Elsevier Research Intelligence

Plagiarism

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Empowering Knowledge

Agenda

1) Quick overview: Scopus Journal selection criteria

2) Publication Ethics: Plagiarism

3) Consequences

1) Quick Overview: Scopus Journal Selection Criteria
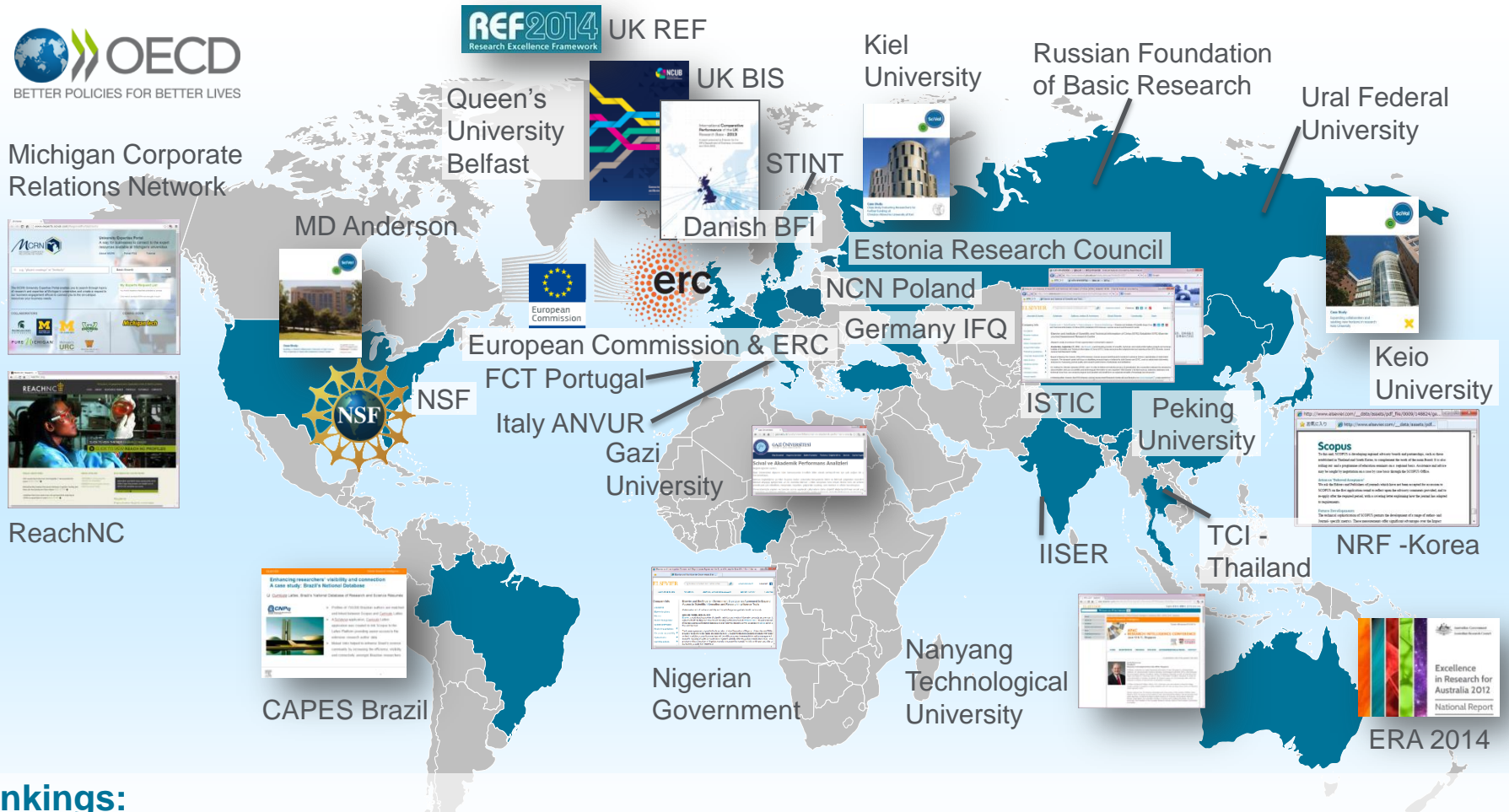
Scopus® - the World's largest Abstract & Citation Database

Physical Sciences 7,456

Health Sciences 6,834

Social Sciences 8,042

Life Sciences 4,509

JOURNALS

22,025 peer-reviewed journals
359 trade journals

- Full metadata, abstracts and cited references (references for post-1995 only)
- >2,800 fully Open Access titles
- Articles in Press for >5,100 Titles
- Going back to 1823
- Funding data from acknowledgements

