

IJDL Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement for the International Journal of Designs for Learning (IJDL)

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Introduction

At the International Journal of Designs for Learning (IJDL), a journal publication by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) and published by the Indiana University Libraries Journals, the integrity of academic content and the publishing process is important.

This Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement outlines the principles that the IJDL applies to its publications, including instructional design cases (traditional and short form), hereafter “designs cases” and Editorials. These guidelines apply to many different groups, including authors, peer reviewers, and editors within and outside of the IJDL. This Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement is developed following the structure and content of the [Cambridge University Press Publishing Ethics for Academic Research](#) guidelines.

Indiana University Libraries Journals, the publisher of the IJDL, adheres to the guidelines put forward by the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE). This global not-for-profit organization aims to support publishers and editors in achieving high standards in publishing ethics. COPE primarily provides guidelines and resources for journal editors, which are referenced throughout this document. Standards and best practices advocated by its sponsoring associations—the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) and Indiana University Libraries Journals—are also incorporated into this statement. Additional guidelines that the IJDL follows are referred to in the relevant sections below. To find the IJDL instructions for authors, please see the [IJDL website](#).

Research Integrity

The IJDL upholds the high standards set forth by AECT and Indiana University Libraries Journals. In doing so, the policies of the journal align with the principles outlined in [Indiana University's Research Integrity Statement](#) (adapted for applicability to design cases) and [AECT Member and Events Code of Conduct](#).

- These principles include:
- Honesty in all aspects of research
- Scrupulous care, thoroughness, and excellence in design knowledge building
- Transparency and open communication
- Care and respect for all participants in design and development processes
- Accountability both for one's own design integrity and for addressing behavior that falls short of these standards

Misconduct in authorship of design cases is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing a design case, or in reporting design outcomes:

- **Fabrication** is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
- **Falsification** is manipulating materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results, such that the design case is not accurately represented in the published record.
- **Plagiarism** is appropriating another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

The IJDL Editorial team provides specific guidelines and policies for authors to ensure the integrity of their reporting. Following these guidelines support authors and reviewers in ethical practices appropriate to the publication of design case and articles about the knowledge building practice of sharing design knowledge via design cases.

Anyone who believes that a publication by the IJDL is the outcome of a design process, or details a design carried out as part of a research study that has not been conducted in accordance with these Academic Research Publishing Ethics Guidelines or the principles listed above should raise their concern with one of the members of the Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor, directly by email (ijdl@iu.edu). The Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor will address concerns by following COPE guidelines where possible and/or by escalating the matter to the IJDL Advisory Board, AECT Ethics Officer, AECT Leadership and Executive Team, AECT Center for Excellence in Publishing, Indiana University Libraries Journals, or, if necessary, the author(s) affiliated institutions.

The IJDL Advisory Board is a body of scholars and practitioners (as listed on the [IJDL website](#)) who are vested in helping the journal grow and continue its operations, chaired by the Founding Editor-in-Chief. They advise the journal on best practices and scholarly initiatives, including publishing ethics. The IJDL Advisory Board is not a decision-making body, although it may direct queries and provide recommendations to appropriate decision-making levels (for example, recommend that an issue warrants discussion by the Editorial Team).

AECT Ethics Officer, the AECT Leadership and the Executive Teams, and the AECT Center for Excellence in Publishing include elected and/or hired officers/professional staff by AECT who have the power to make decisions and issue directives to the IJDL Editorial Team, consistent with AECT journals/publications policies and [AECT Member and Events Code of Conduct](#).

Indiana University Libraries Journals is an organization within Indiana University that serves the world of scholarship as a professional, open-access, and not-for-profit publisher.

Editorial Process

The IJDL maintains a strong commitment to editorial independence. All editorial decisions are made free from undue influence, including corporate, financial, political, or institutional pressures. The journal's editorial procedures, as outlined in the [Author Guidelines](#), are designed to uphold the integrity of the review process and protect against any compromise of scholarly judgment.

The IJDL does not tolerate discrimination in any form. The IJDL is dedicated to fostering an inclusive, equitable publishing environment. It welcomes and encourages submissions from scholars/scholar-practitioners/designers/educators/design practitioners of all backgrounds and identities.

