

## **ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS IN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT & PRODUCTION (IJM&P)**

The guidelines embodied in this document aim to contribute to improving the quality and clarity of manuscripts submitted to the journal IJM&P, October 2014.

### ***Preface***

The Independent Journal of Management & Production (IJM&P) serves society in general, in many ways, specially by the publication of scientific papers that present the results of scientific research in the areas of engineering, management and related services. The journal editor has the responsibility to establish and maintain guidelines for the selecting and accepting papers submitted to that journal. The guidelines are derived from the definition of the scope of the journal and the perception of quality standards for scientific papers and its presentation.

An essential feature of research is the acceptance of a code that outlines desirable behavior and specifying the obligations of members to each other and to the public. Such a code derives from a desire to maximize perceived benefits to society and to the research as a whole and to limit actions that might serve the narrow self-interests of individuals. The advancement of science requires the sharing of knowledge between individuals, even though doing so may sometimes entail forgoing some immediate personal advantage.

With these thoughts in mind, we present a set of ethical guidelines for persons engaged in the publication of scientific research, specifically, for editors, authors and manuscript reviewers. These guidelines are offered not in the sense that there is any immediate crisis in ethical behavior, but rather from a conviction that the observance of high ethical standards is so vital to the whole scientific enterprise that a definition of those standards should be brought to the attention of all concerned.



We believe that most of the guidelines now offered are already understood and subscribed to by the majority of researchers. They may, however, be of substantial help to those who are relatively new to research. Even well-established scientists may appreciate an opportunity to review matters so significant to the practice of science.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **A. Ethical Obligations of Editors of the Journal**

1. An editor should give unbiased consideration to all manuscripts offered for publication, judging each on its merits without regard to race, religion, nationality, sex, seniority, or institutional affiliation of the author(s). An editor may, however, take into account relationships of a manuscript immediately under consideration to others previously or concurrently offered by the same author(s).
2. An editor should consider manuscripts submitted for publication with all reasonable speed.
3. The responsibility for the acceptance or rejection of a manuscript rests with the editor. Responsible and prudent exercise of this duty normally requires that the editor seek advice from reviewers, chosen for their expertise and good judgment, as to the quality and reliability of the manuscripts submitted for publication.
4. Manuscripts may be rejected without external review if considered by the editors to be inappropriate for the journal. Such rejections may be based on the failure of the manuscript to fit the scope of the journal, to be of current or sufficiently broad interest, to provide adequate depth of content, to be written in acceptable English, or other reasons.
5. The editor and members of the editor's staff should not disclose any information about a manuscript under consideration to anyone other than those from whom professional advice is sought. (However, an editor Who solicits, or otherwise arranges beforehand, the submission of manuscripts may need to disclose to a prospective author the fact that a relevant manuscript by another author has been received or is in preparation).



6. After a decision has been made about a manuscript, the editor and members of the editor's staff may disclose or publish manuscript titles and authors' names of papers that have been accepted for publication, but no more than that unless the author's permission has been obtained. If a decision has been made to reject a manuscript for ethical violations, the editor and members of the editor's staff may disclose the manuscript title and authors' names to other journal editors.
7. An editor should respect the intellectual independence of the authors.
8. Editorial responsibility and authority for any manuscript authored by an editor and submitted to the editor's journal should be delegated to some other qualified person, such as another editor of that journal or a member of its Editorial Advisory Board. Editorial consideration of the manuscript in any way or form by the author-editor would constitute a conflict of interest, and is therefore improper.
9. Unpublished information, arguments, or interpretations disclosed in a submitted manuscript should not be used in an editor's own research except with the consent of the author. However, if such information indicates that some of the editor's own research is unlikely to be profitable, the editor could ethically discontinue the work.
10. When a manuscript is so closely related to the current or past research of an editor as to create a conflict of interest, the editor should arrange for some other qualified person to take editorial responsibility for that manuscript. In some cases, it may be appropriate to tell an author about the editor's research and plans in that area.
11. If an editor is presented with convincing evidence that the main substance or conclusions of a report published in an editor's journal are erroneous, the editor should facilitate publication of an appropriate report pointing out the error and, if possible, correcting it. The report may be written by the person Who discovered the error or by an original author.
12. An author may request that the editor not use certain reviewers in consideration of a manuscript. However, the editor may decide to use one or more of these reviewers, if the editor feels their opinions are important in



the fair consideration of a manuscript. This might be the case, for example, when a manuscript seriously disagrees with the previous work of a potential reviewer.

