CSIR-NIScPR

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Plagiarism Policy & Guidelines for Authors

1. Introduction & Purpose

The CSIR National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) is fundamentally committed to maintaining the highest standards of research integrity, publication ethics, and scholarly communication. Originality in research is the cornerstone of scientific publishing. Accordingly, CSIR-NIScPR adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards plagiarism and all related forms of publication misconduct.

The purpose of this document is to clearly outline the standards for originality and proper attribution required for all manuscripts submitted to CSIR-NIScPR scholarly journals. By adhering to these guidelines, authors help safeguard the integrity and credibility of scientific literature, prevent intellectual property violations, and foster a transparent publishing environment the following but not limited to,

2. Defining Scientific Misconduct & Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the unauthorised use of another person's words, ideas, methods, data, images, or intellectual contributions without proper acknowledgement. Scientific misconduct encompasses:

- **Verbatim Copying:** Copying substantial text from published sources. Essential verbatim text must be reproduced within quotation marks with proper attribution.
- **Idea & Method Theft:** Presenting others' ideas, hypotheses, or methods as one's own.
- **Unauthorised Reproduction:** Using figures, tables, or images without explicit permission and attribution.
- **Data Misappropriation:** Copying datasets, as well as data falsification and fabrication.
- **Duplicate & Salami Publication:** Submitting to multiple venues or inappropriately fragmenting a single study.
- **Self-Plagiarism:** Excessive text and data recycling from an author's own previously published work.

AI-Generated Content: Authors remain fully responsible for all submitted content, including text produced with generative AI. Such use must be explicitly disclosed and must comply with the CSIR NIScPR journal's AI Policy.

3. The Originality Requirement

By submitting a manuscript, authors implicitly certify the following:

- The manuscript constitutes their own original work.
- The work has not been published previously and is not under consideration elsewhere.
- All sources, datasets, and foundational ideas have been appropriately cited.
- Permissions have been obtained wherever required for copyrighted material.

4. Duplicate Submission and Redundant Publication

Authors are strictly prohibited from submitting the same or a substantially similar manuscript simultaneously to more than one journal. Redundant publication includes the presentation of substantially overlapping datasets, duplicate analysis of previously published data, or the submission of the same manuscript for republication. Such submissions will be rejected immediately.

5. Integrity of Images, Figures, and Research Materials

Manipulation, fabrication, falsification, misrepresentation, or unauthorised reuse of research materials constitutes severe publication misconduct. This applies to figures, microscopy images, graphs, videos, gels, and underlying datasets. Any enhancement or digital processing of images must be declared and must not obscure, eliminate, or misrepresent original data.

6. Consequences of Policy Violation

Plagiarism Detected Before Publication: If significant similarity or misconduct is identified during review, the journal may request revisions, require citations, or reject the manuscript outright. In serious cases, the journal may suspend further submissions and notify affiliated institutions.

Plagiarism Detected After Publication: CSIR-NIScPR will initiate a detailed investigation, conducted by the Editorial Ethics Committee, comprising the subject journal's editors and external experts. Based on severity, actions may include formal correction, expression of concern, retraction, and removal of supplementary material. The journal will notify indexing agencies, affiliated institutions, and funding agencies. Authors may also be disqualified from future submissions.

7. Appeals Process

Authors retain the right to appeal editorial decisions related to plagiarism. Authors must submit a formal written explanation accompanied by supporting evidence. All appeals will be thoroughly reviewed by the Editorial Ethics Committee.