The IJDL supports and showcases high-quality design cases that reflect authentic design practices for learning. The IJDL Editorial Team provides oversight of the journal's editorial and publishing processes in collaboration with Indiana University Libraries, Journals, and AECT.

For design case submissions:

- The IJDL Editorial Team makes all editorial decisions based on a peer-review process that values transparency, relevance, and rigor in reporting on designs for learning.
- Peer reviewers are selected based on their expertise in learning design and authoring/publishing design cases. As outlined in IJDL's [review guide](#) and rubric, they are asked to evaluate submissions for genesis, interest, representation of the design (including its context and process), support and transparency of the design, style, and scope.
- The editorial process is grounded in IJDL's commitment to ethical publishing, inclusivity, and scholarly integrity, with final decisions made independently of institutional, financial, or political influence.

The IJDL Editorial Team may seek advisory input from the IJDL Advisory Board and [AECT's Center for Excellence in Publishing](#) for strategic decisions related to the scope of the journal, editorial appointments, and publication policies and/or guidelines.

The IJDL Editorial Team may consult the IJDL Advisory Board and [AECT's Center for Excellence in Publishing](#) to support strategic planning related to the journal's direction, editorial leadership, and publication guidelines. The IJDL is committed to maintaining a respectful and professional environment for all individuals involved in the publishing process, including editors, reviewers, authors, and staff at the IU Libraries Journals. Abusive, aggressive, or disrespectful behavior—whether in correspondence or peer review—will not be tolerated. When such behavior occurs, the IJDL Editorial Team reserves the right to take appropriate action, which may include removing a manuscript from consideration or addressing/deleting inappropriate reviewer comments.

Peer Review

Peer review is essential to maintaining the quality and integrity of the IJDL. To support a rigorous and ethical review process for design case submissions, the IJDL:

- Provides clear systems, guidance, and support to ensure reviews are fair, constructive, and aligned with the journal's scholarly standards, as outlined in its [Review Guide](#)
- Encourages editors and reviewers to follow established best practices, including [COPE's Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers](#), and to engage in reviews that are respectful, objective, and evidence-based
- Expects members of its Editorial Team to be alert to potential issues such as conflicts of interest, fraudulent review activity, or manipulation of the review process, and to report any concerns to the Managing Executive Editor
- Supports editors and reviewers in investigating and addressing suspected misconduct in the peer review process
- Maintains the confidentiality of all parties involved in peer review, in accordance with the IJDL's double-anonymous review policy. All contributors to the process, including authors, reviewers, editors, and publishing partners, are expected to respect these confidentiality practices and provide any necessary disclosures to ensure transparency and ethical conduct.

The Review Process and Publication for the IJDL is described in more detail on the [Submissions page](#).

Co-Reviewing

To support the development of future peer reviewers in the field of instructional/learning design and technology, the IJDL allows co-reviewing of design cases under specific conditions. Co-reviewing provides an opportunity for early-career scholars, scholars under training, scholar-practitioners, and practitioners to gain experience with the peer review process under the guidance of an invited expert reviewer.

An invited reviewer may collaborate with a junior colleague or mentee (i.e., an early-career scholar, scholar under training, a scholar-practitioner, or a practitioner) to review a design case, provided the IJDL Editorial Team/the Managing Executive Editor is informed and approves the co-review arrangement. This request should be submitted when the invited reviewer accepts the review assignment. The co-reviewer must disclose any potential conflicts of interest and agree to maintain the confidentiality of the submission.

The co-reviewer's name must be included in the completed review, either within the "Reviewer's Discussion Forum" in the journal's review system or via email to the Managing Executive Editor. This

ensures appropriate recognition and offers the possibility of adding the co-reviewer to the IJDL's reviewer roster for future peer-review assignments.

Conflicts of Interest

In alignment with recommendations from [ICMJE](#), all the IJDL reviewers, Editors/Guest Editors, and authors (i.e., everyone who participates in the peer-review and publication process) must consider and disclose their relationships and activities when fulfilling their roles in article review and publication.

