

Editorial policies

Our editorial policies align with the COPE Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing. Ethics statements for our journals follow COPE's guidelines supporting ethical and transparent journal management. Editorial decisions are made within the independent editorial structures of each journal, with editors solely responsible for publication decisions, ensuring the integrity, accuracy, and originality of published content.

Peer review policy

We encourage our journal editors to follow COPE guidelines and the peer review norms of their field. Submissions will be reviewed depending on their type.

Editorials / Editor's Notes: Not peer reviewed

Field reports: Editorial review

Research articles: Full peer review

Book reviews: Editorial review

Country Reports: Editorial Review

All other formats not mentioned above: Editorial Review

Papers submitted for full peer review will be reviewed by two or three anonymous reviewers (editorial board members, section editors, and/or invited reviewers with expertise in the subject matter). Authors will remain anonymous to reviewers.

The typical time taken to conduct the reviews is four weeks.

Reviewers and editors are obliged to retain the contents as privileged and confidential until publication. The editor will have final authority over an article's suitability for publication.

Advertising policy

We do not support commercial advertising within journal publications.

Statement on Publishing Ethics

Adherence to ethical standards for the dissemination of research results is critical to the research process. We encourage editors to adhere to COPE's general approach to publication ethics for the editorial office, the Code of Conduct of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), and the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

Research ethics and informed consent policy

We encourage editors to follow COPE guidelines and the research ethics and informed consent best practices in their field. All parties involved in publishing—authors, editors, peer reviewers, and publishers—must adhere to agreed-upon ethical standards.

The process for handling cases requiring corrections, retractions, and editorial expressions of concern

We expect journal editors to follow COPE guidelines and/or the retraction, correction, and statement of concern best practices in their field. Journal editors and editorial boards are responsible for creating correction, retraction, and expression of concern policies. If an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in their published work, it is the author's obligation to promptly notify the journal editor and cooperate fully with the editor to correct the paper with a published erratum or to retract it.

Open Access Policy

We abide by the Budapest Open Access Initiative definition of Open Access:

“By ‘open access’ to [peer-reviewed research literature], we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.”

Researchers engage in discovery for the public good, yet because of cost barriers or use restrictions imposed by other publishers, research results are not available to the full community of potential users. It is our mission to support a greater global exchange of knowledge by making research open to the public and reusable under the terms of a Creative Commons CC-BY license.

Furthermore, we encourage authors to post their pre-publication manuscripts in institutional repositories or on their websites prior to and during the submission process, and to post the publisher's final formatted PDF version after publication. These practices benefit authors with productive exchanges as well as earlier and greater citation of published work.

There are no article processing charges, submissions fees, or any other costs required of authors to submit articles.

Note on Accessibility Requirements

Accessibility is a priority. Authors are asked to abide by the following recommendations, so that readers with visual impairment (e.g., blindness; color-blindness) or reading disabilities, can successfully use screen readers that provide audible content. The clear presentation of information benefits all users.

Color: When color is used to convey information, people who are blind, color blind or use a monochrome computer screen will not receive the information. Therefore, it is important not to rely on color alone to convey information. This is especially relevant to tables and graphics.

Tables: Most screen reader programs scroll down columns and read from the top of the table to the bottom. They then progress to the top of the next column. Please organize your tables accordingly, and keep tables as simple as possible, because people with screen enlargers will view only part of the table at a time. To adhere to web accessibility guidelines for HTML documents, you will also want to include an explicit:

1. Table Caption: (Ex: Table 1. Primary Speaking Language of Telerehabilitation Providers in the United States and Canada)
2. Table Summary: (Ex: This table charts the total number (fictional) of telerehabilitation providers by country (US and Canada) and primary language (English and French).
3. Linearized Table: (Ex: Row 1: In the United States, there are 23 French speaking and 200 English speaking telerehabilitation providers. Row 2: In Canada, there are 150 French speaking and 98 English speaking telerehabilitation providers.)

Descriptions of Graphics and Photos: Present the contents of all graphics and photos in clear text, so that all readers can perceive the content. For example:

- “This pie chart shows the percentage of French and English speakers that used telerehabilitation in North America in 2008. Eighty-five percent of the users were speakers of English and 15% of the users were speakers of French as their primary language. The total number of French and English speakers is not displayed on the pie chart.”
- “This photograph shows a personal digital assistant (specify model), with an alert symbol displayed.”

The author must attest that permissions are available for all recognizable persons in a photograph.