

Retraction Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

Purpose:

This retraction policy aims to maintain the integrity and reliability of the scholarly record by addressing and correcting significant issues in published content. The policy ensures that corrections are made transparently and in accordance with ethical standards.

Scope:

This policy applies to all types of content published in the journal, including research articles, reviews, editorials, letters, and other scholarly communications.

Circumstances for Retraction

An article may be retracted under the following circumstances:

1. **Scientific Misconduct:**

- **Fabrication:** Creating false data or results.
- **Falsification:** Manipulating research processes or altering data.
- **Plagiarism:** Using another's work without proper attribution.

2. **Honest Error:**

- **Data Errors:** Significant mistakes in data collection or analysis.
- **Methodological Flaws:** Fundamental errors in the methodology that affect the validity of the findings.

3. **Duplicate Publication:**

- Republishing the same data or research findings in multiple journals without proper acknowledgment or justification.

4. **Authorship Issues:**

- Disputes regarding the listed authors that affect the credibility of the research.
- Failure to credit all authors who contributed to the work.

5. **Legal and Ethical Violations:**

- Breaches of legal or ethical standards in the conduct, reporting, or publication of research.
- Violations of human or animal research ethics.

6. **Post-Publication Discovery:**

- New information that significantly undermines the validity of the published research, such as discovery of critical errors or fraudulent data.

Initiation of Retraction

A retraction can be initiated by the following parties under specific circumstances:

1. **Authors:**

- **Process:** Authors requesting a retraction must submit a formal request to the editorial office through email or printed letter. The request should include a

detailed reason for the retraction, which will be included in the retraction notice.

Investigation: Upon receipt of the retraction request, the editorial office will conduct an investigation. A timeline for the investigation process will be communicated to the authors. This process will involve:

- Reviewing the evidence and documentation supporting the retraction claim.
 - Consulting with the authors to obtain their perspective and any additional information.
- **Decision:** The editorial office will communicate the decision to retract or not retract the article within the agreed timeline.
2. **Editors:**
- **Circumstances:** Editors can initiate a retraction if they identify issues during the review or post-publication processes, such as evidence of scientific misconduct, major errors, duplicate publication, or breaches of ethical standards. Authors will be notified of the retraction process and given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Their responses will be considered in the final decision.
3. **External Whistleblowers:**
- **Circumstances:** Any third party, such as researchers, readers, or reviewers, can report concerns about a published article. Valid concerns include allegations of data fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, ethical violations, or any other significant issues that could compromise the integrity of the work. Authors will be notified of the retraction process and given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Their responses will be considered in the final decision. However, identity of the whistleblowers will be kept confidential

Retraction Process

Upon a decision to retract an article, the following steps will be taken:

- **Removal of Full-Text PDF:** The full-text PDF of the article will be removed from the journal's website and any affiliated platforms.
- **Retraction Notice on DOI Link:** A retraction notice will appear on the article's DOI link, clearly stating the reasons for retraction.

Communication: The retraction notice will include the reason(s) provided by the authors, if applicable, and a summary of the investigation findings.

Retraction Notice

Content:

The retraction notice will clearly state the reasons for retraction and provide specific evidence and documentation. It will be written by the editors and, if appropriate, in consultation with the authors.

Post-Retraction

Original Article Status:

The DOI link of the original article will remain available but clearly marked as retracted. This ensures transparency and maintains the scholarly record.

Indexing and Archiving:

Indexing services and archives will be notified of the retraction to prevent future citation of the retracted work.

Transparency and Record-Keeping

Public Record:

A public list of retracted articles, including detailed explanations, will be maintained on the journal's website.

Confidentiality:

The identity of whistleblowers will be protected, and confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigation process.

Handling Disputes

Appeals Process:

Authors have the right to appeal retraction decisions. Appeals must be submitted in writing with new evidence or arguments. The editorial board will review appeals and make a final decision.

Conflict Resolution:

Conflicts of interest or disputes will be managed through consultation with third-party mediators or ethics committees to ensure impartial resolution.

Education and Prevention

Guidance for Authors:

Resources and guidance on avoiding actions that could lead to retraction will be provided to authors.

Training:

Editors and reviewers will receive training on identifying and handling issues that may require retraction.

Regular Review and Updates

Policy Review:

This retraction policy will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect new developments in publishing ethics and standards.

Stakeholder Input:

Authors, reviewers, and other stakeholders will be involved in the policy review process to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.