Writing a Great Manuscript (or How to Get Published)

Geochemical Society www.geochemsoc.org

The GS is a nonprofit scientific society founded to encourage the application of geochemistry to improving our understanding of the Earth and solar system.

- 3,600 members in 75 countries
- Co-organizer of the Goldschmidt Conference
- In addition to *GCA*, publishes weekly *Geochemical News* and co-publisher of *Elements*
- Supports community through awards, capacity-building grants, DEI programs, and more

ELSEVIER

geochemical society

The Meteoritical Society

Meteoritical Society meteoritical.org

The Meteoritical Society is a non-profit scholarly organization founded in 1933 to promote research and education in planetary science with emphasis on studies of meteorites and other extraterrestrial materials, including samples from space missions, that further our understanding of the origin and history of the solar system.

- 1,000 members in 52 countries
- Annual Meeting: July 28-August 2, 2024 in Brussels, Belgium
- In addition to *GCA*, publishes *Meteoritics and Planetary Science, The Meteoritical Bulletin, Elements,* and the society newsletter
- Supports community through awards, grants, and more

Welcome
Scholarly Publishing overview
Planning you article
Choosing the right journal
Preparing a Manuscript
Reviews and Revisions
Publishing Ethics
Additional Resources

Q & A

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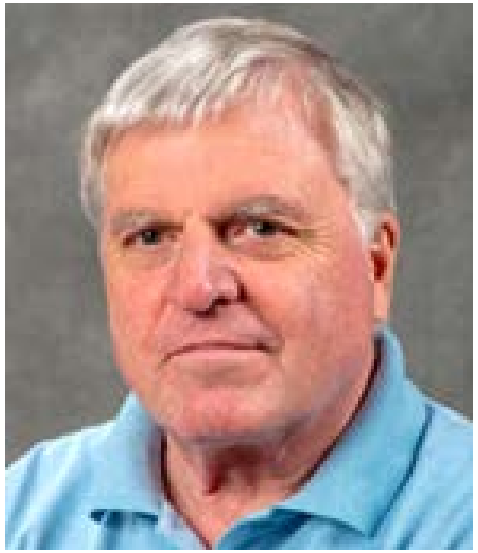

Carl Steefel
Associate Editor, GCA
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA

560,000+

peer-reviewed articles

Elsevier serves the global research community, publishing over 560,000 peer-reviewed articles in 2020 — 90% more than a decade ago.

18m+

monthly visitors

ScienceDirect, the world's largest database dedicated to peer-reviewed primary scientific and medical research, receives over 18 million monthly visitors.

~18%

global research output

Elsevier's article output accounts for about 18% of global research output while garnering approximately 27% share of citations, demonstrating Elsevier's commitment to delivering research quality significantly ahead of the industry average..

1.3b+

articles downloaded

Over 1.3 billion articles were downloaded by researchers in 2020.

100%

journals offering free, green OA option

All of our journals offer a free, green open access option. Every year, we actively make more than 45,000 subscription articles available green open access — more than any other publisher.

>90%

journals offering open access option

Over 90% of our journals offer the option to publish open access and make an article permanently available immediately at a price below industry average while delivering above-average quality.

115

new open access journals

Over 90% of the new journals we launch are open access journals. In 2020, we launched 115 new gold open access journals, bringing the total to around 500 Elsevier-published fully OA titles. These sit alongside more than 1,900 hybrid journals that already offer the option to publish open access.