- **Authors:** When an author submits a design case to the IJDL, they are responsible for disclosing all relationships and activities that might be biased or seen to be biased in their design and development work.
- **Peer Reviewers:** The IJDL reviewers are asked, when they are requested to review a manuscript, if they have relationships or activities that could complicate their review, following the [IJDL Review Guide](#). Reviewers must disclose to editors any relationships or activities that could bias their opinions of the manuscript and should refrain from reviewing specific manuscripts if the potential for bias exists. Reviewers must not use knowledge of the work they are reviewing before publication to further their interests.
- **Editorial Team, Guest Editors, and Journal Staff:** The IJDL Editorial Team and Guest Editors who make final decisions about manuscripts will recuse themselves if they have relationships or activities that pose potential conflicts related to articles under consideration. The IJDL Editorial Team and Guest Editors will provide the Editor-in-Chief or the Advisory Board with a current description of their relationships or activities (as they might relate to editorial judgments) and recuse themselves from any decisions in which an interest that poses a potential conflict exists. The IJDL Editorial Team and Guest Editors must not use information gained through working with manuscripts for private gain.
- **Advisory Board Members:** The IJDL Advisory Board Members and their associates are permitted to submit manuscripts to the journal. Their manuscripts will be peer-reviewed and processed according to the IJDL peer-review process and following the [IJDL Review Guide](#) without special treatment. They must disclose to editors any relationships or activities that could bias their opinions of the manuscript and should refrain from reviewing specific manuscripts if the potential for bias exists. Advisory Board Members must not use knowledge of the work they are reviewing before publication to further their interests in unethical ways.

Complaints and Appeals

Complaints about the review and publications process should be directed in writing to the IJDL Editorial Team or Managing Executive Editor (ijdl@iu.edu), who will communicate them to the appropriate parties. The Editor-in-Chief will adjudicate complaints in consultation with other members of the Editorial team and the IJDL Advisory Board, as needed. Decisions on submissions are based on the peer review process. The IJDL is not obligated to review all manuscripts submitted, and decisions on manuscripts declined or forwarded for review are final.

Authorship and Contributorship

The IJDL is committed to upholding the integrity of academic scholarship and publishing. Following recommendations from [COPE](#), [APA](#), and [ICIME](#), the IJDL Editorial Team recommends that authorship of design cases published in the IJDL be based on the following four criteria:

- Substantial contributions to the design being discussed in the design case or the development, analysis, or implementation of the design; AND
- Drafting, or assisting in drafting, the manuscript of the design case and/or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the design case version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the design case in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

The corresponding author is responsible for the following tasks:

- Overseeing the correction and proofreading of the manuscript, managing all revisions, and coordinating resubmissions until the manuscript is accepted for publication.
- Signing off on the final PDF version of the design case, on behalf of all co-authors, and, if necessary, securing signatures from other stakeholders.
- Representing all co-authors in addressing any inquiries after publication. This includes responding to questions related to publishing ethics, content reuse, and the availability of data, materials, or resources.

The IJDL encourages authors to acknowledge individuals who contributed to the design work but do not meet the above four criteria for authorship. With the individual(s)' permission, these contributions—such as research support, editorial assistance, or other forms of substantive

help—should be acknowledged in a designated “Acknowledgements” section of the published design case, as outlined in the [IJDL Manuscript Template](#).

COPE also provides extensive resources on authorship and authorship disputes. The IJDL encourages anyone involved in editorial decisions to familiarize themselves with these resources. The IJDL supports dealing with any authorship disputes, including escalating or seeking advice on cases with COPE. It is aligned with established and emerging standards to increase transparency in authorship (for example, [ORCID](#)). The IJDL supports initiatives that enable transparency in authorship and contributorship, such as the CRediT taxonomy.

Affiliations

Following APA 7th Edition guidelines, for Design Cases, listed affiliations should reflect the institution(s) where the learning design was conducted, supported, implemented, or approved. For Editorials, affiliations should indicate the institution(s) with which each author is presently associated. Authors may elect to have dual affiliations (no more than two affiliations) if the learning design was conducted, supported, implemented, or approved at one institution and they are affiliated with another institution at the time of publication of their design cases.

