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Author Rights & Responsibilities

Thomas Dreher





Anne Silverman
Associate Professor
in the Department of
Mechanical
Engineering at the
Colorado School of
Mines in Golden, CO,
USA



Harald Böhm
Associate Professor
Director Motion
Analysis Lab
Aschau i. Chiemgau
Germany



Mike Aiona, MD
Chief of Staff Shriners
Hospitals for Children-
Portland
Director of the Movement
Analysis Laboratory and
Clinical Research
Department.



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Please note

While the following slides offer guidance and general principles of responsibilities that Authors should consider, different aspects of publishing ethics can vary greatly by discipline and journal.


It is recommended that all Authors consult their peers, advisors and journal Editors to learn the specific Author responsibilities in their discipline.



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What does it mean to be an Author?

- 
- An “author” is generally considered to be someone who has made **substantial intellectual contributions** to a published study.
 - Being an author comes with credit but also with **responsibility**.
 - Decisions about who will be an author and the order of authors should be made **before** starting to write up the project.

Q. What does it mean to be an Author?

A researcher completes her paper. Along the way she consulted her advisor for guidance on the experiment, the data analysis and writing and revising the final article.

A professor in India assisted her in analyzing the data only. A lab assistant helped her in preparing the experimental design and maintaining and operating the equipment. Two fellow grad students read her paper and edited it, though they had no hand in the experiment.

- Who is listed as an Author?
- Who is listed first?

The correct answer depends on journal policy. Authorship policies vary across disciplines, cultures and journals.

Example, the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors who declared that an author must:

1. substantially contribute to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data AND
 2. draft the article or revise it critically for important intellectual content AND
 3. give their approval of the final version to be published all three conditions must be fulfilled to be an author
- Hence, only **the researcher and her advisor** would qualify as authors
 - All others would qualify as “**Acknowledged Individuals**”



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Authorship: Do's and don'ts



General principles for who is listed first:

First Author:

- Conducts and/or supervises the data analysis and the proper presentation and interpretation of the results
- Puts paper together and submits the paper to journal

Co-Author(s):

- Makes intellectual contributions to the data analysis and contributes to data interpretation
- Reviews each paper draft
- Must be able to present the results, defend the implications and discuss study limitations



Abuses to be avoided:

Ghost Authors:

- Leaving out authors who should be included

Scientific Writers and Gift Authors:

- Including authors when they did not contribute significantly



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Contributor statement example:

Increased fasting serum glucose concentration is associated with adverse knee structural changes in adults with no knee symptoms and diabetes.

Miranda L. Davies-Tuck, Yuanyuan Wang, Anita E. Wluka, Patricia A. Berry, Graham G. Giles, Dallas R. English, Flavia M. Cicuttini

Maturitas - August 2012 (Vol. 72, Issue 4, Pages 373-378, DOI: 10.1016/j.maturitas.2012.05.013)

- Drs. Cicuttini, Wluka, Giles and English were involved in study design and inception.
- Dr. Davies-Tuck, Dr. Wang, Dr. Wluka, Dr. Berry, and Dr. Cicuttini were involved in subject recruitment, data collection, statistical analyses and interpretations.
- All authors were involved in manuscript preparation and revision.

