

CRedit outreach letter (introducing CRedit), different versions below (append what you use at the end)

VERSION 1 (scroll below for other, shorter versions, that may be less intimidating)

Dear editor / editorial board of [journal name],

CRedit is a standardised way to indicate who did what in the project associated with a scientific paper, which is usually provided in the scientific article in addition to a traditional author list. We're reaching out to you to suggest implementing a [target language] translation of the Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CRedit) in [journal name].

CRedit consists of a description of up to 14 possible roles that a researcher may take in a project:

- *Conceptualization,*
- *Data curation,*
- *Formal Analysis,*
- *Funding acquisition,*
- *Investigation,*
- *Methodology,*
- *Project administration,*
- *Resources,*
- *Software,*
- *Supervision,*
- *Validation,*
- *Visualization,*
- *Writing – original draft,*
- *Writing – review & editing.*

Read more at the official website: <https://credit.niso.org/>.

Implementing CRedit could have several advantages for authors, journals and the scientific community. CRedit, according to Holcombe (2019), helps to facilitate:

1. the visibility of all researchers who have contributed to the research
2. a fair representation of the contributions
3. recognition for otherwise underrepresented contributors
4. responsibility for specific parts of the research process
5. transparency and reliability of the research
6. future collaborations for readers.

CRedit has been developed over the past ten years and has been implemented by hundreds of journals, including journals published by Cell Press, Springer, Elsevier, PLOS, and AIP Publishing. CRedit is also now integrated with ORCID individual records

(<https://info.orcid.org/credit-for-research-contribution/>). Also, ... [various funders / agencies]?
... Any stats to indicate that the use of CRediT is on the rise?

Until recently, the CRediT was only available in English. As part of an international collaboration, we have translated the taxonomy into [target language]. The descriptions of the different CRediT roles have been translated to [target language] by a native speaker, and back-translated back to English by another native speaker in order to verify the accuracy of the translation.

You can find more information about the translation project at <https://contributorshipcollaboration.github.io/projects/translation/>. We believe that providing the CRediT information in [target language] will make it easier to implement the standard in [target language] language journals.

There are three benefits of using translated version of CRediT in your journal:

- Lowering the threshold for using CRediT when in native language
- Making CRediT more easily accessible / understandable for the authors and the readers
- Facilitating science journalism and research applications (knowing who to contact)

We would like to suggest that you consider implementing the translated CRediT Contributor Roles Taxonomy in [journal name]. All translated versions of CRediT are available here: <https://contributorshipcollaboration.github.io/projects/translation/completed/>.

Instructions for how to implement original CRediT (in English) are listed at <https://credit.niso.org/implementing-credit/>. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Yours respectfully,

ClintRichardMacDonaldMac143.931 United States of America, on behalf of the Contributorship Collaboration
<https://contributorshipcollaboration.github.io/projects/translation>

References

- Allen, L., O'Connell, A. and Kiermer, V. (2019). How can we ensure visibility and diversity in research contributions? How the Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT) is helping the shift from authorship to contributorship. *Learned Publishing*, 32: 71-74.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1210>
- Allen, L., Scott, J., Brand, A. et al. (2014). Publishing: Credit where credit is due. *Nature*, 508, 312–313. <https://doi.org/10.1038/508312a>
- Holcombe A. O. (2019). Contributorship, Not Authorship: Use CRediT to Indicate Who Did What. *Publications*, 7(3):48. <https://doi.org/10.3390/publications7030048>
- McNutt, M. K., Bradford, M., Drazen, J. M., Hanson, B., Howard, B., Jamieson, K. H., ... & Verma, I. M. (2018). Transparency in authors' contributions and responsibilities to promote integrity in scientific publication. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(11), 2557-2560.

VERSION 2 [editors]

Dear [Dr. X,

I am writing to you in your capacity as an editor of [journal name]. An important function of journals is giving credit to the researchers who did the work that is described in the publication.

Traditionally, journals attached a list of authors to each article, but did not specify who did what. Over the last 10 years, however, there has been a major change: thousands of scientific journals have begun to provide some information about who did what using [the CRediT list](#) of roles, and CRediT is now an ANSI/NISO standard.

We are an international group of scholars who are interested in improving the system of giving credit for research work, making it more fair and transparent. If you are interested in doing this at your journal, please let me know and we can point you to resources or discuss a plan for your journal.

The CRediT standard roles were officially released only in English, limiting its usage by non-English journals. One thing our team has done is create high-quality translations in a number of languages, [including \[replace with language in question, and update link target\]](#).

An important aspect of CRediT is that it is machine-readable, so that scholarly databases can accumulate records of who did what across multiple articles. To implement the machine-readable part requires the involvement of your publisher's technical team, but there are things you can do even without that.

Let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss the topic generally.

Yours respectfully,

Alex Holcombe, PhD

On behalf of [the Contributorship Collaboration](#) ([Mastodon](#))

VERSION 3 [organisations]

Subject: Introducing CRediT translations for non-English academic publications

To whom it should concern,

We are writing to you in your capacity as an organisation involved in publishing academic research. An important function of academic publications is giving credit to the researchers who did the work that is described in the publication.

Traditionally, journals attached a list of authors to each article, but did not specify who did what. Over the last 10 years, however, there has been a major change: thousands of

scientific journals have begun to provide some information about who did what using [the CRediT list](#) of roles, and CRediT is now an ANSI/NISO standard.

We are an international group of scholars who are interested in improving the system of giving credit for research work, making it more fair and transparent. If you are interested in doing this at academic publications your organisation is linked to, please let us know and we can point you to resources or discuss options for your organisation.

The CRediT list of standard roles has been officially released only in English, limiting its usability for non-English journals. One thing our team has done is create high-quality translations in a number of languages listed [here](#) (and more translations are in progress).

An important aspect of CRediT is that it is machine-readable, so that scholarly databases can accumulate records of who did what across multiple articles. To implement the machine-readable part requires the involvement of your publisher's technical team, but there are things you can do even without that.

Let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss the topic generally. We would also be happy to give a presentation to your organization.

We would appreciate it if you could disseminate this information to the members of your organisation.

Yours respectfully,

Malgorzata Lagisz, PhD, and Alex Holcombe, PhD

On behalf of [the Contributorship Collaboration](#) ([Mastodon](#))

References

- Allen, L., O'Connell, A. and Kiermer, V. (2019). How can we ensure visibility and diversity in research contributions? How the Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT) is helping the shift from authorship to contributorship. *Learned Publishing*, 32: 71-74. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1210>
- Allen, L., Scott, J., Brand, A. et al. (2014). Publishing: Credit where credit is due. *Nature*, 508, 312–313. <https://doi.org/10.1038/508312a>
- Holcombe A. O. (2019). Contributorship, Not Authorship: Use CRediT to Indicate Who Did What. *Publications*, 7(3):48. <https://doi.org/10.3390/publications7030048>
- McNutt, M. K., Bradford, M., Drazen, J. M., Hanson, B., Howard, B., Jamieson, K. H., ... & Verma, I. M. (2018). Transparency in authors' contributions and responsibilities to promote integrity in scientific publication. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(11), 2557-2560.