Plagiarism

The IJDL will endeavor to protect the rights of authors and will investigate claims of plagiarism or misuse of published design cases. The IJDL also seeks to protect the journal’s reputation and maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward plagiarism. Submitted manuscripts may, therefore, be checked with duplication-checking software. Manuscripts found to contain suspected plagiarism, whether in part or in full, will be rejected. The IJDL reserves the right to take action, including publishing a correction, retracting a design case, or pursuing other procedural or legal remedies.

Plagiarism may involve the unauthorized use of a wide range of sources and materials, including:

- Written content, images, musical/multimedia excerpts, detailed mathematical derivations, computer code, and similar works;
- Content obtained from websites, manuscripts, or other forms of media;
- Both published and unpublished materials, such as lectures, conference presentations, and grey literature.

If plagiarism is identified after publication, the IJDL will address it according to the procedures outlined in our [Retractions, Corrections, and Expressions of Concern](#) section of this statement. The IJDL encourages readers, reviewers, and editors to report any concerns about potential plagiarism by contacting the IJDL Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor (ijdl@iu.edu).

Duplicate and Redundant Publication

Duplicate or redundant publication, sometimes referred to as "self-plagiarism", occurs when an author republishes a work, or a significant portion of it, without proper citation, acknowledgment, or justification for the overlap. This can happen across publications in the same or different languages.

The IJDL generally does not permit significant overlap between publications unless all of the following conditions are met:

- The editorial team determines that the overlap contributes meaningfully to the body of scholarship on designs for learning,
- Explicit permission has been obtained from the original publisher, and
- The original work is properly cited.

Readers, reviewers, and editors are encouraged to report any concerns regarding potential duplicate or redundant publication by contacting the IJDL Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor (ijdl@iu.edu).

As outlined in the journal's Submission Preparation Checklist, which authors need to check before they submit manuscripts to IJDL, manuscripts submitted to the IJDL must not be simultaneously under review, accepted, or in press with another journal, book, or similar publication outlet, unless explicitly stated otherwise by the receiving journal. Posting a preprint on an author's personal website, an institutional repository, or a recognized preprint server is not considered prior or duplicate publication. Authors are expected to adhere to the IJDL [Repository Policy](#) and the Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) applied to their published design cases, particularly regarding the use of preprint archives and the maintenance of the version of record.

Any manuscript based on a thesis or another research study (typically, a design-based research study or any other form of study that involves the implementation of a learning design as a research intervention) should be a reworking of the material in the thesis/research study and written to conform to the journal's style. When quoting from the thesis/research study or reusing figures, authors should avoid self-plagiarism by citing and referencing any extracts copied or adapted from the thesis/research study appropriately. If a publisher published a thesis/research study, and it is publicly accessible, permission may be required from the thesis/research study's publisher before submitting to a journal. Authors should inform the IJDL Editorial Team in a cover letter if their manuscripts draw on a thesis/research study.

Design Cases that Include Data through Interactions with Humans, Animals, and/or Natural Elements

If the design case reports any form of data that was collected through interacting with humans or animals, such as evaluations on the design of the learning experience, quotes from learners, interactions with animals, images of learners participating in the learning experience, the IJDL requires the authors to abide by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) (or “ethical review”) guidelines of their home/affiliated institutions. This includes following IRB-approved guidelines for informed consent of the human participants, IRB-stated procedures and criteria for approval to conduct research with human participants and animals, and IRB review processes during and after conducting the research, unless a research project is certified as exempt by the author(s) institution IRB/ethical review boards and committees.

The IJDL also recognizes that certain design projects may involve interactions with natural elements, such as trees, water, soil, sand, plants, or ecosystems, particularly in the context of place-based learning, environmental design, or ecologically embedded educational experiences.

To protect the ecological safety and sustainability of the natural world, authors must:

- Follow ethical, legal, and environmental guidelines related to the observation, use, or alteration of natural environments;
- Obtain any necessary permissions or permits when accessing protected or regulated ecological zones;
- Avoid causing harm, depletion, or disruption to natural elements or ecosystems in the course of data collection;
- Provide a brief explanation in the manuscript (or its appendix) of how environmental ethics and sustainability were considered and upheld in the design or research process.

