



Publication and dissemination of research findings

Section 4: *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*

Multiple submissions of research findings

4.7 “It is not acceptable to include the same research findings in several publications, except in particular and clearly explained circumstances, such as review articles, anthologies, collections, or translations into another language. An author who submits substantially similar work to more than one publisher, or who submits work similar to work already published, must disclose at the time of submission.” (NHMRC et al 2007)

National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia. 2007. *Revision of the Joint NHMRC/AVCC Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice: Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, Canberra: Australian Government.

Additional reading:

Bretag, T. & Mahmud, S. (2009). Self-plagiarism or appropriate textual re-use? *Journal of Academic Ethics*, Vol 7(3), pp 193-205.

Scenario

An author presents a paper in the refereed stream of a conference and has the paper published in the Conference Proceedings. Two years later, the Conference Convener puts out a call for submissions for a new online journal in the same area of research. The author considers that his original conference paper fits with the themes of the new journal, and decides to submit it for review. The submission is word-for-word identical to the original conference paper, except that it now has a new title, a slightly reworded abstract and the order of paragraphs is slightly different. A *Turnitin* ‘Similarity Report’ indicates a text match of 85% between the two papers. The Editor of the new journal recognizes the paper from the previous conference and refuses to accept the article for review.

Points for discussion:

1. Do you agree with the Editor’s decision to refuse the submission?
2. Is it acceptable for authors to publish the same paper in both a conference proceedings and a journal?
3. Under what conditions might an author publish the same article in multiple forums?
4. Why does the Code say that it is ‘not acceptable to include the same research findings in several publications’?

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