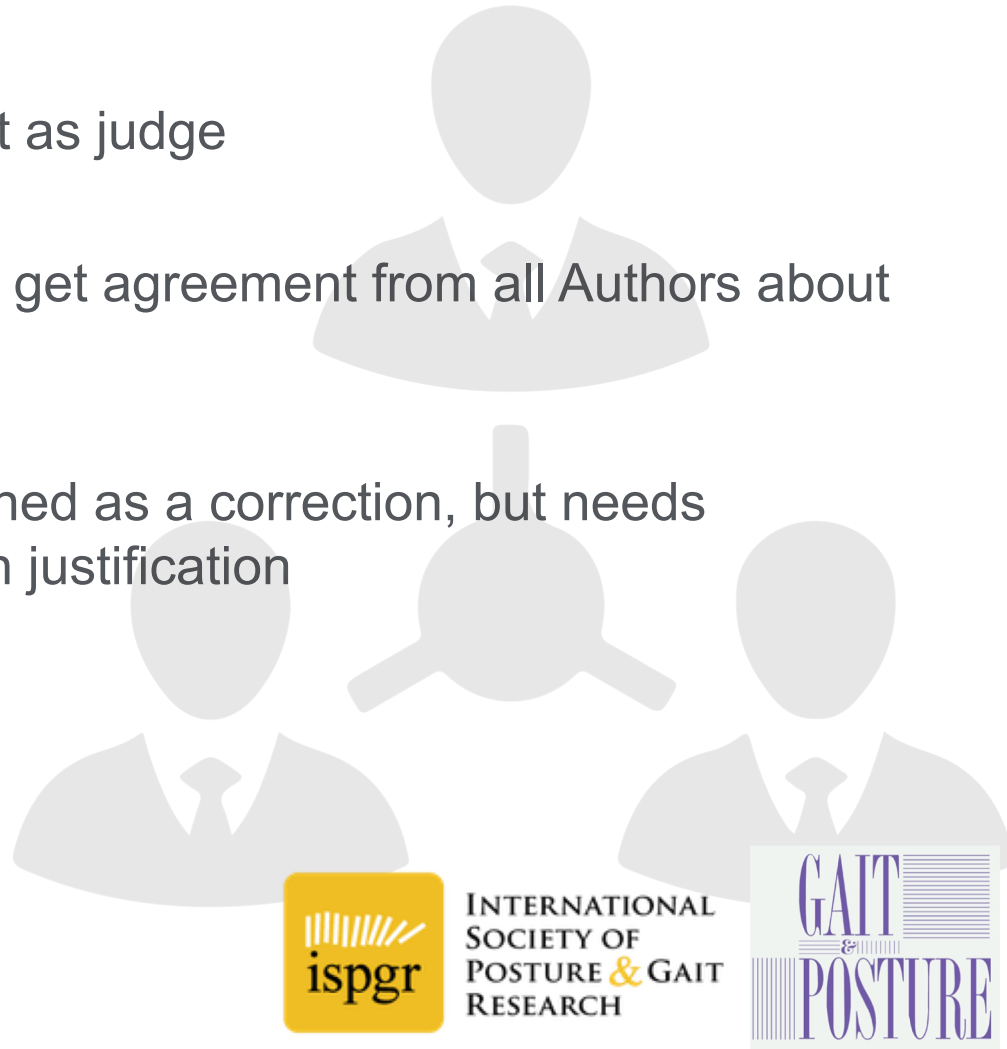


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Authorship disputes

- Must be resolved by Authors
- Editors cannot adjudicate or act as judge
- Delay publication: Editor has to get agreement from all Authors about any changes
- After publication, can be published as a correction, but needs agreement from all Authors with justification



Key author responsibilities

- Report only real, unfabricated data
- Originality
- Declare any conflicts of interest
- Submit to one journal at a time



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The most serious issues of ethical misconduct to avoid:

1. **Fabrication**

Making up research data

2. **Falsification**

Manipulation of existing research data

3. **Plagiarism**

Previous work taken and passed off as one's own



Conflicts of interest question

Indicate if any of the following are examples of conflicts of interest:

1. A University Researcher, who owns stock in a large oil company, conducts an experiment on the environmental effects of oil drilling.
2. A University Researcher, who is developing and testing a new technology, is also a consultant for a financial services firm that weighs investments in new technologies.
3. A Researcher submits an article to a journal for which the Editor-in-Chief is a Professor in the Researcher's department.
4. A Doctor who abides by traditional healing procedures writes a paper on emerging current medical technologies.

Conflicts of interest answer

These are all present potential conflicts

They can take many forms:

- Direct financial - employment, stock ownership, grants, patents
- Indirect financial - honoraria, consultancies, mutual fund ownership, expert testimony
- Career and intellectual - promotion, direct rival
- Institutional
- Personal belief

The proper way to handle potential conflicts of interest is through transparency and disclosure.

At the journal level, this means disclosure of the potential conflict in your cover letter to the Journal Editor

Submission question

Are these present potential conflicts?

- A researcher is ready to submit her paper and decides to submit to Science, Nature and Cell at the same time.
- A researcher has had his paper rejected by Science and decides to submit it to Nature. Failing that, he plans to submit it to Cell. Failing that, he plans to submit to each journal in his discipline until it is accepted.