Authors may be asked to provide documentation or a rationale regarding how they addressed ecological and environmental responsibility in their work.

Competing Interests and Funding

The IJDL is committed to ensuring that all published design cases are evaluated and presented with integrity, free from undue influence. Authors, reviewers, editors, and members of the IJDL Advisory Board are expected to disclose any potential competing interests that could affect, or be perceived to affect, the objectivity of the design case review or publication process.

Competing interests may include but are not limited to financial relationships, professional affiliations, contractual obligations, or personal connections that could compromise impartiality.

These disclosures help safeguard the integrity of the journal and promote transparency throughout the publication process.

Authors must declare any funding sources that supported the development, implementation, or evaluation of the design featured in their design cases. Funding declarations and competing interest statements should be included in the manuscript and will be published with the final design case, when relevant.

If anyone believes that a design case published in, or under review, by the IJDL involves an undisclosed conflict of interest, they are encouraged to notify the IJDL Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor (ijdl@iu.edu).

Libel, Defamation, and Freedom of Expression

The IJDL upholds the importance of freedom of expression in academic publishing. However, the IJDL does not condone the publication of false or misleading statements that could damage the reputation of individuals, groups, or organizations.

Retractions, Corrections, and Expressions of Concern

The IJDL adheres to COPE's guidance on post-publication discussions and corrections, which states, "Journals must allow post-publication either on their site, through letters to the editor, or on an external moderated site, such as PubPeer. They must have mechanisms for correcting, revising, or retracting articles after publication."

Specifically, the IJDL allows authors to request that design cases be corrected where necessary. Authors may email the IJDL Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor (ijdl@iu.edu) specific requests to review suggested corrections after publication. The IJDL Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor will work with the authors, the IJDL Production Team, and the publisher (IU Libraries Journals) to correct or remove design cases after review as appropriate.

The IJDL follows [COPE's Retraction Guidelines](#) for handling retractions, corrections, and expressions of concern. If an author or a journal error is identified, a *correction* will be issued. Retractions are reserved for articles with serious flaws, substantial plagiarism, or content that poses health or safety risks. Minor edits may be made during copy editing or proofreading of accepted manuscripts, but major corrections will follow [COPE procedures](#). In rare cases, a design case or an Editorial may be removed for legal reasons, such as defamation, privacy violations, or court orders, with a public notice explaining the removal. The

IJDL follows COPE guidelines for corrections, retractions, and expressions of concern. Authors may request corrections by contacting the IJDL Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor (ijdl@iu.edu).

Manipulation, Falsification, and Fabrication of Visuals

The IJDL expects all design cases to include a rich and engaging visual representation of the designs developed for learning, including static images and multimedia assets, as outlined in the [Unique Aspects of IJDL Submissions](#) section of the Authors Guidelines page. Modifications to any visual representation of the designs developed for learning, including static images and multimedia assets, must not distort, falsify, or misrepresent the original designs or their significance. While some adjustments may be appropriate for clarity, authors are expected to ensure that any alterations do not lead to fabrication, falsification, or misleading representation of the designs developed for learning.

Fabricated, Falsified, or Unethical Material

When the IJDL Editorial Team becomes aware of potential misconduct or fraudulent content in a submitted or published design case, the primary concern for the journal is protecting its integrity and scholarly contributions. The IJDL Editorial Team collaborates with the IJDL Advisory Board, IU Libraries Journals, and AECT, as needed, and, when appropriate, the author(s)' affiliated institutions or oversight body to investigate such concerns.

If an investigation confirms that a published design case contains fabricated, falsified, or otherwise unethical material, the IJDL will take appropriate action. This may include issuing a retraction, correction, or expression of concern, in accordance with COPE guidelines and this present Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement policy. For further information, see the section titled [Retractions, Corrections, and Expressions of Concern](#).

The IJDL also encourages authors to take responsibility for correcting honest mistakes. If authors discover a factual, methodological, or ethical error in their published design cases, they should promptly contact the IJDL Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor (ijdl@iu.edu). The Editorial Team or the Managing Executive Editor will review the request and determine whether a correction is necessary to uphold the transparency and accuracy of the published design case.