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Scholarly publishing today

Scientific, technical and medical (STM) publishing

2,000 STM publishers

20,000 peer-reviewed journals

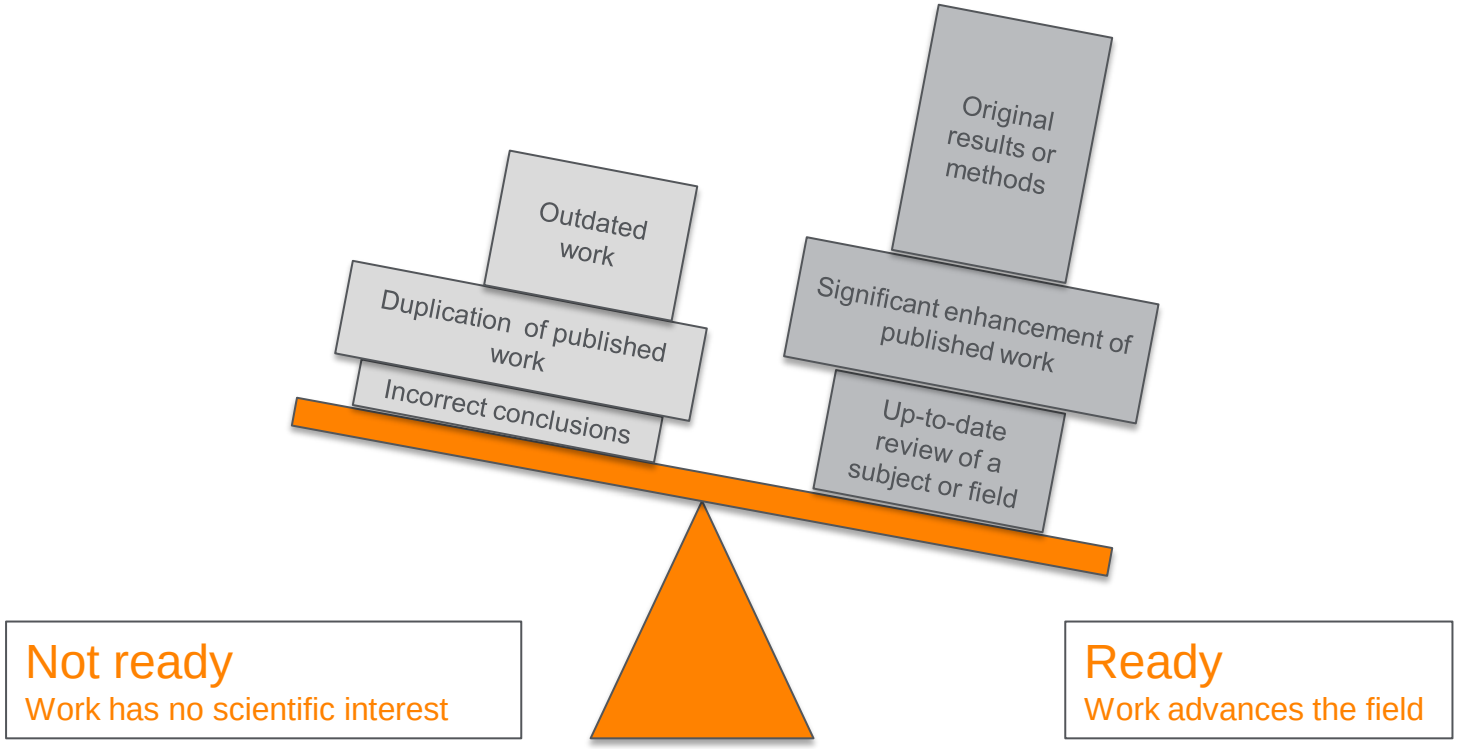
1.4 million peer-reviewed articles

Role of scientific publications

- **Registration**
  - The timestamp to officially note who submitted scientific results first
- **Certification**
  - Perform peer-review to ensure the validity and integrity of submissions
- **Dissemination**
  - Provide a medium for discoveries and findings to be shared
- **Preservation**
  - Preserving the minutes and record of science for posterity

Planning your article

Are you ready to publish?



Planning your article: Types of manuscripts

- Full articles
  - Substantial, complete and comprehensive pieces of research
    Is my message sufficient for a full article?

- Letters or short communications
  - Quick and early communications
    Are my results so thrilling that they should be shown as soon as possible?

- Review papers
  - Summaries of recent developments on a specific top
  - Often submitted by invitation

Your supervisor or colleagues are also good sources for advice on manuscript types.

Types of papers

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta publishes:

- Original research articles,
- Comments and replies on papers previously published in the journal,
- Review articles (by invitation),

How to choose the right journal

Investigate journals on Elsevier.com to find out:

- Aims and scope
- Types of articles accepted
- Journal's readership/audience
- Journal's current hot topics
  - abstracts of recent publications
  - check the Article in Press section for latest accepted articles
- DO NOT gamble by submitting your manuscript to more than one journal at a time.

Articles in your reference list will usually lead you directly to the right journals.

Recap
Before writing your paper

- **Determine** if you are ready to publish your work
- **Decide** on the best type of manuscript
- **Choose** the target journal
- **Check** the Guide for Authors

- Refer to the Guide for Authors

Visit journal homepage >

Submit your paper >

Open access option >

Track your paper >

Order journal >

View articles >

Abstracting >

Editorial board >

Guide for Authors

Download Guide for Authors in PDF

Aims and scope +

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Ethics in publishing
- Declaration of competing interest
- Submission declaration and verification
- Use of inclusive language
- Changes to authorship
- Copyright
- Role of the funding source
- Open access

- Submission
- Peer review

PREPARATION

- Manuscript Preparation and Layout
- Essential title page information
- Manuscript Components
- Supplementary Material
- Policies on Manuscript Components
- Artwork

- Tables
- References and Citations
- Research Data

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

- Online proof correction
- Offprints

AUTHOR INQUIRIES

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geochemical society

The Meteoritical Society

Preparing a manuscript

…your paper is your passport to communicating with your community

What makes a strong manuscript?

- A logical organization
- Well written and clearly presented.
- Cutting edge and rigorous research
- Significant contribution to science
- Compliance with journal **Guide for Authors**
- Fits scope of the journal

Leading Causes for Rejection

Manuscript language

- Clear
- Objective
- Accurate
- Concise

Always read journal's Guide for Authors for additional language specifications.

