

Ethics in scholarly publishing: The journal editor's role

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Abstract

It seems that some characteristics of today's world, such as competitiveness and the constant pressure to evolve professionally may in a sense force scientists to "massively produce" publications, disregarding quality and in some cases the ethics of writing and publishing. Unethical practices such as plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, extensive multiple publication of the same data, repackaging of the same data etc. lead to scientific misconduct. Any type of unethical behaviour might impede scientific advancement and result in poor quality publications. Scholarly writing ethics are inextricably linked to publication quality. Editors are constantly expected to deal with scientific misconduct so as to preserve scholarly integrity and the reputation of the publishing house. Despite the progress marked during the past decade in addressing scientific misconduct through the creation of organisations, common policies, guidelines and the relevant software tools the issue still remains unsolved. In order to address unethical scientific practices there is an imperative need to properly educate writers, editors, reviewers and other scientists on the ethical issues involved in publishing.

Keywords: scholarly publishing, scholarly journal, ethics, scientific misconduct, editor