

Plagiarism

There has been a significant increase in the number of duplicate submissions and plagiarism cases reported in all major journals.

I-Duplicate submissions and plagiarism can take many forms, and all of them are violations of professional ethics, the copyright agreement that an author signs along with the submission of a paper. There must be a **significant component of new science for a paper to be publishable**. The copying of large segments of text from previously published or in-press papers with only minor cosmetic changes is not acceptable and can lead to the rejection of papers.

II-Duplicate submission: Duplicate submission is the most common ethics violation encountered. Duplicate submission is the submission of substantially similar papers to more than one journal. There is a misperception in a small fraction of the scientific community that duplicate submission is acceptable because it sometimes takes a long time to get a paper reviewed and because one of the papers can be withdrawn at any time. This is a clear violation of professional ethics and of the copyright agreement that is signed on submission. Duplicate submission harms the whole community because editors and reviewers waste their time and in the process compound the time it takes to get a paper reviewed for all authors. In cases of duplicate submission, the Editor of the affected journal will consult with the Editor of the other journal involved to determine the proper course of action. Often that action will be the rejection of both papers.

III-Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious breach of ethics and is defined as the substantial replication, without attribution, of significant elements of another document already published by the same or other authors. Two types of plagiarism can occur –

[1]-Self-plagiarism and plagiarism from others' works: Self-plagiarism is the publication of substantially similar scientific content of one's own in the same or different journals. Self-plagiarism causes duplicate papers in the scientific literature, violates copyright agreements, and unduly burdens reviewers, editors, and the scientific publishing enterprise.

[2]-Plagiarism from others' works constitutes the most offensive form of plagiarism. Effectively, it is using someone else's work as if it is your own. Any *text, equations, ideas, or figures* taken from another paper or work must be specifically acknowledged as they occur in that paper or work. Figures, tables, or other images reproduced from another source normally require permission from the publisher. Text or concepts can, for example, be quoted as follows:

“As stated by xxx (name of lead author), “text” [reference].”

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