Versions and Adaptations

Because of its open-access nature and global reach, design cases published in the IJDL may be accessed and used across a wide range of global, cultural, educational, and economic contexts. While the IJDL supports broad accessibility and international reach, it does not alter published content—nor does it create new versions of design cases—to satisfy political, ideological, or other

external demands that may compromise the quality, integrity, or factual accuracy of the work, or that conflict with the IJDL's ethical standards.

In some cases, the IJDL, AECT, or IU Libraries Journals may grant licenses or permissions to third parties to translate, adapt, or distribute content in other languages or regions. In such arrangements, the IJDL and the authors retain the right to withhold approval if there are concerns about how the design case is being represented or if the integrity and accuracy of the licensed version cannot be guaranteed.

Transparency

The IJDL is committed to upholding [COPE's Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing](#) and encourages all contributors, reviewers, and publishing partners to adhere to these standards throughout the design case publication process.

Materials and Supporting Evidence

The IJDL promotes transparency and openness regarding all forms of data (including data collected for research purposes), code, and related materials. Authors are expected to maintain accurate records that would allow verification of the design activities reported in design cases, if necessary.

These materials would not be required to allow for duplication of the design, but demonstrate that contributors to the design were as represented in the case, and key facts of the case are verifiable. In the instance of historical or reconstructed design cases, a record of the sources used for the cases should be available in the event of questions regarding the claims made about the design.

Integrity of Record

The IJDL maintains a permanent record of all published design cases, including descriptive metadata that ensures discoverability and transparency. If a publication is legally challenged or restricted within a particular jurisdiction, the IJDL will make reasonable efforts to keep the metadata accessible, even if the content itself must be restricted in that region.

In cases where the publication record must be amended/corrected, for example, due to a retraction, correction, or expression of concern resulting from research misconduct, the IJDL aims to preserve the scholarly record as fully and transparently as possible. Please refer to the section on [Retractions, Corrections, and Expressions of Concern](#) for more details on these processes.

These same principles apply to how the IJDL presents its content through marketing and outreach. The IJDL does not alter, misrepresent, or selectively present content in ways that would distort the scholarly record.

When a design case publication is licensed, purchased, or distributed, it must be accessed in full, in accordance with the original licensing terms. Alterations to the content are not permitted unless expressly allowed by AECT and IJDL, the copyright holder, or through a formal agreement. Any distribution of disaggregated components is subject to specific licensing arrangements with the copyright owners.

Ethical Business Practices

Open Access

The IJDL provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge and promotes learning in all contexts by designers in any field. The IJDL permits any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose. Except as noted, the content published by the IJDL is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

Censorship

The IJDL is firmly committed to upholding freedom of speech and academic expression. It rejects all forms of censorship and will not participate in any actions that suppress scholarly/design work. As a global academic journal and the premier international scholarly venue for instructional design cases, the IJDL's mission is to share knowledge as broadly as possible and to support the scholarly community worldwide.

Marketing Communication

Social media tools and email are essential channels for promoting and engaging audiences with published work. However, all marketing efforts must preserve the integrity of the content and respect the academic record. Individuals managing the IJDL's social media or marketing activities are expected to follow best practices for media use and adhere to applicable advertising standards, such as the Advertising and Marketing guidance by the [U.S. Federal Trade Commission](https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/policy-and-guidance/advertising-and-marketing) or similar guidelines relevant to AECT and IU Libraries Journals. These standards also apply when working with external influencers during promotional campaigns.

The IJDL has the right to use its published design cases to promote the journal through social media channels and other marketing venues. Also, in collaboration with AECT and the IU Libraries Journals, the IJDL may include advertisements in published design cases without the authors' permission.

Per the IJDL's Privacy Statement, the names and email addresses entered in its journal site will be used exclusively for the stated purposes of this journal. They will not be made available for any other purpose or to any other party.

