

PUBLICATION ETHICS STATEMENT

e-Jurnal Kewartawanan Malaysian Press Institute (MPI)

Introduction

The **e-Jurnal Kewartawanan Malaysian Press Institute (MPI)** is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, transparency and accountability throughout every stage of scholarly publishing.

The Journal recognises that academic publishing plays a vital role in the advancement of knowledge, journalism practice, media development and public trust. Consequently, all editorial activities must be conducted fairly, independently, responsibly and ethically.

This Publication Ethics Statement establishes the ethical responsibilities of all parties involved in the publication process, including authors, editors, reviewers, members of the Editorial Board and the publisher.

The Journal adopts internationally recognised principles of publication ethics and editorial best practices, particularly those promoted by the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**, while taking into consideration the unique characteristics of journalism, communication and media research.

The Journal maintains a **zero-tolerance policy** towards academic misconduct and publication malpractice.

Principles of Publication Ethics

The Journal operates according to the following fundamental principles:

Integrity

All published work must honestly represent the research undertaken.

Research findings shall not be fabricated, manipulated or selectively reported.

Transparency

Editorial decisions, peer review processes and publication policies shall be transparent and publicly available.

Fairness

Every manuscript shall be evaluated solely on academic merit without discrimination based on:

- nationality
- race
- religion
- gender
- political beliefs
- institutional affiliation
- professional status

Independence

Editorial decisions shall remain independent from political, commercial, institutional or personal influence.

Accountability

Editors, reviewers, authors and publishers shall remain accountable for maintaining the quality and credibility of published research.

Confidentiality

Information contained within submitted manuscripts shall remain confidential throughout the editorial process.

Responsibilities of the Publisher

The Malaysian Press Institute (MPI), as the Publisher, shall:

- safeguard editorial independence;
- provide sufficient resources for journal management;
- support ethical publishing practices;
- maintain publication archives;
- protect intellectual property;
- ensure long-term digital accessibility;
- investigate allegations of publication misconduct;
- cooperate with institutions where necessary.

The Publisher shall never influence editorial decisions regarding manuscript acceptance or rejection.

Responsibilities of the Editor-in-Chief

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for maintaining the academic quality and integrity of the Journal.

Specifically, the Editor-in-Chief shall:

Editorial Decision

Make publication decisions based solely on:

- originality;
- significance;
- methodological quality;
- ethical compliance;
- relevance to the Journal.

Editorial decisions shall never be influenced by commercial interests or personal relationships.

Confidentiality

Protect the confidentiality of all manuscripts.

Information shall only be shared with:

- reviewers;
- editorial staff;
- authors;
- publisher (where necessary).

Conflict of Interest

Editors shall withdraw from handling manuscripts where any conflict of interest exists. Examples include:

- family relationships;
- financial interests;
- research collaboration;
- institutional relationships;
- personal rivalry.

Ethical Oversight

Editors shall investigate allegations involving:

- plagiarism;
- duplicate publication;
- fabricated data;
- falsified data;
- manipulated images;
- unethical research;
- undisclosed conflicts of interest.

Responsibilities of Editorial Board Members

Editorial Board members shall:

- uphold publication ethics;
- support editorial independence;
- recommend qualified reviewers;
- advise on editorial policy;
- maintain confidentiality;
- avoid conflicts of interest.

Responsibilities of Reviewers

Reviewers perform an essential role in maintaining scholarly quality.

Reviewers shall:

Conduct Objective Reviews

Reviews shall be:

- constructive;
- respectful;
- evidence-based;
- unbiased.

Personal criticism of authors is unacceptable.

Confidentiality

Manuscripts under review shall be treated as confidential documents.

Reviewers shall not:

- share manuscripts;
- discuss manuscripts;
- copy data;
- use unpublished findings.

Conflict of Interest

Reviewers must immediately decline invitations where conflicts exist.

Examples include:

- personal relationships;
- financial interests;
- institutional affiliations;
- direct competition.

Timeliness

Reviews shall be completed within the agreed review period.

Academic Integrity

Reviewers shall report suspected:

- plagiarism;
- duplicate publication;
- fabricated data;
- manipulated images;
- unethical research.

Responsibilities of Authors

Authors bear primary responsibility for the integrity of submitted manuscripts.

Authors shall ensure that:

Originality

Submitted work is entirely original.

Where previous work has been used, appropriate citation must be provided.

Accuracy

Research findings must accurately represent the study conducted.

Data manipulation is strictly prohibited.

Authorship

Only individuals making substantial scholarly contributions shall be listed as authors.

Gift authorship and ghost authorship are prohibited.

Disclosure

Authors shall disclose:

- funding sources;
- conflicts of interest;
- AI usage;
- ethical approval (where applicable).

Multiple Submission

Manuscripts shall not be submitted simultaneously to multiple journals.

Data Retention

Authors shall retain original research data and make them available when reasonably requested.

Publication Misconduct

The Journal considers the following unacceptable.

Plagiarism

Including:

- verbatim copying;
- paraphrasing without citation;
- self-plagiarism;
- image plagiarism.

All manuscripts may undergo similarity checking.

Fabrication

Making up:

- research data;
- interviews;
- participants;
- experiments;
- survey responses.

Fabrication constitutes serious academic misconduct.

Falsification

Manipulating:

- research data;
- statistical analyses;
- images;
- graphs;
- quotations.

Duplicate Publication

Publishing substantially similar work in multiple journals without disclosure.

Citation Manipulation

Artificially increasing citations.

Authorship Manipulation

Including:

- guest authorship;
- honorary authorship;
- ghost authorship.

Handling Allegations of Misconduct

The Journal investigates all allegations fairly.

The process normally includes:

1. Preliminary assessment.
2. Request for explanation.
3. Evidence review.
4. Editorial investigation.
5. Consultation with reviewers (where necessary).
6. Final decision.

Possible actions include:

- manuscript rejection;
- correction;
- retraction;
- institutional notification;
- publication ban.

Complaints and Appeals

Authors may appeal editorial decisions.

Appeals shall:

- be submitted in writing;
- provide supporting evidence;
- avoid personal attacks.

The Editor-in-Chief shall appoint an independent panel where necessary.

The panel's decision shall be final.

Corrections

Where honest errors are identified after publication, the Journal may publish:

- Erratum;
- Corrigendum;
- Addendum.

Corrections shall remain permanently linked to the original article.

Retractions

Articles may be retracted where:

- plagiarism is confirmed;
- fabricated data are identified;
- falsification is proven;
- unethical research occurred;
- duplicate publication exists;
- serious publication misconduct is established.

Retracted articles shall remain online with a clear **RETRACTED** watermark and explanatory notice to preserve the scholarly record.

Expression of Concern

The Journal may publish an **Expression of Concern** where credible evidence of misconduct exists but an investigation has not yet concluded.

This notice informs readers that the findings should be interpreted with caution pending the outcome of the investigation.

Ethical Commitment

The **e-Jurnal Kewartawanan Malaysian Press Institute (MPI)** is committed to fostering a culture of ethical scholarship, responsible journalism research and transparent academic publishing. All parties involved in the publication process share responsibility for protecting the credibility, integrity and reputation of the Journal.

The Journal believes that maintaining high ethical standards is essential not only for academic excellence but also for strengthening public trust in journalism, media research and scholarly communication.