Manuscript language

- Write **direct and short** sentences
- **One idea** or piece of information **per sentence** is sufficient
- Avoid multiple statements in one sentence

Manuscript Language - Tenses

- **Present** tense for known facts and hypotheses
- **Past** tense for experiments you have conducted
- **Past** tense when you **describe the results** of an experiment

Manuscript language-Grammar

- Use **active voice** to shorten sentences
- **Avoid abbreviations**: “it’s”, “weren’t”, “hasn’t”
- Eliminate **redundant phrases**

Summary: ensuring proper manuscript language

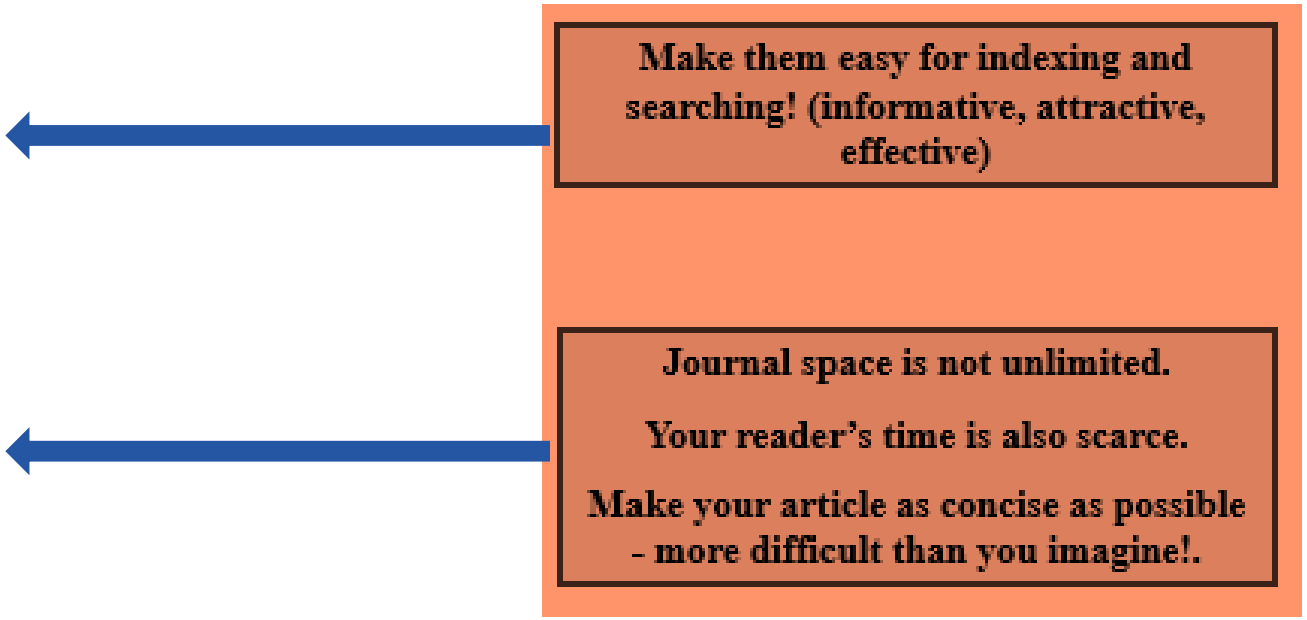
Refer	to **Guide for Authors** for specifications
Check	that your paper has **short sentences, correct tenses, correct grammar**, and is all **in English**
Have	a native English speaker check your manuscript or use a language editing service

General Structure of a Research Article

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion

- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Supporting materials



Title

- Effective titles
  - Attract reader's attention
  - Contain fewest possible words
  - Adequately describe content
  - Are informative but concise
  - Identify main issue
  - Do not use technical jargon and rarely-used abbreviations

Abstract

- Summarize the problem, methods, results, and conclusions in a single paragraph
- Make it interesting and understandable
- Make it accurate and specific
  - A clear abstract will strongly influence whether or not your work is considered
- Keep it as brief as possible
- NOT a Table of Contents

Take the time to write the abstract very carefully. Many authors write the abstract last so that it accurately reflects the content of the paper.

Keywords

Label of your paper:
determine whether your article is found or not!

- Are the labels of the manuscript
- Are used by indexing and abstracting services
- Should be specific
- Should use only established abbreviations (e.g. CFB, SEM, etc)

Check the Guide for Authors for specifics on which keywords should be used.

