



BALL STATE
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Publication, the act of sharing research findings, is critical to shaping and advancing your academic career. Through scholarly publication, you will establish your credibility as a researcher while contributing to the knowledge base in your field and ongoing scholarly discussions.

The importance of credit and recognition associated with authorship is undeniably crucial. In this edition, we will discuss ethical publication practices and some of the contemporary issues impacting publication today.



Publication Practices to Avoid as an Ethical Researcher

Least Publishable Unit is an unethical practice sometimes employed as a means for expanding an author's resume and involves dividing a publication into multiple papers without appropriate justification.

Remember: a more in-depth discussion of a single research topic is a better way to disseminate information than breaking a topic into multiple publications.

Duplication or Republication, the act of republishing most or all of a paper, is an unethical practice when it used as an attempt to receive undeserved credit for a single contribution.

Note: There are instances when republication is acceptable, as long as the proper steps are taken.



3 Tips for Responsible Republication

Sometimes duplication or republication might be necessary to translate a manuscript into a different language, to rewrite a publication for a different audience (to support public policy or personal decision-making), or to publish in an anthology with similar works. When republishing a study, you should:

- 1 Make a clear and transparent notice that the manuscript is a republication.
- 2 Cite and credit the previous publication.
- 3 Ensure no copyright issues exist prior to republication.

Does Author Order Mean What We Think It Does?

Not Always. General rules for authorship are lacking and can vary across disciplines and journals.

In general, author order reflects a person's role and extent of their contributions to a project (Who did the most work? Who had the key idea? Who wrote the first draft?).

However, some disciplines use alphabetical order.

To address author order confusion some journals have begun using an asterisk or similar symbols to describe each person's contribution to a study.



Contemporary Issues in Ethical Academic Publication

Predatory Journals

Engaging with "pay for publication" journals undermines the integrity of scientific research and hinders genuine scholarly progress.

Here are 5 good reasons to just say "no!" to predatory Journals:

1

A lack of rigorous peer review processes.

2

Articles are accepted for publication for profit, not based on academic merit.

3

Researchers are exploited through hefty publication fees.

4

Journals offer little editorial oversight.

5

Publishing in a predatory journal.

Open Access: The Good, the Bad, and the Costly

You know how you sometimes try to view a research article, and you *just can* while, other times, you hit a paywall where you can only view the abstract? Those articles you are accessing with ease are due to something called **OPEN ACCESS (OA)**.

OA scholarly articles are free of charge to the reader in a digital format with less stringent copyright and licensing barriers than traditionally published articles. Though OA is a relatively new form of publishing, many journals offering OA maintain high publishing standards and comply with well-established peer review standards (Suber, 2015).

The Benefits of Open Access Publishing:

AVAILABILITY	Research findings are available to everyone.
EQUITY	Financial barriers to accessing information are removed.
IMPACT	New ideas are spread more widely and rapidly. Visibility, readership, and the number of citations increase.
COLLABORATION	Collaboration between researchers is made easier through the free sharing of research results and data.
ACCOUNTABILITY	Taxpayers gain access to the knowledge generated by the federally-funded research their tax dollars support.

The Big Drawback to Open Access Publishing

Cost - The cost to provide open access to a journal article ranges from less than \$1,000 to more than \$10,000 per paper (Sanderson, 2023). This cost generally falls on the researcher and is required by some journals.

Federal Policy Guidance Requires Immediate Open Access by 2026

On August 25, 2022, President Biden and the Office of Science and Technology published a memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies requiring increased equitable access to federally funded research results by December 31, 2025.

This federal guidance requires that all federal agencies develop open access policies for federally funded peer-reviewed publications. These plans should provide immediate access to journal articles and their associated data sets through free online repositories (Nelson, 2022).



Did you know?

With the increased focus on providing open access to published research, many universities have created funds to assist with the costs associated with making a publication publicly available. Ball State has done this through its [Publish Scholarship Support](#) program.

— References —

Suber, P. (2015., December 5). *Open Access Overview: Focusing on open access to peer-reviewed research articles and their preprints.* <http://bit.ly/oa-overview>

Sanderson, K. (2023). Who should pay for open-access publishing? APC alternatives emerge. *Nature*, 623(7987), 472–473. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-03506-4>

Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy. (2022, August 25). *Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies: Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research.* Executive Office of the President. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/08-2022-OSTP-Public-access-Memo.pdf>