Publishing Ethics Training: who needs it?
COPE Seminar, May 2022

Dr. Jennifer Wright, Research Services Manager, Cambridge University Press
Cambridge University Press & Assessment

Education, courseware, and assessment

Preprints and other early research content

Academic books and journals
Publishing ethics and research integrity: what’s the difference?
Publishing ethics “stakeholders”

- Researchers
- Authors
- Research managers
- Editors
- Publishers
- Society
- Legal teams
- Communications/PR teams
- Students
- Platform and technology providers
- Peer reviewers
- Journalists/media…
**Why publishing ethics training?**

**Is research integrity training a waste of time?**

Building good research practices begins before entering the lab.

Gemma Corroy

“The study published in BMC Medical Ethics revealed that childhood education and personality traits have a greater influence on how researchers conduct their work than formal training in research integrity.”

“Journals and research institutions (e.g. universities) share common interests when concerns arise over the integrity of research reports that are submitted for publication or are published. Concerns about the integrity of reported research may arise after publication or during editorial assessment or peer review, or from pre-publication screening (e.g. for plagiarism or image manipulation); therefore journals may be the first to suspect problems. However, journals usually do not have all the evidence, or a specific mandate, to conduct a formal investigation.”

“Ultimately, it is the responsibility of higher education institutions and academic statutory bodies to create structures and places of learning where ethical publishing practices are promoted and rewarded. Courses in publication ethics are a step in the right direction.”

https://www.natureindex.com/news-blog/is-research-integrity-training-a-waste-of-time
Why publishing ethics training?

- Perspective-sharing around common goals
- Responsiveness
- Tackling myths and misunderstandings
- Inclusivity
Typical training opportunities

Coaching/mentoring

“on the job”

Formal/structured

Self-directed

Broad/general principles

Context specific

Prospective/reflective/concurrent

Mandatory/optional

...
Why do we need publishing ethics training: shared goals

- Trust in the scholarly literature
- Avoiding or acknowledging inconsistencies
- Ongoing improvement, dialogue around new challenges
- Shared language and expectations
Why we need publishing ethics training: responsiveness in investigations

- Who to contact
- When to contact
- What to expect when contacted
- What information is likely to be useful or may need to be shared
- What actions/outcomes are possible
Why we need publishing ethics training: myths, misunderstandings, and complexities

• Retractions, removals, corrections – what they are (and aren’t!) for
• Policies – e.g. affiliations, authorship, citations
• Editorial independence
• Public engagement and research reporting

"By citing article x, this article implies the instrument at institution X is not effective. We request that you remove this citation"

"We are hereby informing you that this article must be retracted"

"This article remains on the publisher’s platform despite the outcry"

"We have banned collaboration with this author, therefore please remove his authorship from the following articles…"

"We are reporting you to your publisher for failing to retract the article as requested"

"We do not endorse this author’s actions. Accordingly, we request that you remove the affiliation, University of X, from this article"

"This article must be removed from your platform"
Why do we need publishing ethics training: diversity, inclusivity, interdisciplinarity

• No longer enough to be learn through exposure to 1 discipline’s traditions
• Learning from each other’s experiences; questioning assumptions
• Rarely a “right” answer; training can provide space and frameworks to discuss
• Many approaches to increasing diversity and inclusivity are synonymous with core publishing ethics principles (e.g. removing bias)...but there’s complexity too
So, who needs to know about publishing ethics?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researchers</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Research managers/research integrity officers</th>
<th>Editors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publishers</td>
<td>Society</td>
<td>Legal teams</td>
<td>Communications/PR teams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Platform and technology providers</td>
<td>Peer reviewers</td>
<td>Journalists/media…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you!