



European Science Editing

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[European Science Editing](#) (ESE; ISSN 0258-3127) is an open-access, peer-reviewed academic journal published by the [European Association of Science Editors](#) (EASE).

Aims and scope

The journal publishes original contributions related to aspects of scientific and scholarly editing and publishing (for example: research integrity, peer review, scientometrics, open science, predatory publishing, statistics), writing, translation and ethics. The aim and vision of the journal is to provide a source of peer-reviewed information on all aspects of scholarly editing and publishing to help editors improve the quality and integrity of publications for which they are responsible. We welcome manuscripts in the following categories: editorials, original research articles, reviews, viewpoints and correspondence items.

Why publish in *European Science Editing*?

- Broad readership, including journal editors, scholarly publishing and communication professionals, researchers, consultants, policy makers, author's editors, technical editors, copyeditors and translators
- International scope, with editorial board members and published authors from countries around the world, not only from Europe
- Widely covered in over 20 international bibliographic and indexing services
- Immediate open access: your article will be published online as soon as post-acceptance editorial production is completed, and access is free to all readers
- NO submission or publication fees

Manuscripts should be sent through our [submission system](#) on the web page <https://ese.arphahub.com/>.



Ethics and editing of contributions

Submission

Language

Manuscripts should be submitted in English. Before submittal we encourage you to consult the current version of the EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators (available in many languages at <http://www.ease.org.uk/publications/author-guidelines>) and an author's editor or language editor if necessary.

Peer-review policy

Manuscripts may be rejected before peer review if they are insufficiently original, have serious scientific flaws, have poor grammar or English language, or are outside the aims and scope of the journal. Those that meet the minimum criteria are passed on for peer review. This selection process is usually completed within 2 weeks. Reviewers are selected by the editors and are matched to the manuscript according to their expertise. Authors can suggest/oppose up to 3 potential reviewers (full name, email, institution). Please consider diverse peer reviewers in terms of gender, ethnicity and geographical distribution.

Final acceptance or rejection is the decision of the Chief Editor and relevant Associate Editor.

Type of peer review: reviewers are usually not identified to the authors, however the reviewer has the option to sign the review in which case that information will be passed to the author.

The time required for the review process depends on the response of the reviewers. The expected time from submission to initial decision (revise or reject) is usually 2 months.

Duplicate/secondary publications

Do not submit manuscripts whose content overlaps substantially with any already published items or other manuscripts submitted for publication elsewhere. We will consider manuscripts already available as preprints. If the article is accepted, authors will be requested to update any pre-publication versions with a link to the final published article.

Contributions based on published material, including meeting abstracts, should be identified as such at the time of submission. This situation does not necessarily make your manuscript ineligible for publication in ESE, as long as original analyses or opinions are provided.



Data contained in submitted manuscripts are assumed not to have been fabricated or falsified. We apply [the core practices](#) of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and adhere to the ethical principles set down in the [Singapore Statement on Research Integrity](#) .

Authorship criteria

Authors of submissions reporting research findings should meet all four of the criteria of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([ICMJE](#), www.icmje.org):

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Before submittal, authors should decide who qualifies for authorship and the order in which authors are listed on the manuscript. The editors of ESE do not adjudicate authorship decisions. Changes in the number or order of authors after submittal must be explained to the Chief Editor in writing. The editors of ESE reserve the right to refer any irregularities in authorship to the research officer or appropriate academic ethics authority at the first author's or corresponding author's institution.

When submitting the manuscript, the corresponding author should provide contact details for all authors, along with a statement explaining the contributions of individual authors and confirmation each co-author has approved the final version of the manuscript. See also the Quick Check for submissions.

We encourage all authors to sign up for an [ORCID](#) ID ("**Open Researcher and Contributor ID**"), a free, unique author identification number that links you to the publications you list in your ORCID account.

Plagiarism

Manuscripts are checked for text similarity with the [CrossRef Similarity Check](#) software and manually checked to determine whether any non-original text flagged by the software shows

evidence of plagiarism. Manuscripts containing material suspected of plagiarism will be handled by following the relevant COPE [flowchart](#) and guidelines from ICMJE.

Ethical approval of studies

All manuscripts reporting data from studies involving humans (for example, ethnographic research on writing or reviewing skills, attitudes and behaviours) are required to provide proof of formal review and approval, or formal review and waiver, by an appropriate institutional review board (IRB) or ethics committee. This approval should be reported in the Methods section of the manuscript. Investigators whose institution does not have a formal IRB or ethics committee should follow the principles outlined in the [Declaration of Helsinki](#). State in the Methods section how informed consent was obtained from study participants (i.e., oral or written) and whether participants received a fee or other type of compensation. Authors of research studies involving humans should not independently determine whether their research is exempt from IRB or ethical review; they should cite the institutional or regulatory policy for that determination and indicate whether the data are de-identified and publicly available or protected by participant consent or privacy safeguards. The Chief Editor may ask authors to provide documentation of the formal review and recommendation from the IRB or ethics committee.

Informed consent

If the manuscript reports the findings of a survey or interviews, the author must confirm that the participants gave their informed consent to participate in the study and for their personal details to be recorded if that is the case. If quotations or other attributable statements are included, these must be anonymised, or the manuscript must state that the person agreed to their name/identity being made known.

Data-sharing statement

For original articles, a data-sharing statement should be included. A data-sharing statement (also sometimes called a data availability or access statement) specifies the data availability and access conditions (open, closed, on-request, etc.). The statements must contain links to the data set, where applicable. For more information consult the [ICMJE Recommendations - Data sharing](#).



Conflict of Interest

Potential financial and non-financial competing interests, including any relationship with editorial associations, commercial editing companies, medical communications companies or other organizations that might have an interest in the submission, must be declared at the end of the manuscript, just before the References section.