Authorship

General principles for who is listed first:

- **First Author:**
  - Conducts and/or supervises the data analysis and the proper presentation and interpretation of the results
  - Puts paper together and submits the paper to journal

- **Co-Author(s):**
  - Makes intellectual contributions to the data analysis and contributes to data interpretation
  - Reviews each paper draft
  - Must be able to present the results, defend the implications and discuss study limitations

Abuses to be avoided:

Ghost Authors:
- Leaving out authors who should be included

Scientific Writers and Gift Authors:
- Including authors when they did not contribute significantly

Introduction

Convince readers that you know why your work is relevant

- Be brief
- Clearly address the following:
  - ✓ What is the problem?
  - ✓ Are there any existing solutions?
  - ✓ Define tests that distinguish between possible solutions.
  - ✓ What is its main limitation?
  - ✓ How does this study address the problem
  - ✓ What do you hope to achieve?
- Be consistent with the nature of the journal

Methods

- Describe **how** the problem was studied
- Include detailed information
- Do not describe previously published procedures
- Identify the **equipment** and describe **materials** used
- Include detailed information, including stating the **instrumentation** used and where analyses were conducted

Results

- Provide a concise description of the data or outcomes of the measurements and experiments presented in the manuscript
- Include only those items that are essential for interpretations
- Avoid random observations that might be ‘interesting’ but are not essential
- Results should form the observational basis for the Discussion and Conclusions.

"One Picture is Worth a Thousand Words"
Sue Hanauer (1968)

Results-Figures and tables

- Illustrations are critical
  - **Most efficient way** to present results
- Captions and legends must be detailed to make tables self-explanatory

Discussion

What do the results mean?

- **Most** important section:
  - Sell your Data
- Should **correspond to the Results**:
  - do not reiterate the results
- Compare with published results

Conclusions

- How the work advances the field from the present state of knowledge
- Should be **clear**
- **Justify** your work in the research field

Acknowledgments

- Ensures those who helped in the research are recognized
- Include individuals who have assisted with your study, including:
  - ✓ Advisors
  - ✓ Financial supporters
  - ✓ Proofreaders
  - ✓ Typists
  - ✓ Suppliers who may have given materials

