

Topic 2 – Ethics and Artificial Intelligence in Scholarly Publishing

1. Introduction

1.1. What is ethics in scientific publishing?

1.2. Why ethics matter in scholarly communication

2. Core Principles of Publishing Ethics

2.1. Integrity and transparency

2.2. Fair and correct editorial processes

2.3. Intellectual property and authorship

2.4. Protection of research participants

2.5. Data and image integrity

3. Ethical Oversight and Compliance

3.1. Pre-publication checks

3.2. Role of publishers

4. Post-Publication Ethics and Investigations

4.1. Sources of ethical concerns

4.2. Common ethical issues

- Plagiarism
- Authorship disputes
- Editorial manipulation
- Simultaneous submissions
- Copyright violations
- Image manipulation and data fabrication
- Duplicate publications

- Citation manipulation
- Unethical studies involving humans or animals

4.3. Investigation process

- Outcomes may include:
 - Corrections
 - Expressions of concern
 - Retractions
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5. Ethical Frameworks and International Standards

5.1. COPE and ethical consistency

- MDPI is a member of **COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics)**
- Investigations follow COPE principles and flowcharts:
 - **Prevention**
 - **Neutrality**
 - **Transparency**
 - **Consistency**

5.2. International guidelines and reporting standards

6. Artificial Intelligence in Scholarly Publishing

6.1. Growing use of AI and LLMs

6.2. Benefits of AI

6.3. Risks and limitations of AI

- **Hallucinations:** AI-generated but incorrect or misleading content
 - **Lack of true reasoning:** Pattern recognition without real understanding
 - **Bias and stereotypes:** Reproduction of existing societal biases
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7. AI: Support or Threat to Research Integrity?

7.1. Opportunities

7.2. Risks

7.3. Need for clear guidelines

8. MDPI's Role in Ethical and Responsible AI Use

8.1. Policies and oversight

8.2. Continuous improvement

9. Conclusion

9.1. Open discussion