

Code of Conduct and Best Practices Guidelines for Journal Editors

Journal of AI Production and Consumption (jAlpc)

Preamble

Editors of the Journal of AI Production and Consumption (jAlpc) are committed to advancing scholarly communication in the field of AI with the highest standards of ethical conduct. This document outlines the principles of fairness, confidentiality, and transparency that all editors, including the Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors, and Editorial Board members, are expected to uphold. These guidelines are aligned with the **Core Practices of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**.

1. Accountability and Responsibility for Journal Content

Editors are responsible for everything published in the journal. They will:

Strive to meet the needs of readers and authors.

Ensure the quality and integrity of the published record.

Champion freedom of expression.

Maintain the integrity of the academic record.

Be transparent about business models and costs.

Ensure that all published reports and studies have been ethically reviewed.

2. Editorial Independence and Integrity

Decoupling from Commercial Influence: The Editor-in-Chief has full authority over the entire editorial content of the journal and the timing of its publication. Journal decisions are made independently of the publisher and any other external entities, including sponsors and partner organizations.

Conflict of Interest: Editors will recuse themselves from considering manuscripts in which they have a conflict of interest (e.g., competitive, collaborative, or other relationships with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers). Editorial staff must not use information gained through their work for private advantage.

3. Fairness and Impartiality

Objective Evaluation: Editors will evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content without regard to the authors' race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy.

Anonymous Peer Review: jAlpc employs a double-anonymous peer review process. Editors must preserve the anonymity of reviewers and authors throughout this process, unless the journal operates an open identity policy for which all parties have agreed.

4. Confidentiality

Manuscript Handling: Editors and editorial staff must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.

Unpublished Materials: Editors must not use unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript for their own research without the express written consent of the author.

5. Vigilance in Ethical Matters

Proactive Investigation: Editors will act proactively to investigate suspected research and publication misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, data fabrication, image manipulation).

COPE Flowcharts: In cases of ethical concerns, editors will follow the COPE flowcharts to ensure a consistent and fair approach.

Correcting the Record: Editors, in conjunction with the publisher, will ensure that published errors, inaccurate statements, or fraudulent publications are corrected, retracted, or otherwise amended in a timely and transparent manner.

6. Peer Review Process

Selecting Reviewers: Editors will select reviewers with appropriate expertise and avoid those with conflicts of interest.

Guidance for Reviewers: Editors will provide reviewers with clear guidance on their roles and responsibilities, including the journal's expectations for a confidential, constructive, and unbiased review.

Monitoring Performance: Editors will monitor the performance of reviewers and take steps to ensure timely, high-quality reviews.

7. Editorial Decisions

The Editor-in-Chief is ultimately responsible for decisions regarding all submissions. These decisions will be based on the paper's importance, originality, and clarity, and the study's validity and relevance to the journal's scope.

Decisions will be made based on the recommendations of the editorial board and peer reviewers, but are not bound by them.

8. Engagement with Authors and Reviewers

Transparent Communication: Editors will provide authors with clear, constructive feedback and ensure the peer review process is communicated clearly.

Appeals Process: Editors will have a clear, transparent, and documented process for authors to appeal editorial decisions. All appeals will be given fair consideration.

Feedback to Reviewers: Editors will work to provide feedback to reviewers on the quality of their reviews and their value to the journal.

9. Complaints and Misconduct

Grievance Procedure: Editors will respond promptly to complaints and ensure there is a clear process for handling them. They will follow COPE guidelines in resolving cases.

Documentation: All matters concerning ethical misconduct will be documented, including any actions taken.

10. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

Editors are committed to regularly reviewing and improving journal processes, including the implementation of new tools and guidelines that enhance the fairness, efficiency, and transparency of the publication process.

Acknowledgment

This code is adapted from the **COPE Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors**. All JAIPC editors are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the full COPE guidelines available at publicationethics.org.