The first scenario is not acceptable to most research communities and journals

The second scenario is acceptable but authors should heed the advice of referees and editors concerning improvements.

Submission

Multiple, redundant, or concurrent publication issues

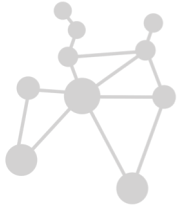
- Should be avoided where manuscripts that describe essentially the same research are published in more than one journal or primary publication.
- An author should avoid submitting a previously published paper for consideration in another journal.
- Duplication of the same paper in multiple journals of different languages should be avoided.
- “Salami Slicing”, or creating several publications from the same research, is manipulative and discouraged.



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Who is really responsible for Ethics?



All Stakeholders



Authors



Institutions/Companies/Agencies/Funding Bodies



Publishers/Journal Editors

All Elsevier journals
are members of:



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Authorship: Re-cap

Should always be
established at
beginning

Comes with credit
but also with
responsibility

Definitions vary per
community/journal

Avoid disputes, gift
and ghost authorship



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Re-cap: Responsibilities

Real, unfabricated
data

Originality

Authorship

Declare any conflicts
of interest



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What is plagiarism?

“Plagiarism is the **appropriation** of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words **without giving appropriate credit**, including those obtained through confidential review of others’ research proposals and manuscripts.”

*Federal Office of Science and
Technology Policy, 1999*

“Presenting the data or interpretations of others without crediting them, and thereby gaining for yourself the rewards earned by others, is theft, and it **eliminates the motivation of working scientists to generate new data and interpretations.**”

*Professor Bruce Railsback, Department of
Geology, University of Georgia*



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What may be plagiarised?

Work that can be plagiarised includes...

- Words (language)
- Ideas
- Findings
- Writings
- Graphic representations
- Computer programs
- Diagrams
- Graphs
- Illustrations
- Information
- Lectures
- Printed material
- Electronic material
- Any other original work

Higher Education Academy, UK

Correct citation is key

Crediting the work of others (including your advisor's or your own previous work) by citation is important for at least three reasons:

- To place your own work in context
- To acknowledge the findings of others on which you have built your research
- To maintain the credibility and accuracy of the scientific literature



Question

Has the researcher violated any ethical boundaries?

A researcher notices a paragraph in a previously published article that would be suitable as the Materials and Methods in his article.

The researcher decides to copy that paragraph into his paper without quotes or attribution.



Answer

Yes

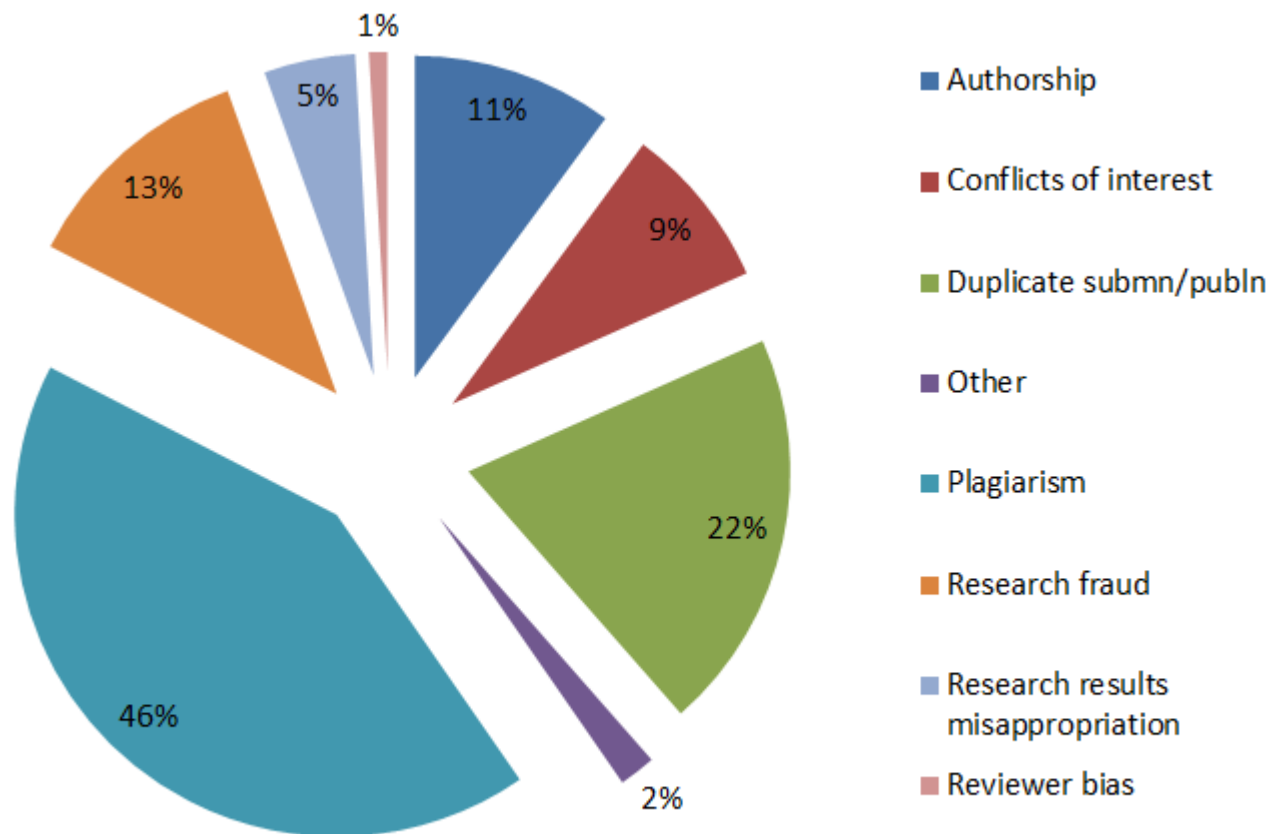
Re-using texts in the materials and methods when you followed the same technique and used the same equipment as another author may be a less serious form of plagiarism. However, it is still unacceptable: instead, just say that you followed the same technique as another author and cite them fully.