Copyright

Authors retain copyright in their articles but agree to publish under [a Creative Commons licence CC BY 4.0](#).

Types of manuscript

Editorials

Editorials are usually written or commissioned by editorial board members. However, unsolicited submissions for this section are also welcome. Editorials are checked for clarity and consistency in-house and do not necessarily undergo external review. They represent the opinion of the author(s) and are not intended to imply endorsement by EASE. Acceptable topics are the same as those described below for original research articles.

Original articles

Original articles are subject to in-house and external peer review by at least two independent experts in the field. Articles should be 2500-4000 words, including the main body text, figure and table legends. The number of figures and tables should not exceed 6. The maximum number of references is 30. Articles should follow the IMRAD format (Introduction, Methods (including Statistical Methods and Ethics), Results, and Discussion (including Strengths and Limitations of the Study and Conclusions). An informative Abstract (Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions) of 150-250 words and 4 to 6 Keywords are required. The abstract should contain the main findings with numerical and statistical values.

The title of the manuscript should be informative and include a study descriptor, for example “Editors’ attitudes about Plan S – a cross-sectional study” or “Implementing a new submission system in a journal – a case study”.

Reviews

Reviews are subject to in-house and external peer review by at least one independent expert in the field. Reviews should be 2500-4000 words, including the main body text, figure and table legends. The number of figures and tables should not exceed 6. The maximum number of references is 40. An unstructured Abstract of 150-250 words and 4 to 6 Keywords are required.

Viewpoints

Viewpoints are the opinions or personal editorial experiences of the author(s). Viewpoints are subject to in-house and external peer review by at least one independent expert in the field. Manuscripts should be 1000-2000 words, including the main body text, figure and table legends. The maximum number of figures and tables should not exceed 2. The maximum number of references is 20. An unstructured Abstract of 50-100 words and 4 to 6 Keywords are required.

Correspondence

Correspondence is welcomed on items that have appeared in recent issues of ESE or that concern matters of interest to readers. These items are checked and edited for clarity and consistency in-house by the editors and might be sent for peer review.

Manuscripts should be 300-500 words, with no more than one figure or table. The maximum number of references is 5.

File format and text style

All manuscripts should be submitted through the online [submission system](#).

Manuscripts should be in document format (.docx or .odt extension), preferably in a 12-point typeface, with page numbers. We discourage the use of footnotes or endnotes.

Clearly identify level 1 (main section) and level 2 (subsection) headings in the text, preferably using your text processor styles so they can be easily re-formatted after acceptance.

Tables should appear at the end of the manuscript and must be in text format (not as spreadsheets or image files). EASE members can consult the “Editing and design of tables” chapter of the *EASE Science Editors’ Handbook* for further guidance.



Figures must be in sharp focus and of high resolution (600 dpi, minimum width 12 cm). On submission, please include the figures in the manuscript to facilitate review. On acceptance, each figure should be sent in a separate file saved in .tif or .jpg format. EASE members can consult the “Illustration basics” chapter of *the EASE Science Editors’ Handbook* for further guidance

Style: Spelling should follow the Oxford English Dictionary (Concise or Shorter), including –ize and –ization where appropriate. Use inclusive language (non-sexist, non-racist). Minimize abbreviations and provide the definition on first use except for SI units and terms that are widely accepted and understood by non-experts. Write the numbers one to nine in full in the text, except when they are attached to units of measure. Use double quotation marks for direct quotations and for terms used out of their usual context. Use single quotation marks only for quotations within quotations. Avoid redundant language and excessively complex sentences. As a general reference, please consult the most recent version of the [EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators](#).

Citations (reference call-outs) in the text should be indicated with superscript consecutive numbers. In the References section, journal titles and page ranges should be given in full, with book and journal titles in italics. The DOI (digital object identifier) in a URL address (e.g. <https://doi.org/10.13003/5jchdy>) should be given where available.

The following are examples of reference formats:

Journal article:

- Utrobičić A, Šimić J, Malički M et al. Composition of editorial boards and peer review policies of Croatian journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. *Eur Sci Ed*. 2014;40(2):31–33.

Book chapter:

- O’Connor M, Cooter M, Ufnalska SB. Copy-editing scientific papers. In: Smart P, Maisonneuve H, Polderman A (eds). *Science Editors’ Handbook, 2nd edition*. London: European Association of Science Editors, 2013:3–6.

For more information and examples please consult [Citing Medicine: The NLM Style Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers](#) (2nd edition; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7256/>).

Electronic sources: The reference should include the web address (URL) and the date the reference was accessed.



- Roig M. Avoiding plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and other questionable writing practices: A guide to ethical writing. <https://ori.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/plagiarism.pdf> (accessed 22 August 2014).

Download the Instructions for Authors as [ESE instructions for authors.pdf](#) .

Other resources:

- [EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators of Scientific Articles to be Published in English](#)
- [EASE Ethics Checklist for Authors](#)
- [EASE Form for Authors' Contributions and Conflict of Interest Disclosure](#)

Errata, corrections, retractions and appeals

If an error is discovered in an article, we will endeavour to correct the record as soon as possible, either by issuing a correction notice or by retracting the article. We follow the 2017 recommendation from JAMA on how to deal with corrections: see Christiansen S, Flanagin A. Correcting the Medical Literature: “To Err Is Human, to Correct Divine”. JAMA. 2017;318(9):804–805. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.11833

If you believe an erratum or retraction is not justified and wish to appeal against a decision, you may appeal to the Chief Editor. Note that authors may only appeal once, so it is important to ensure that you present all the facts carefully. Appeals will be discussed by the editorial team and – if necessary – with EASE Council. Articles that undergo the appeal process may be sent out for further review. Please note that the decision reached at the conclusion of the appeal process is final.