENT INNOVATION

AudioSlides

The journal encourages authors to create an AudioSlides presentation with their published article. AudioSlides are brief, webinar-style presentations that are shown next to the online article on ScienceDirect. This gives authors the opportunity to summarize their research in their own words and to help readers understand what the paper is about. [More information and examples are available](#). Authors of this journal will automatically receive an invitation e-mail to create an AudioSlides presentation after acceptance of their paper.

3D neuroimaging

You can enrich your online articles by providing 3D neuroimaging data in NIfTI format. This will be visualized for readers using the interactive viewer embedded within your article, and will enable them to: browse through available neuroimaging datasets; zoom, rotate and pan the 3D brain reconstruction; cut through the volume; change opacity and color mapping; switch between 3D and 2D projected views; and download the data. The viewer supports both single (.nii) and dual (.hdr and .img) NIfTI file formats. Recommended size of a single uncompressed dataset is maximum 150 MB. Multiple datasets can be submitted. Each dataset will have to be zipped and uploaded to the online submission system via the '3D neuroimaging data' submission category. Please provide a short informative description for each dataset by filling in the 'Description' field when uploading a dataset. Note: all datasets will be available for downloading from the online article on ScienceDirect. If you have concerns about your data being downloadable, please provide a video instead. [More information](#).

Interactive plots

This journal enables you to show an Interactive Plot with your article by simply submitting a data file. [Full instructions](#).

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Online proof correction

Following acceptance, 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.

Changes to authorship

This policy concerns the addition, deletion, or rearrangement of author names in the authorship of accepted manuscript. Before the accepted manuscript is published in an online issue: Requests to add or remove an author, or to rearrange the author names, must be sent to the Journal Manager from the corresponding author of the accepted manuscript and must include: (a) the reason the name should be added or removed, or the author names rearranged, and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, fax, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed. Requests that are not sent by the corresponding author will be forwarded by the Journal Manager to the corresponding author, who must follow the procedure as described above. Note that: (1) Journal Managers will inform the Journal Editors of any such requests, and (2) publication of the accepted manuscript in an online issue is suspended until authorship has been agreed.

After the accepted manuscript is published in an online issue: Any requests to add, delete, or rearrange author names in an article published in an online issue will follow the same policies as noted above and result in a corrigendum.

Copyright

Upon acceptance, an e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement (for more information on this and copyright, see <http://www.elsevier.com/copyright>). As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work (see <http://www.elsevier.com/copyright>).

Subscribers of the journal may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations (please consult <http://www.elsevier.com/permissions>). If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases: please consult <http://www.elsevier.com/permissions>

Open access

For open access articles authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' (for more information see <http://www.elsevier.com/OAauthoragreement>). An open access publication fee of USD 1800 (excluding taxes) is payable by authors or on their behalf (see <http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing>).

Permitted third party reuse of open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license (see <http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesslicenses>).

Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) Lets others distribute and copy the article, create extracts, abstracts, and other revised versions, adaptations or derivative works of or from an article (such as a translation), include in a collective work (such as an anthology), text or data mine the article, even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit the author(s), do not represent the author as endorsing their adaptation of the article, and do not modify the article in such a way as to damage the author's honour or reputation.

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND) For non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

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 green open-access page for further information (<http://elsevier.com/greenopenaccess>). 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 begins from the publication date of the issue your article appears in. This journal has an embargo period of 24 months

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 authors may also be reimbursed for associated publication fees. To learn more about existing agreements please visit <http://www.elsevier.com/fundingbodies>.

Use of the Digital Object Identifier

The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) may be used to cite and link to electronic documents. The DOI consists of a unique alpha-numeric character string which is assigned to a document by the publisher upon the initial electronic publication. The assigned DOI never changes. Therefore, it is an ideal medium for citing a document, particularly 'Articles in press' because they have not yet received their full bibliographic information. Example of a correctly given DOI (in URL format; here an article in the journal Physics Letters B) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2010.09.059>

When you use a DOI to create links to documents on the web, the DOIs are guaranteed never to change.

Offprints

The corresponding author, at no cost, will be provided with a personalized link providing 50 days of free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. This link can also be used for sharing via email and social networks. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's WebShop (<http://webshop.elsevier.com/myarticleservices/offprints>).

Authors requiring printed copies of multiple articles may use Elsevier WebShop's 'Create Your Own Book' service to collate multiple articles within a single cover (<http://webshop.elsevier.com/myarticleservices/booklets>).

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](#).

© Copyright 2014 Elsevier | <http://www.elsevier.com>