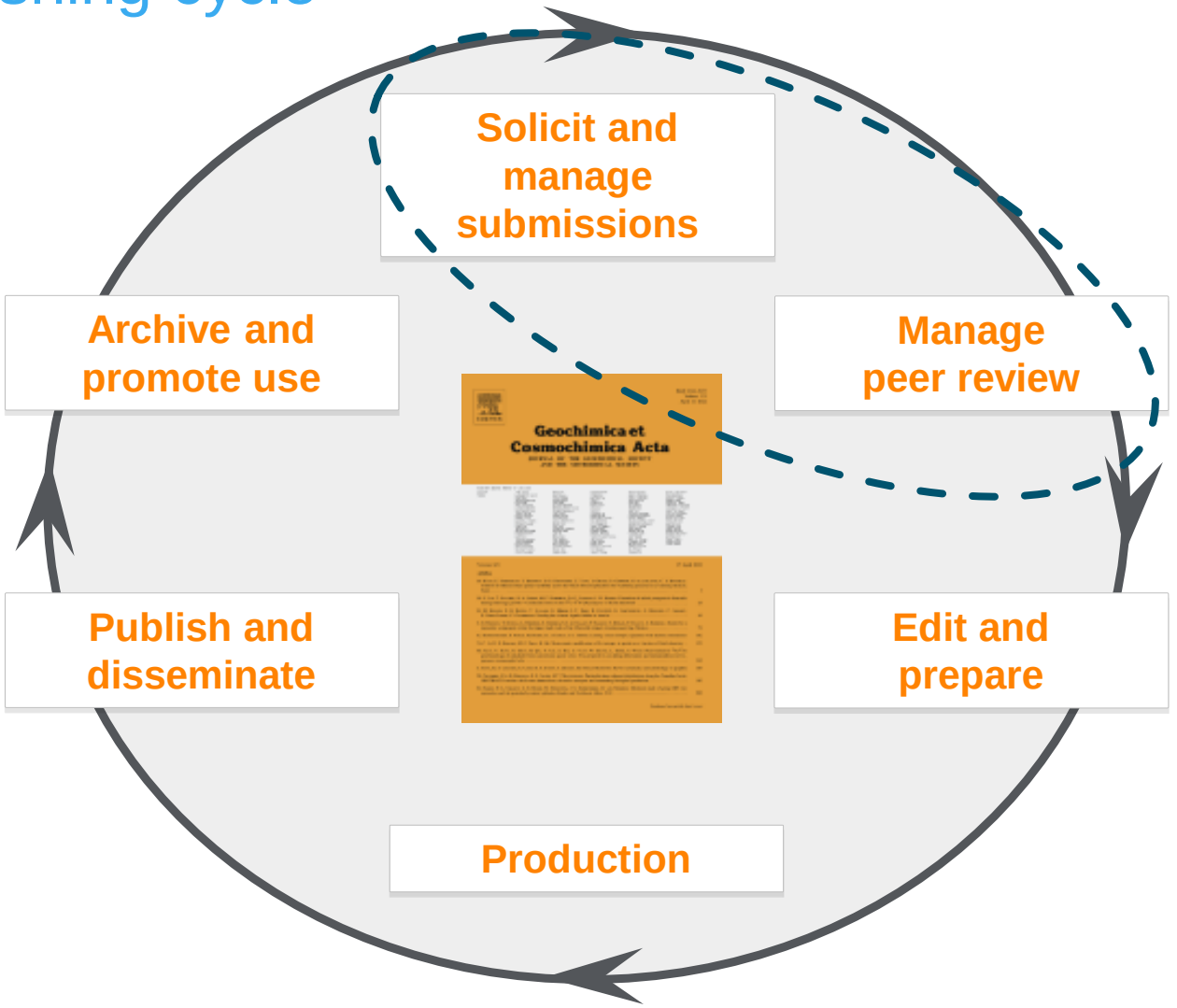
Supplementary Material

- Data of secondary importance
- Data does not fit into the main body
- Not part of the printed article
- Must relate to and support the article
- Co-submission to other journals or as Elsevier Research Element journals (e.g. Data in Brief, MethodsX) or data repositories

References

- Please **adhere to the Guide for Authors** of the journal
- Check
  - ✓ Referencing style
  - ✓ Spellings and punctuation
  - ✓ Year of publication
- GCA does **NOT** allow citation of unpublished work, including citations presented as "in preparation," "unpublished data," "personal communication," "in/under review," etc.

The journal publishing cycle



Suggest potential reviewers

You can easily find potential reviewers from articles in your area (e.g., your references)

The reviewers should represent at least two regions of the world, **should not be your supervisor or close friends or individuals at your institution**

Suggest 3-6 potential reviewers, based on the Guide to Authors.

Peer review

- Helps to determine the quality, validity, significance, and originality of research
- Helps to improve the quality of papers
- Publishers are outside the academic process and are not prone to prejudice or favour
- Publishers facilitate the review process by investing in online review systems and providing tools to help Editors and Reviewers

First Decision: Rejected

Rejected

- Probability 40-90% ...
- Do not despair
- Try to understand WHY
- If you submit to another journal, begin as if it were a new manuscript

First Decision: Rejection – Common reasons

- Out of Scope
- Premature Findings
- Paper is poorly written
- Does not have a broad geochemical significance or implication
- Conclusions not supported by the data and not integrating results from previous studies

First Decision: “Major”; “Moderate” or “Minor” Revision

Minor revision

- Basically on track to be published
- Some elements need clarified, restructured, shortened or expanded
- Textual adaptations
- Does NOT guarantee acceptance

Moderate revision

- Verification of data or additional/different data analysis
- Clarification of procedures
- Consideration of alternative interpretations of the data
- Sometimes requires full additional reviews

Major revision

- May be worth to be published
- Significant deficiencies must be corrected
- Involves (significant) textual modifications and/or additional experiments
- Generally require full additional reviews.

Responding to Reviewers

Responding to comments

- Stay calm
- Read the comments
- Get someone else to read the comments
- Take a break
- Make a table that details every comment and the changes required

Be polite

- Reviewers do this as community service in order to improve your paper
- Encourages good feeling
- Makes a good impression
- Especially important if you disagree with reviewers
- Don’t use harsh language or sweeping statements

Be Thorough

- Address EVERY comment
- Do not ignore any comment
- Clarity and structure
- Take your time

Answer with Evidence

- Especially when disagreeing
- Provide extra data
- Add information to your article

Publishing Ethics

The most serious issues to avoid

3 most common forms of ethical misconduct that the research community is challenged with:

- **Fabrication**
  Making up research data
- **Falsification**
  Manipulation of existing research data
- **Plagiarism**
  Previous work taken and passed off as one's own