From time to time, the IJDL's Editorial Team may email all IJDL registered users to share an announcement about a new issue published, a call for proposals, a special announcement, or share information about AECT (making it clear that AECT is an organization where IJDL authors can share their designs for learning through multiple formats, including the journal). These announcements would be in line with the "stated purposes of the journal."

Public Relations and Media Communication

Academic colleagues engaged in media or publicity activities are encouraged to follow the [International Public Relations Association's Code of Conduct](#) and to uphold these standards in all press releases and media communications. When the IJDL initiates or supports media outreach involving an author, editor, or publishing partner, it aims to ensure that they are kept fully informed throughout the process.

Metrics, Usage, and Reporting

The IJDL is committed to ethical and transparent reporting of content usage. It strives to align our reporting practices with current publishing standards, including the [COUNTER Code of Practice](#), and aims to adopt new COUNTER releases promptly to ensure consistency and comparability of usage data across platforms.

In some cases, usage data that violates [IJDL's Privacy Statement](#), such as activity stemming from fraudulent behavior or malicious attacks (e.g., Denial of Service events), may be excluded from our reports to preserve accuracy and integrity.

To help authors and readers better understand the reach and influence of published design cases and to monitor the journal's performance, the JDL collaborates with third-party services that provide content-level metrics. These may include platforms such as [Google Analytics](#), [Open Journal Systems](#), [Google Scholar](#), [Altmetric](#), [Crossref](#), or other organizations that track engagement and citation trends. While the IJDL may share data or support access for such services, it does not control their methodologies and is not responsible for the metrics or rankings they generate.

Policy on Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs)-Based Tools

General Guiding Principle

Authors bear full ethical and professional responsibility for any content developed with the assistance of technology—whether that technology is as simple as paper and pencil or as advanced as multi-billion-dollar Generative AI/Large Language Models (LLMs)-based tools, or anything in between. These tools/technologies must be used in ways that respect academic integrity and do not substitute for the author's original intellectual contribution. Their use must be deliberate, disclosed, and verifiable.

Therefore, the IJDL **does not prevent** the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs)-based tools for authoring/developing design cases, **nor does it encourage/permit** the unlimited use of these tools. **The IJDL calls on authors/designers to hold themselves ethically responsible/accountable for all what they do with GenAI and LLMs-based tools, including experimentation.**

Specific Requirements

The IJDL has the following requirements in place that authors must follow and adhere to.

Please keep in mind that these requirements are subject to change at any time without prior notice when new policies and legal rulings emerge from AECT—the owning organization of the IJDL—and other legal authorities in the U.S.

- A GenAI tool **cannot be** listed as an author of a design case, as it does not meet the requirements for authorship ([COPE](#)).
- Authors are discouraged from using AI tools to generate any text for their submissions. **However, this does not include** the use of tools specifically designed to assist with correcting or improving spelling, grammar, clarity, etc.
- Any use of an AI tool in the production of a submission's text and creating artifacts that support learning experiences **must be disclosed** to the Editors and in the manuscript. If AI assistance is used, authors must include in the body or appendix of their submission a description of the relevant tools, prompts, and methods.
- Any use of an AI tool in the production of charts, graphs, tables, images, or other visual content for the design cases **must be disclosed** to the Editors and in the manuscript. If AI assistance is used, authors must include in the body or appendix of their submission a description of the relevant tools, prompts, and methods.
- Authors may use AI tools for experimental processes relevant to the unique focus of their design cases. **However**, any use of an AI tool for experimental processes **must be disclosed**

to the Editors and in the manuscript. If AI assistance is used for experimental processes, authors must include in the body or appendix of their submission a description of the relevant tools, prompts, and methods.

- Authors must validate any content generated by an AI tool. They are **ethically and legally responsible** for any bias, errors, plagiarism, misinformation, or research misconduct that results from the use of an AI tool.
- The IJDL Editorial Team and peer reviewers are not permitted to use AI tools in the evaluation of submitted manuscripts.

This policy was adapted from and created with reference to the policies of [COPE](#), [WAME](#), [JAMA](#), [SAGE](#), [PNAS](#), [Science](#), and [Elsevier](#), and by taking into consideration the unique aspects of the IJDL—the premier international scholarly venue for learning design cases.

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