CONFERENCES

82K events
6.8M records (12%)

Conf. expansion (2005 – 2013):
1,017 conferences
6,022 conf. events
410K conf. papers
5M citations

Mainly Engineering and Physical Sciences

BOOKS

512 book series
- **28K** Volumes
- **1.0M** items

86,969 books
- **709K** items

Books expansion:
120K books by 2015
- Focus on Social Sciences and A&H

PATENTS

24M patents from 5 major patent offices:

- UK
- US
- Japan
- Europe
- World

57 M records from **22,025** active serial titles and **86,969** books

21.4 pre 1996 records
35.8M post 1995 records

Scopus

Scopus is the Gold standard: more than 150 leading research organizations rely on Scopus data

OECD — BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

UK REF
UK BIS
Kiel University
Russian Foundation of Basic Research
Ural Federal University

Queen's University Belfast
STINT
Danish BFI

Michigan Corporate Relations Network

MD Anderson

Estonia Research Council
NCN Poland
Germany IFQ

Keio University

European Commission & ERC
FCT Portugal
Italy ANVUR
Gazi University

NSF

ISTIC
Peking University

NRF -Korea

ReachNC

IISER
TCI - Thailand

CAPES Brazil

Nigerian Government

Nanyang Technological University

ERA 2014

Rankings:

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

BEST ARAB UNIVERSITIES U.S.News RANKINGS

FT FINANCIAL TIMES

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

How does Scopus choose serial content?

Stage 1:

All titles should meet **all** minimum criteria in order to be considered for Scopus review:

Peer-review	English abstracts	Regular publication	Roman script references	Pub. ethics statement

Stage 2:

Eligible titles are reviewed by the Content Selection & Advisory Board according to a combination of 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria:

Journal Policy	Quality of Content	Journal Standing	Regularity	Online Availability
• Convincing editorial concept/policy • Type of peer-review • Diversity geographic distribution of editors • Diversity geographic distribution of authors	• Academic contribution to the field • Clarity of abstracts • Quality and conformity with stated aims & scope • Readability of articles	• Citedness of journal articles in Scopus • Editor standing	• No delay in publication schedule	• Content available online • English-language journal home page • Quality of home page

Info: **http://www.elsevier.com/online-tools/scopus/content-overview**
Questions: **titlesuggestion@scopus.com**

2) Publication Ethics: Plagiarism

Empowering Knowledge

Publication Ethics

- Scopus requires that every journal which accrues to the system must publish a clear and consistent statement of Publication Ethics and Policies in respect of Malpractice, and that each publisher will be held to account for the performance and compliance with this policy.

- Important issues include:
  - Plagiarism
  - Collaboration
  - Originality
  - Fraud
  - Conflict of Interest

Types of ethics complaints

- **Fabrication of data or cases**
- **Wilful falsification of data**
- **Plagiarism**

FFP

- **No ethics approval**
- **Not admitting missing data**
- **Ignoring outliers**
- **No data on side effects**
- **Gift authorship**
- **Redundant publication**
- **Inadequate literature search**

QRP

serious

FFP = Falsification, Fabrication, Plagiarism

QRP= Questionable Research Practice

Plagiarism

- Taking credit for others' text and ideas

- Literal copying without acknowledgement or permission

- Substantial copying

- Paraphrasing ideas without acknowledgement

- Reproducing portions of an author's own work

- Unintentional: Self-plagiarism?

"**Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, 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

3) Consequences

The Consequences

- Consequences vary depending on the misconduct and the journal, institutions and funding body involved

Authors could:

- Have articles retracted (carrying a note why they were retracted e.g. for plagiarism
- Have letters of concern or reprimand written to them
- Institutes and funding bodies could carry out disciplinary action

Options for corrections and sanctions

- Important: sanctions proportionate to the violation
- Rejection of submission
- Notification of author's institute
- Notification of funding body
- Corrigendum (honest mistakes, author in full agreement)
- Expression of Concern (temporary, inconclusive evidence)
- Temporary banning of author: keep for very serious cases
- Retraction: a note accompanying the article explaining what happened
- Removal: making the article disappear. Used very sparingly.
- All retractions & removals (except AiP) are reviewed by Retraction Committee within Elsevier

Elsevier Policy on Article Withdrawal

- **Withdrawal –** *only for Articles in Press*
- **Retraction –** *infringements of professional ethical codes*
- **Removal –** *extremely limited number of cases*
  - -clearly defamatory article,
  - -infringes others' legal rights,
  - -the article is (expected to be) the subject of a court order,
  - -might pose a serious health risk.