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Plagiarism high amongst ethics issues



Sample of cases reported to Elsevier Journals publishing staff in 2012

Plagiarism is serious but easily avoidable

- Plagiarism is easily avoided
- You can use ideas, phrases and arguments from sources already published, just acknowledge the source and the original author



Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is restating someone else's ideas while not copying their actual words verbatim.

It is unacceptable:

- Using exact phrases from the original source without enclosing them in quotation marks
- Emulating sentence structure even when using different words
- Emulating paragraph organization even when using different wording or sentence structure

– *Statement on Plagiarism*
Department of Biology, Davidson College.
www.bio.davidson.edu/dept/plagiarism.html



Can you plagiarise your own work? Text re-cycling/self-plagiarism

A grey area, but best to err on the side of caution: always cite/quote even your own previous work

For example

You publish a paper and in a later paper, copy your Introduction word-for word and perhaps a figure or two without citing the first paper

Editors may conclude that you intentionally exaggerated your output



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Consequences question

A researcher has plagiarized another author's article

What are the potential consequences and what actions can the publisher or researcher's institution/funding body take?



Consequences answer

Potential consequences can vary according to the severity of the misconduct and the standards set by the journal editors, institutions and funding bodies.

Possible actions include:

- Written letters of concern and reprimand
- Article retractions
- Some form of disciplinary action on the part of the researcher's institute or funding body



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Recap

When in doubt, cite!

Never cut & paste
(even to save time in
drafts)

If you suspect:
REPORT

Responsibility



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I've written my paper but
who technically owns it?