Plagiarism

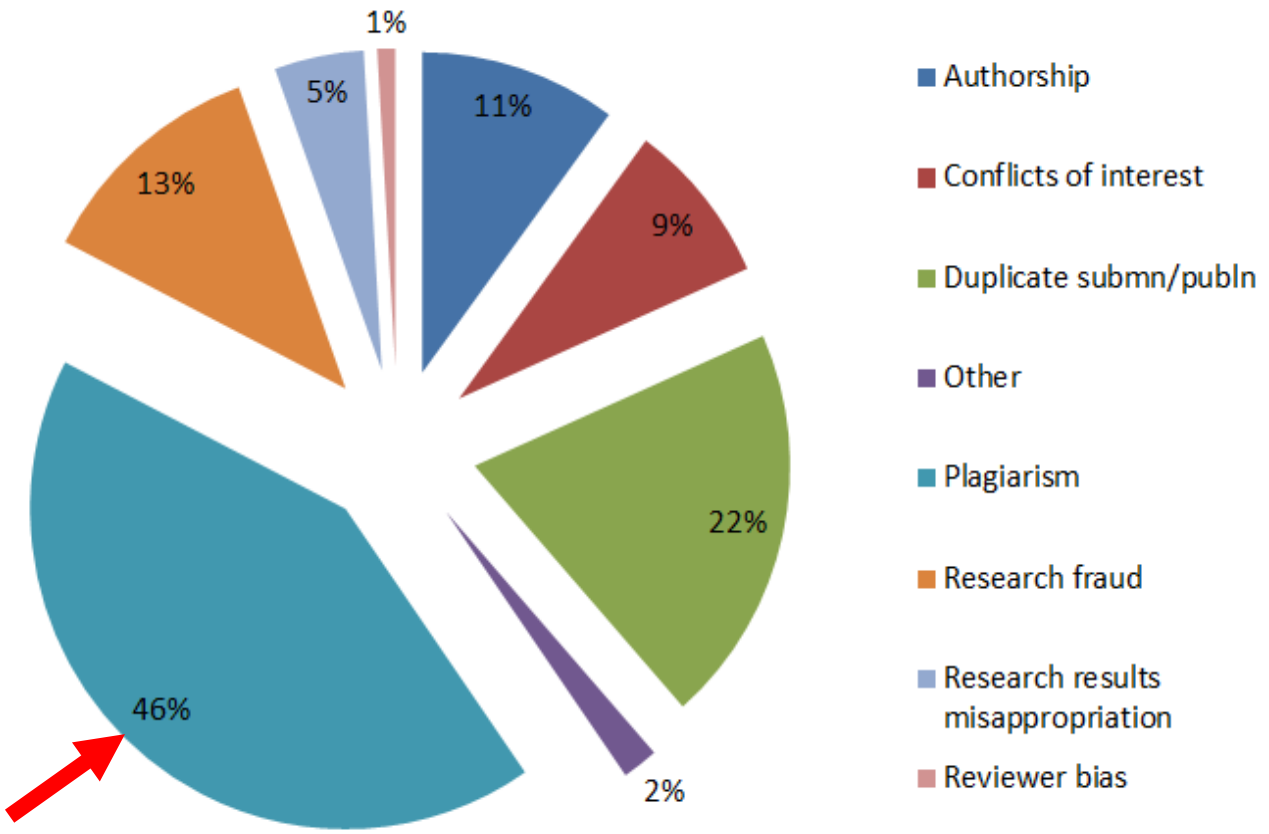
A short-cut to long-term consequences!

Plagiarism is considered a *serious offense* by your institute, by journal editors, and by the scientific community.

Plagiarism may result in *academic charges* but will certainly cause rejection of your paper.

Plagiarism will *hurt your reputation* in the scientific community.

Sample of Ethics cases reported to Elsevier Journals publishing staff in 2012



Plagiarism highest percentage amongst ethics issues

Over 200,000 cases of suspected plagiarism in 2008!

What may be plagiarized?

- Words (language)
- Ideas
- Findings
- Writings
- Graphic representations
- Computer programs
- Diagrams
- Graphs
- Illustrations
- Information
- Lectures
- Printed material
- Electronic material
- Any other original work **INCLUDING YOUR OWN PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED WORK**

Conflicts of Interest

Disclose conflict of interest in the **required section**

- ✓ Direct financial
  Employment, stock ownership, grants, patents
- ✓ Indirect financial
  Honoraria, consultancies, mutual fund ownership, expert testimony
- ✓ Career & intellectual
  - ✓ Promotion, direct rival
- ✓ Institutional

Duplicate Publication

- Two or more papers, without full cross reference, share the same hypotheses, data, discussion points, or conclusions
- An author should not submit for consideration in another journal a previously published paper.
  - **Full disclosure** on related papers
  - Re-publication of a paper in another language
- Pre-print policy

Computer Law & Security Review
Volume 23, Issue 5, 2007, Pages 436-448

Trade marks and virtual property

RETRACTED: I™: Avatars as trade marks

Angela Adrian

Show more

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clsr.2007.07.002

Referred to by Angela Adrian

Retraction notice to "I™: Avatars as trade marks" [2007] 23 CLSR 436–448

Computer Law & Security Review, Volume 30, Issue 4, August 2014, Pages 347

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Abstract

This article has been retracted: please see Elsevier Policy on Article Withdrawal (http://www.elsevier.com/locate/withdrawalpolicy).

This article has been retracted at the request of the Editor-in-Chief.

The author has been found to have plagiarized parts of a paper by Steven Wilf

Correlation analysis of biochemical indicators in common bile duct stone patients with negative magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography

[redacted]

[a] Department of General Surgery, Capital Medical University Affiliated Beijing Friendship Hospital, Beijing 100050, China
[b] Department of Vascular Surgery, Capital Medical University Affiliated Beijing Friendship Hospital, Beijing 100050, Chin

RETRACTED

HIGHLIGHTS

- Correlation analysis between biochemical indicators is proposed.
- This was done for common bile duct stones.
- Results shows that alpha glutamyltransferase is a good biomarker.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 26 October 2018
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Keywords:
Common bile duct stones
Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography
Receiver operating characteristic