- *http://www.elsevier.com/about/companyinformation/policies/article-withdrawal*
- **Retraction requests via the Tombstone Tool:** *http://nonsolus/tombstone/index.asp*
- **Documentation:** *http://nonsolus/cap/documents/tombstones/tombstone.pdf*

What is the community doing?

CrossCheck

With plagiarism a growing problem for journal editors, Elsevier offers CrossCheck* , a plagiarism detection service, for use within the editorial workflow as part of its efforts to support the peer review process and assist the scientific community. Although only an estimated 0.1% of submitted articles are ever suspect--with considerable variation of occurrence between different academic areas--a workable software solution for plagiarism detection can lower the burden on editors and ensure misconduct is caught.

Show more

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) is a non-profit organization that provides a forum for editors of peer-reviewed journals to seek guidance on ethical issues. It supports and encourages editors to report, catalogue, and instigate investigations into misconduct in the publication process. COPE fosters a deep understanding of publication ethics by offering practical guidance and resources including eLearning training modules, a database of case studies, podcasts of forum discussions, newsletters, and guidelines on retraction, best practices and other critical topics.

Show more

The Publishing Ethics Resource Kit (PERK)

The Publishing Ethics Resource Kit (PERK) is a single point of access for step-by-step guidelines on publishing ethics that helps editors navigate the often complex processes involved in handling different types of misconduct. It was

Mandatory Ethics Statement for all Submissions

As part of its ongoing efforts to ensure all authors understand and abide by ethical standards in publishing, Elsevier has a mandatory ethics statement for all submissions. All authors are required to read and to confirm

CrossCheck

- Consists of database of published content and plagiarism-detecting software from Iparadigms

- Huge database: 31million+ articles from 175,000+ journals and books from 300+ publishers

- Software shows any similarities between the article and previously published articles, incl. a ''similarity rating''

- 700 journals have CrossCheck accounts: some Editors check all submissions, some check all accepted papers, some check only suspicious papers

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

- Independent body
- Started in 1997 as "self-help" group of editors (e.g. Richard Horton, *Lancet*)
- As of 2008, all Elsevier journals part of COPE: first major publisher to do so
- Website with searchable database of sample cases back to 1997
- Teleconferences where editors can seek advice on tricky cases
- Online distance-learning modules for Editors

http://publicationethics.org/

CSAB Subject
Chair for Medicine

Publishing Ethics Resource Kit (PERK)

- First stop for editors: advice on how to handle ethics cases

- Policy statements, form letters, case studies (some from COPE), flow-charts and decision-trees

http://www.elsevier.com/editors/perk

Publishing Ethics Resource Kit (PERK)

Introduction

The Publishing Ethics Resource Kit (PERK) is an online resource to support journal editors in handling publishing ethics issues. It is a single point of access for information and guidelines on publishing ethics. PERK provides flowcharts to guide editors through processes required to deal with different forms of publishing ethics abuse. Furthermore, it includes form letters to adapt and use for various situations, Q & A information and much more. For more information on this resource kit and how it works, please see **Why PERK?** and **How PERK works.**

"What's Elsevier's position on publishing ethics?"

Decision trees

General guidelines (all decision trees)

1. **Authorship complaints**
2. **Plagiarism complaints**
3. **Multiple, duplicate, concurrent publication/Simultaneous submission**
4. **Research results misappropriation**
5. **Allegations of research errors and fraud**
6. **Research standards violations**
7. **Undisclosed conflicts of interest**
8. **Reviewer bias or competitive harmful acts by reviewers**

