



# Research Integrity

Tools for journals  
and authors



Scholastica



Research  
Square



## Toolkit Overview

Fostering research integrity at every stage of scholarly publishing is foundational to upholding trust in the literature and furthering advancements across disciplines. This Toolkit by Scholastica and Research Square overviews steps journals *and* authors should take.

## Statements of originality and disclosures

### Tips for Journals

- Establish transparent ethics/copyright statements authors are required to sign
- Defining authorship is key—CRediT can help
- Conflict of interest policies should extend to authors *and* editors *and* reviewers
- Cover the rights you ask authors to grant *and* those they retain in copyright policies



### Tips for Authors

- Read up on ethical/data reporting guidelines in your field—NIH and EQUATOR Network are solid starts for biomedical sciences.
- Apply requirements *before* starting a study
- Originality/disclosure statements are usually required at submission—don't forget them!
- 1st author is *always* whoever did most work

## Research reproducibility and replicability

### Tips for Journals

- Aim to prioritize data/methods transparency
- Establish data sharing guidelines—the FAIR Data Principles can serve as a helpful start
- Visit the Center for Open Science for transparent publishing frameworks like TOP
- Seeking preregistered studies can prevent spin and make room for null/negative results



### Tips for Authors

- "Open research" refers to ALL outputs (i.e., data, methods) being openly accessible
- Always check journal data sharing policies
- Open Access (OA) journals are free to read but may have publishing costs— *check!*
- When applying for funding, review funder OA mandates first (new ones include Plan S)

## Plagiarism detection best practices

### Tips for Journals

- Establish plagiarism definitions/policies (e.g., stance on "text recycling"), COPE can help
- Make policies public to prevent confusion
- Do plagiarism checks before external review—iThenticate/Similarity Check can help
- A high "Similarity Score" isn't automatically indicative of plagiarism (*also check low ones!*)



### Tips for Authors

- You have the onus for plagiarism detection
- Recycling text/data from your past articles without citation is a form of self-plagiarism
- If you're unsure what a journal deems duplicate publication, *ask* (e.g., for preprints)
- Always cite ideas you've incorporated into your manuscript (*even paraphrased ones*)