

IJREL Publication Ethics and Responsible AI Policy - Website Draft

The International Journal of Research in E-learning (IJREL) follows publication ethics procedures informed by COPE Core Practices, COPE guidance and the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing. The following text may be adapted for the IJREL website.

1 Allegations of misconduct

IJREL will take allegations of misconduct seriously, whether raised before or after publication. Allegations may concern plagiarism, redundant publication, fabrication or falsification, image manipulation, unethical research, peer review manipulation, undisclosed conflicts of interest or irresponsible AI use. The journal will conduct an initial assessment, contact relevant parties when appropriate, seek additional evidence, and decide whether to continue review, reject, correct, retract or refer the matter to an institution.

2 Authorship and contributorship

All authors must be human individuals who have made a substantial scholarly contribution and accept responsibility for the integrity of the work. IJREL encourages contributorship transparency, preferably using CRediT roles. Authorship changes after submission require written explanation and written agreement of all authors, including any author added or removed.

3 Peer review

IJREL uses peer review to support editorial quality and research integrity. Reviewers must treat manuscripts as confidential documents, declare conflicts of interest, provide constructive and evidence-based feedback, and not use confidential content for personal advantage. Editors remain responsible for editorial decisions.

4 Conflicts of interest

Authors, reviewers and editors must disclose relationships or circumstances that could influence, or appear to influence, judgement. Conflicts may be financial, institutional, academic, personal, ideological or competitive. Disclosure does not automatically prevent publication, but unmanaged conflicts may require reassignment, additional review, correction or rejection.

5 Research ethics and data protection

Submissions involving human participants, students, children, teachers or institutional data must provide appropriate ethical approval or exemption, informed consent where applicable, data protection safeguards and anonymisation. For educational studies with minors, IJREL expects particular attention to parental/guardian consent, child assent and school permissions.

6 Intellectual property and originality

Authors must submit original work, properly cite sources, obtain permissions where needed and avoid plagiarism, duplicate submission, redundant publication and inappropriate text recycling. Preprints and conference versions must be disclosed and cited when relevant.

7 Post-publication corrections

IJREL will correct the scholarly record through corrections, expressions of concern or retractions when necessary. Post-publication concerns will be assessed proportionately, with attention to evidence, author response, institutional findings and reader protection.

Responsible Use of Generative AI

AI tools cannot be listed as authors. Authors must disclose substantive AI use and remain fully accountable for all content. Reviewers and editors must protect manuscript confidentiality and may not upload confidential manuscript material to external AI systems unless explicitly permitted by IJREL policy and confidentiality safeguards are in place. Editorial decisions are made by human editors and are not delegated to AI systems.

Appeals and Complaints

Authors may submit a reasoned appeal or complaint. IJREL will acknowledge receipt, register the case, ensure that conflicts of interest are managed, and provide a reasoned response. Appeals based only on disagreement with academic judgement may be declined unless substantive new evidence or procedural error is identified.

References

- COPE Core Practices: <https://publicationethics.org/resources/cope-core-practices/>
- COPE Position Statement: Authorship and AI tools (2023): <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/cope-position/authorship-and-ai-tools>
- COPE Position Statement: Handling author requests to remove their submission (2024): <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/cope-position/handling-author-requests-remove-their-submission>
- COPE Position Statement: Handling changes to authorship lists (2024): <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/cope-position/handling-changes-authorship-lists>
- COPE Position Statement: Handling suspected undisclosed conflicts of interest (2024): <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/cope-position/handling-suspected-undisclosed-conflicts-interest>
- COPE Flowchart: Redundant / duplicate publication in a submitted manuscript: <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/flowchart/redundant-duplicate-publication-submitted-manuscript>