

Awareness and practices for early stage researchers

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AN early stage researcher should acquaint with various issues on ethics in research. Kornfeld (2012) defines that “Research misconduct—fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism—is an insidious problem in the scientific community today with the capacity to harm science, scientists, and the public.”

Here I am delineating the following examples to elucidate some important topics of ethics in research:

Scenario One: Ethics in using research data

A shopkeeper intentionally changes the expiry date on grocery items so they can be

highly demandable among both journal editors and authors. iThenticate and Turnitin are two popular software for plagiarism checker which are used by many leading journals.

Scenario Three: Presentation of data ethically

A medical researcher is conducting research on the causes of dementia. This researcher has hypothesis and he collects a lot of data which are classified as important or not so important. If both data cannot be presented in research article, then ethical violation will occur. To present all data is mandatory even though those data do not confirm researcher’s hypothesis or do not support the hypothesis.

Scenario Four: Publication Ethics

than conference proceedings. This is an ethical violation and it is also called duplicate publication.

Scenario Five: Research approval

Research approval is essential before starting research on human or animal subjects. If you are such type of researcher, then you need to get approval from an Ethical Review Board (ERB) or Institutional Review Board (IRB) before beginning your research.

Scenario Six: Authorship

Who are qualified to be an author of research paper? The ICMJE recommends that authorship be based on the following 4 criteria:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work;
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content;
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Besides, order of author’s name is listed in research paper should be maintained. Suppose your teacher is the head of a research group. You have done the most work in this research group and published a paper for a journal. Where you should place your teacher’s name in this paper? Should his/her name come first or yours? All you know that the teacher’s name must include as a first author but the person who has done the most work, his name must appear first in this paper.

The above points are some glimpse which are the most crucial areas for early stage researchers to practice for conducting and publishing research in proper way.

References:

- Kornfeld, D. S. (2012). Research misconduct: The search for a remedy. *Academic Medicine* 87(7), 877-882.
- International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (n.d.). *Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors*. Retrieved 27 January 2018, from <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>

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kept longer in the stock and sold. The modification of expiry date is called data falsification. In research, whenever a researcher manipulates, modifies or omits data intentionally to answer the research questions favourable, then that situation is called data falsification.

Scenario Two: Ethics in writing

A researcher presents ideas from other published papers as his own, instead of citing those papers that is called plagiarism. Again, copying one’s own text from a published paper and using it in a new paper without citing is called self-plagiarism. Checking plagiarism is

It is ethically wrong if a researcher wants to publish his/her published paper again and that is called “duplicate publication”. In addition, to submit a paper to two journals at the same time is a violation of publication ethics. In this cases, the author could be charged with the ethical violation of duplicate publication. Today, we can identify that one researcher who presented a paper at a conference and this paper has been published in the conference proceedings but the same researcher republishes the same paper in a journal because journal papers are more important