ABSTRACT

Purpose: To reduce the miss diagn[illegible]nder n[illegible]ive result of magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP), a[illegible]on analy[illegible]n biochemical indicators and the common bile duct (CBD) stones was per[illegible] study.
Method: A total of 514 [illegible]ients [illegible] the Laparoscopic cholecystectomy with the CBD exploration were enrolled. The bioc[illegible]ndicators including γ-glutamyltransferase (GGT) and common bile duct dia[illegible]DD), as [illegible]s imagological examination results including MRCP were evaluated to reveal [illegible]corre[illegible]ons wit[illegible]D stone using receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve and logistic reg[illegible]on anal[illegible]
Res[illegible] MRC[illegible] [illegible] were two outstanding indexes related with the CBD stone. ROC analysis [illegible]owe[illegible]P was t[illegible]most outstanding index for CBD stone patients with negative MRCP, followed by direct[illegible]bin (DB) and GGT. Meanwhile, ROC analysis and logistic regression analyses showed that GGT wa[illegible] most outstanding index for CBD stone patients with the negative MRCP combined [illegible]normal widt[illegible]CBDD (CBDD <0.8 cm), followed by alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and DB.
[illegible]lusion: ALP, DB and GGT might be potential predictors for CBD stone patients when MRCP is neg[illegible] If the result of MRCP was negative, especially combined with CBDD <0.8 cm, a further GGT invest[illegible]ion was suggested to determine whether the LCBDE should be performed.

1. Introduct[illegible]

Common [illegible] (CB[illegible]ones are estimated to be present in 10%–20% of [illegible]duals with symptomatic gallstones [1]. It can result in a numbe[illegible]health problems such as pain, jaundice, infection and acute pa[illegible]eatitis [2]. A variety of imaging modalities can be employed to identify the condition, while management of confirmed cases of CBD stone may involve endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) and laparoscopic cholecystectomy (LC) [3]. There were two kinds of clinical therapy strategies for CBD stone: (1) LC combined with choledochoscopy; (2) ERCP followed by LC [4]. Although each of these strategy has its own advantages, the neglection preoperative diagnosis of CBD stone may bring certain complications such as cholangitis, pancreatitis, biliary leakage and peritonitis to the patients [5].

The magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) is an ideal imaging modality with a high sensitivity and specificity [6]. Its accuracy is comparable to that of ERCP, and its sensitivity and specificity are shown to reach 95% and 90%, respectively [7,8]. It is more reliable than other methods like endoscopic

The article of which the authors committed plagiarism: it won't be removed from ScienceDirect. Everybody who downloads it will see the reason of retraction…

How to avoid unethical behaviors

- Confirm your authorship
- Double check in-text citations and references
- Rule of thumb with citing text
  - Quotations for direct passages with in-text citation
  - Do not paraphrase
  - Include in References
- Send your paper to one journal at a time
- Keep self-citations to a minimum

Generative AI policies

Can ChatGPT be listed as an Author? **No.**

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Nurse Education in Practice

Volume 66, January 2023, 103537

Editorial

Open artificial intelligence platforms in nursing education: Tools for academic progress or abuse?

Siobhan O'Connor [a] [1] ✉, ChatGPT [b] ✉

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Ethics, Medicine and Public Health

Volume 25, December 2022, 100853

Editorial

Beyond Covid-19, why AI is revolutionizing the scientific ecosystem

C. Bommier [a b] ✉, J. Haiech [a], P. Charlier [c], DALL-E2 [d], DaVinci-002 [e]

- Authors **should not list AI** and AI-assisted technologies as an author or co-author, nor cite AI as an author.
- **Authorship implies responsibilities** and tasks that can only be **attributed to and performed by humans**.

Generative AI Author policies

Elsevier's policy[1] states that authors should:

- Only use Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies to improve **readability** and **language** of the work.
- Apply the technology with **human oversight** and control, as it can generate authoritative-sounding text that may be biased, incorrect, or incomplete.
- **Disclose** in their manuscript the use of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies.
- Not list Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies as an **author or co-author** or cite AI as an author.

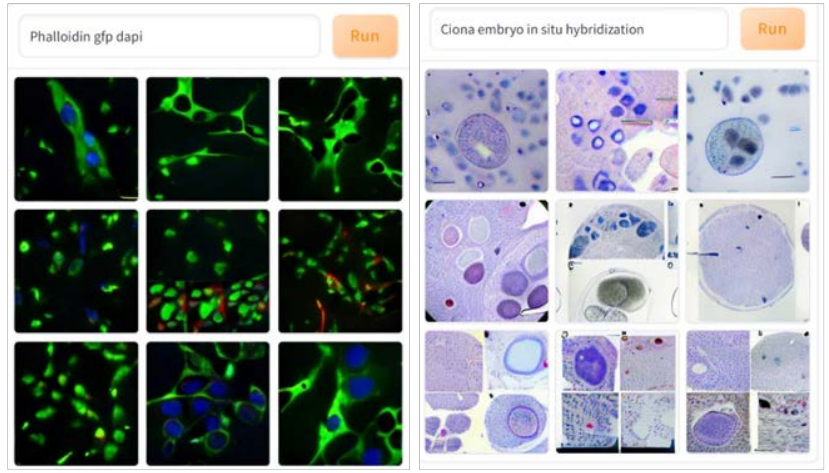
[!] Please note the policy only refers to the use of Generative AI in the *writing* process, and not to the use of AI tools to analyze and draw insights from data as part of the research process.

