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## **COPE Working Group Update**

### **Author Name Changes**

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publicationethics.org

## Core Practice #10

# Post-publication discussions and corrections

<https://COPE.onl/corrections>



## STRATEGIC PLAN 2020–2023

Following a period of consultation with the Trustees, the Council and feedback from our members via a wide ranging membership survey, COPE is committed over the next three years to delivering on four strategic priorities. These priorities are designed to help us achieve our mission through the work of our Council, supported by a dedicated staff.

### OUR FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE:

1

#### RANGE

We will extend the range of our resources to meet the needs of all members, irrespective of discipline, and develop new resources to meet the needs of universities and producers of non-journal scholarly products.

2

#### REACH

We will carry out a targeted campaign to increase and extend awareness of COPE across all sectors, disciplines and geographical areas, in particular those where we are currently underrepresented, as well as within our current membership.

3

#### RESPONSIVENESS

We will be more responsive to ethical issues in scholarly work and its publication as they arise.

4

#### REVENUE

We will have expanded our membership and established more sources of revenue to sustain our mission beyond 2023.

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DIGEST

JANUARY 2021, Vol 9
Issue 1: Author name changes | New cases

HOT TOPIC
#

### AUTHOR NAME CHANGES AFTER PUBLICATION

#### Update on COPE guidance

In response to an increase in cases and queries in 2019 about author name changes after article publication, COPE formed a working group of Trustees, Council Members, publishers, editors, and authors to develop guidance on this important topic.

### AUTHOR NAME CHANGES AFTER PUBLICATION

[Home](#) / [Resources](#) / [Cases](#)

## Change in author's name after publication

Case number:

13-02

**Case text (Anonymised):**

An original work was published in our journal in September 2010. The article had five authors. Now, in February 2013, the third author is requesting an alteration in his/her name. The original name published was SFHS. The request is to change the name to SFH, both on the journal's website and Medline.

No valid reason could be provided by the author for this change in name. The last name is the cast and now he/she wants to write in future without the cast being evident.

Would this deletion be ethical?

Can there be any legal implications?

**Advice:**

**NOTE (December 2020):** This case and Forum advice was published in 2013. Recently, the publishing and academic communities have been working to develop new guidance to ensure that authors who are transgender, non-binary, and/or gender diverse can easily update their articles. COPE will be issuing guidance in due course, but in the meantime, this case should not be used to deny the rights of these authors to request that their names be changed on their publications.

**Forum webinars**

COPE Members:  
[Submit your case](#)  
for discussion at our next Forum:

Wednesday 9 June 2021  
2pm (BST)

[More information & register](#)

# A vision for a more trans-inclusive publishing world: guest article

13 January 2021

## High level principles for name changes in publishing

1. Accessibility
2. Comprehensiveness
3. Invisibility
4. Expediency and simplicity
5. Recurrence and maintenance

## Highlights from forthcoming guidance

Drafted by COPE working group and under review (May 2021)

- Any author can request a name change for any reason.
- Journals/publishers should post a central email address or form where authors can submit requests.
- Editors/publishers should not request or require “proof” of identification from authors.
- Journals/publishers should change the XML, and both the HTML and PDF versions of articles.
- Journals/publishers should make name changes without issuing correction notices, unless specifically requested by authors.
- Editors/publishers should limit the number of people involved in name changes.
- Publishers should not consult editors or notify co-authors in advance of issuing a name change.
- Journals/publishers may wish to use the sample checklist of specific places that may require updating.





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**Author Name Changes**  
**Personal Reflections & Future Goals**

Dr. Theresa Jean Tanenbaum

publicationethics.org



## Longer-term vision and goals around name changes in scholarly publishing

- Move towards universal adoption of ORCIDS or similar identifiers
- Development of new flexible platforms that decouple "name" from ID#
- Move from static digital formats like PDFs to XML and html
- Treat support for dynamic renaming (including dynamic correction of pronouns) as an accessibility issue