Form letters

A. **To author**
B. **To complainant re: Author**
C. **To institution**
D. **To other journal (double publication)**
E. **To funding agency**
F. **To reviewer**
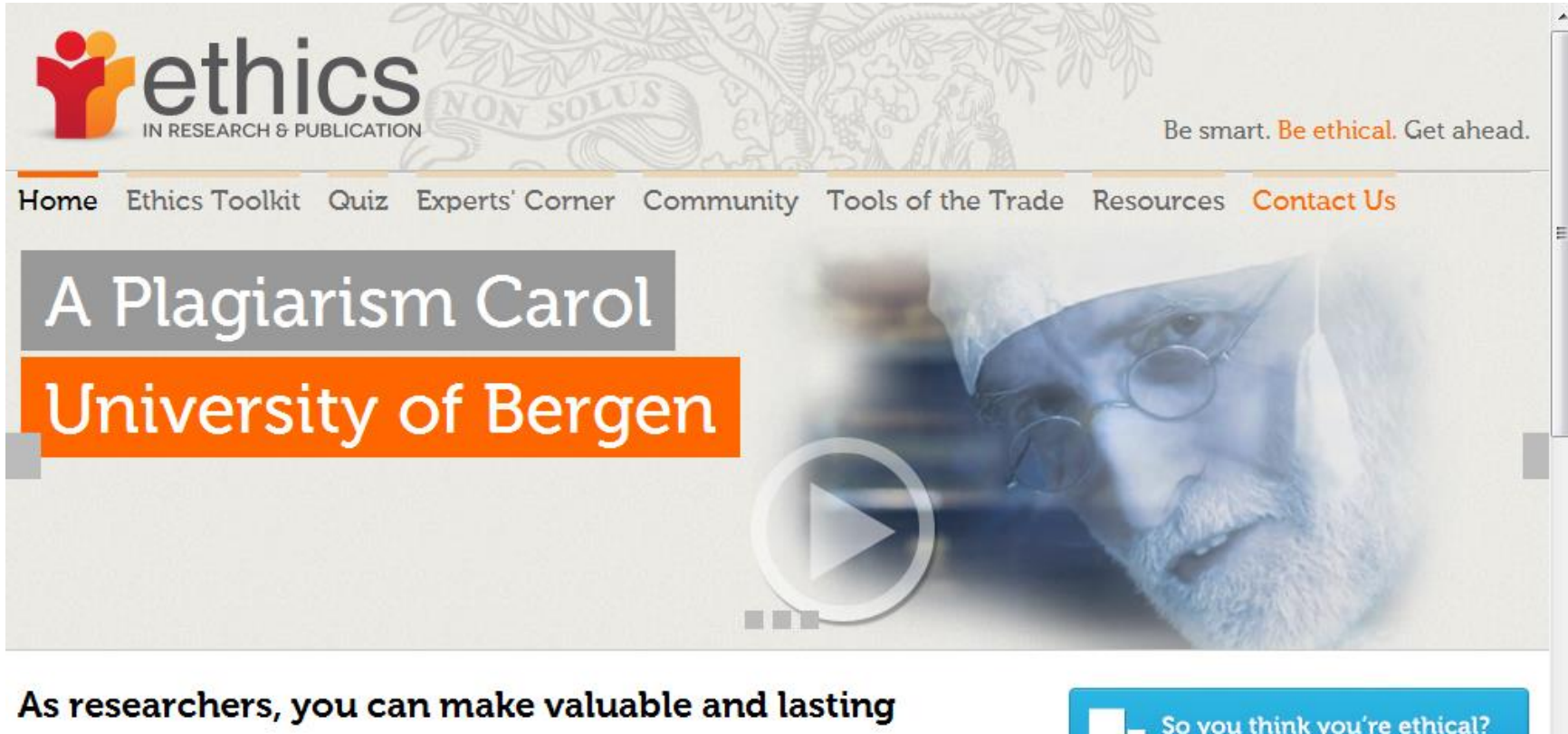G. **To complainant re: Reviewer**
H. **To reviewer's institution**

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Industry organisations

Educating researchers on the do's & don'ts

www.ethics.elsevier.com

Ethics education program

- www.ethics.elsevier.com

- Developed with advice from independent experts incl. COPE, librarians, editors

- Teaching the "ground rules"

- ...and what happens when they're broken

- Real-life stories of those affected by plagiarism etc

Publication Ethics & Malpractice Statement (PEMS)

- An EXAMPLE of a valid Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement can be found here: http://journals.cambridge.org/action/stream?pageId=6728&level=2

- The monitoring of publishing ethics is a major aspect of the editorial and peer-review process, and as such lies within the area of responsibility of the editor-in-chief, or scientific editor, of each title. You can find an example of a recognized publication ethics and malpractice statement here: http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/New_Code.pdf

- A Code of Conduct and guidelines can be found here: http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines

- As part of our commitment to the protection and enhancement of peer review, our publishing team offers editors assistance and guidance in these matters. A Publishing Ethics Resource Kit was developed in response to requests from editors for helpful tools to manage these challenging situations. It provides flowcharts to guide editors through processes required to deal with different forms of publishing ethics abuse, template letters to adapt and use for various situations, Q & A information and much more. http://www.elsevier.com/editors/publishing-ethics/perk

Publication Ethics & Malpractice Statement (PEMS)

- Publication ethics and malpractice statement required
- No specific wording suggested
- Useful resources:

http://www.elsevier.com/editors/perk/what-is-elseviers-position-on-publishing-ethics

http://publicationethics.org/

http://www.icmje.org/

www.ethics.elsevier.com

Q & A

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Thank you