[1] Policies are published on Elsevier's Publishing Ethics page: https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies/publishing-ethics. Further guidance can be found in the RELX Responsible AI Principles.

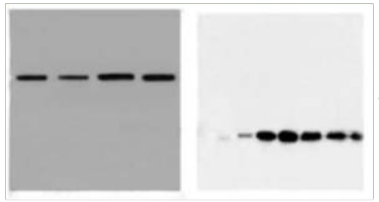
Generative AI Image & Artwork Policy

- We **do not permit** the use of generative AI or AI-assisted tools to create or alter images in submitted manuscripts.[1]
    - **Exception:** Where the use of Generative AI or AI-assisted tools is part of the **research design or research methods** (such as in AI-assisted imaging approaches to generate or interpret the underlying research data), such use must be described in a reproducible manner in the methods section.[1]
- The use of generative AI or AI-assisted tools in the production of artwork such as for **journal covers or graphical abstracts** is **not** permitted.

OpenAI's DALL-E mini is an AI model that generates images from any prompt

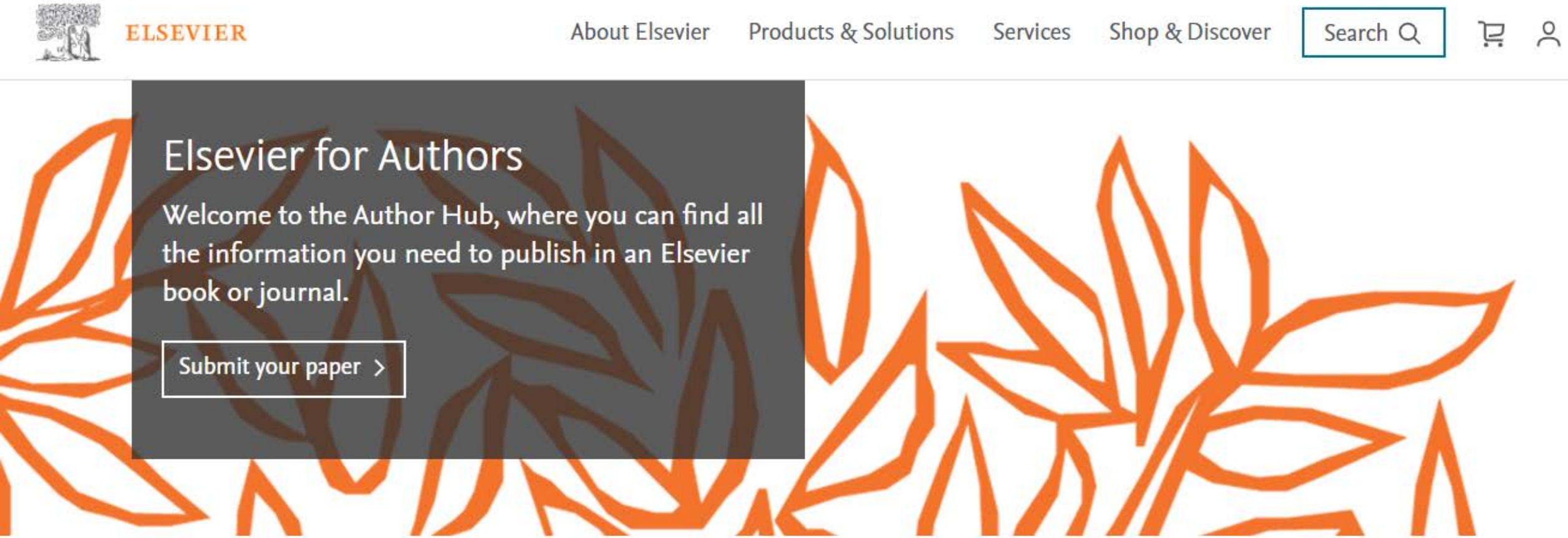


Courtesy of Alberto Stolfi



Deepfake Western blots
Wang *et al.*, 2022. *Patterns.*
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.patter.2022.100509

[1]Policies are published on Elsevier's Publishing Ethics page: https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies/publishing-ethics
Further guidance can be found in the RELX Responsible AI Principles



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Elsevier for Authors: https://www.elsevier.com/authors

Links to Additional Resources

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta - Journal - Elsevier

Elsevier Researcher Academy - Unlock your research potential

Book Authors | Journal Authors | Author resources (elsevier.com)

Tools and resources (elsevier.com)

Publishing Ethics for Editors (elsevier.com)

FAIR Principles - GO FAIR (go-fair.org)

Code of Ethics | Geochemical Society (geochemsoc.org)

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Thank you