## **B. Ethical Obligations of Authors**

Authors are expected to adhere to the following ethical guidelines; infractions may result in the application of sanctions by the editor(s), including but not limited to the suspension or revocation of publishing privileges.

1. An author's central obligation is to present an accurate and complete account of the research performed, absolutely avoiding deception, including the data collected or used, as well as an objective discussion of the significance of the research. Data are defined as information collected or used in generating research conclusions. The research report and the data collected should contain sufficient detail and reference to public sources of information to permit a trained Professional to reproduce the experimental observations.
2. An author should recognize that journal space is a precious resource created at considerable cost. An author therefore has an obligation to use it wisely and economically.
3. When requested, the authors should make every reasonable effort to provide data, methods, and samples of unusual materials unavailable elsewhere, such as clones, microorganism strains, antibodies, etc., to other researchers, with appropriate material transfer agreements to restrict the field of use of the materials so as to protect the legitimate interests of the authors. Authors are encouraged to submit their data to a public database, where available.
4. An author should cite those publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work and that will guide the reader quickly to the earlier work that is essential for understanding the present investigation. Except in a review, citation of work that will not be referred to in the reported research should be minimized. An author is obligated to perform a literature search to find, and then cite, the original publications



that describe closely related work. For critical materials used in the work, proper citation to sources should also be made when these were supplied by a nonauthor.

5. Any unusual hazards inherent in the chemicals, equipment, or procedures used in an investigation should be clearly identified in a manuscript reporting the work. Authors should inform the editor if a manuscript could be considered to report research that, based on current understanding, can be reasonably expected to provide knowledge, products, or technologies that could be directly misapplied by others to pose a threat to public health and safety, agricultural crops and other plants, animals, the environment, or material.
6. Fragmentation of research reports should be avoided. A scientist who has done extensive work on a system or group of related systems should organize publication so that each report gives a well-rounded account of a particular aspect of the general study. Fragmentation consumes journal space excessively and unduly complicates literature searches.
7. In submitting a manuscript for publication, an author should inform the editor of related manuscripts that the author has under editorial consideration or in press. Copies of those manuscripts should be supplied to the editor, and the relationships of such manuscripts to the one submitted should be indicated.
8. It is improper for an author to submit manuscripts describing essentially the same research to more than one journal of primary publication, unless it is a resubmission of a manuscript rejected for or withdrawn from publication. It is generally permissible to submit a manuscript for a full paper expanding on a previously published brief preliminary account (a “communication” or “letter”) of the same work. However, at the time of submission, the editor should be made aware of the earlier communication, and the preliminary communication should be cited in the manuscript.
9. An author should identify the source of all information quoted or offered, except that which is common knowledge. Information obtained privately, as in conversation, correspondence, or discussion with third parties, should not



be used or reported in the author's work without explicit permission from the investigator with whom the information originated.

10. Information obtained in the course of confidential services, such as refereeing manuscripts or grant applications, should be treated similarly.
11. An experimental or theoretical study may sometimes justify criticism, even severe criticism, of the work of another scientist. When appropriate, such criticism may be offered in published papers. However, in no case is personal criticism considered to be appropriate.
12. The co-authors of a paper should be all those persons who have made significant scientific contributions to the work reported and who share responsibility and accountability for the results. Authors should appropriately recognize the contributions of technical staff and data professionals. Other contributions should be indicated in a footnote or an "Acknowledgments" section.
13. An administrative relationship to the investigation does not of itself qualify a person for co-authorship (but occasionally it may be appropriate to acknowledge major administrative assistance). Deceased persons who meet the criterion for inclusion as co-authors should be so included, with a footnote reporting date of death.
14. No fictitious name should be listed as an author or coauthor. The author who submits a manuscript for publication accepts the responsibility of having included as co-authors all persons appropriate and none inappropriate.
15. The submitting author should have sent each living co-author a draft copy of the manuscript and have obtained the co-author's assent to co-authorship of it.
16. The corresponding author must reveal to the editor and to the readers of the journal any potential and/or relevant competing financial or other interest (of all authors) that might be affected by publication of the results contained in the authors' manuscript.