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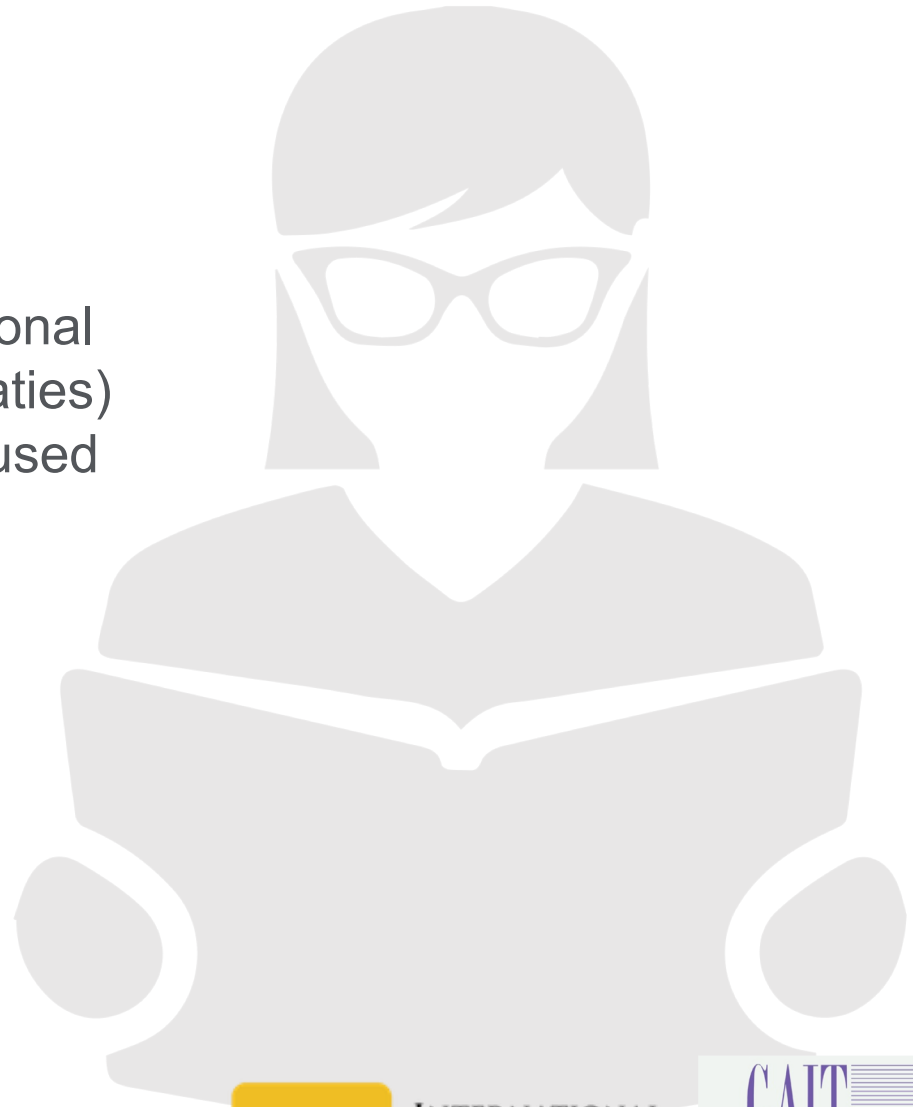


Copyright fundamentals

Myth or Fact?

Authors (and in some cases their employers) have the right under national copyright laws (and international treaties) to control how their works are to be used and distributed to others

Fact



Copyright fundamentals

Myth or Fact?

Copyright protects the underlying facts, the ideas of your work, and the way you express your thoughts and describe your research and conclusions in your writing

Myth



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Copyright fundamentals

Myth or Fact?

The extent of copyright rights allows authors to permit: the copying, distribution, online access, translation and creation of other derivative works of research

Fact



Copyright fundamentals

Myth or Fact?

Publishers or other distributors do not need written agreements from authors to transfer copying and distribution rights

Myth

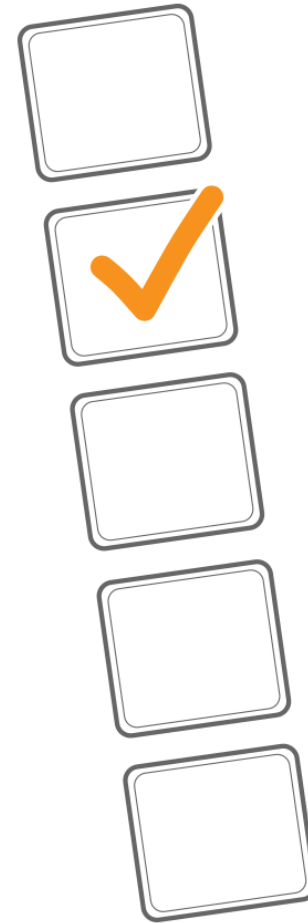


Copyright fundamentals

Myth or Fact?

Journal publishing agreements can take the form of a transfer of copyright or a publishing license

Fact



Copyright fundamentals

Myth or Fact?

Journal publishing agreements generally only spell out rights granted to the publisher

Myth



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