17. Conflicts of interest and sources of funding of the research reported must be clearly stated at the time of manuscript submission and will be included in the published article. In addition, all authors must declare (1) the existence of any significant financial interest (>\$5,000 or >5% equity interest) in corporate or commercial entities dealing with the subject of the manuscript; (2) any employment or other relationship (within the past three years) with entities that have a financial or other interest in the results of the manuscript (to include paid consulting, expert testimony, honoraria, and membership of advisory boards or committees of the entity). The corresponding author must advise the editor at the time of submission either that there is no conflict of interest to declare, or should disclose potential conflicts of interest that will be acknowledged in the published article.
18. Plagiarism is not acceptable in IJM&P journal. The IJM&P journal adhere to the U.S. National Science Foundation definition of plagiarism as “the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit” (45 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 689.1). Authors should not engage in plagiarism - verbatim or near-verbatim copying, or very close paraphrasing, of text or results from another’s work.
19. Authors should not engage in self-plagiarism (also known as duplicate publication) - unacceptably close replication of the author’s own previously published text or results without acknowledgement of the source. IJM&P applies a “reasonable person” standard when deciding whether a submission constitutes self-plagiarism/duplicate publication. If one or two identical sentences previously published by an author appear in a subsequent work by the same author, this is unlikely to be regarded as duplicate publication.
20. Material quoted verbatim from the author’s previously published work must be placed in quotation marks. In contrast, it is unacceptable for an author to include significant verbatim or near-verbatim portions of his/her own work, or to depict his/her previously published results or methodology as new, without acknowledging the source. (Modeled with permission from Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics: Authorial Integrity in Scientific Publication: <http://www.siam.org/books/plagiarism.php>.)



21. Images should be free from misleading manipulation. When images are included in an account of research performed or in the data collection as part of the research, an accurate description of how the images were generated and produced should be provided.

### **C. Ethical Obligations of Reviewers**

1. To the extent that the review of manuscripts is an essential step in the publication process, and therefore the operation of the scientific method, every scientist has an obligation to do a fair share of reviewing.
2. A chosen reviewer who feels inadequately qualified to judge the research reported in an article should return it immediately to the editor.
3. An employee (or referee) of a manuscript should judge objectively the quality of the completed manuscript and supporting information, including experimental and theoretical data, interpretations and exposure, taking into account the maintenance of high scientific and literary standards. An employee should respect the intellectual independence of the authors.
4. A reviewer should be sensitive about the appearance of a conflict of interest when the manuscript under review is closely related to work in progress or published the reviewer. In case of doubt, the reviewer should return the manuscript promptly without review, advising the editor of the conflict of interest or bias. Alternatively, the reviewer may want to provide a signed commentary declaring the interest of reviser at work, with the understanding that it may, at the discretion of the editor, be transmitted to the author.
5. A reviewer should not evaluate a manuscript authored or co-authored by another person with whom the reviewer has a personal or professional connection because the relationship may impair judgment of the manuscript.
6. A reviewer should treat a manuscript sent for review as a confidential document. It must not be shown nor discussed with other researchers, except in special cases, to persons from whom specific advice may be sought; this case, the identities of those consulted should be disclosed to the editor.





7. Reviewers should explain and support their judgments, that editors and authors may understand the basis of your comments appropriately. Any statement reported that derives from an observation or argument must be accompanied by a relevant quote. Claims are not backed by reviewers (or by authors in rebuttal) are of little value and should be avoided.
8. The reviewer should be alert to possible failures citation at work and can cause other problems involving scientists, given that complaints that the lack of clarity regarding the review of the reviewer's own research was insufficiently and may seem a self-catering. The reviewer should call the editor's attention to any substantial similarity between the manuscript in question and any article or any manuscript submitted concurrently to another journal.
9. The employee should act promptly, submitting a report in a timely manner. Should a reviewer receive a manuscript at a time where the circumstances preclude prompt attention to it, not revised manuscript should be returned immediately to the editor. Alternatively, the reviewer might notify the editor of probable delays and propose a revision date.
10. Reviewers should not use or disclose unpublished information, arguments, or interpretations contained in a manuscript in question, unless with the consent of the author. In some cases it may be appropriate to the reviewer write to the author with a copy to the editor about the research and plans in the area of the reviewer.
11. The review of a submitted manuscript may sometimes justify criticism, even harsh criticism from a reviewer. Where appropriate, such criticism can be offered in published articles. However, in no case a personal criticism of the author is considered adequate.
12. Reviewers should notify the publishers regarding concerns related to manuscripts that report research that can provide knowledge, products or technologies that can be misapplied by others as a threat to public health and safety.



## REFERENCES

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