Review Article

Challenges for Authors and Publishers
in Scientific Journal

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ABSTRACT

Scientific journals are still the most important media for dissemination of scientific information. Nowadays, on the one side publishers and on the other side researchers are faced with variety of challenges. The scientific journals are concerned with dissemination of correct results, on right time to right people. On the other hand, they undertake to observe ethic and rules of publication. The researchers are concerned with publication of their results in a valuable journal with high rank. It is important for every scientist to publish articles in the scientific journals in order to get recognition for his/her work, earn his/her academic promotion, attract new funds for new research, and maximize effects on present and future research. The aim of this study was to express challenges of author and publisher in scientific journals. This study was unsystematic-review study. The literature was searched on evaluate the " challenges of author and publisher in scientific journals " with the help of library, books, conference proceedings, data bank, and also searches engines available at Google, Google scholar. For our searches, we employed the following keywords and their combinations: challenge, author, publisher, fraud, plagiarism in the searching areas of title, keywords, abstract, and full text. In this study, more than 100 articles and reports were collected and 16 of them were selected based on their relevancy.

KEY WORDS: Challenge, Author, Publisher, Fraud, Plagiarism.

INTRODUCTION

Scientific journals are still the most important media for dissemination of scientific information. Writing and publishing scientific articles are important activities in a career of every scientist

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and publisher. Problems arise when different contributors have different expectations of who should (and should not) be included as an author, sometimes because of different conventions in different disciplines or because of differences in seniority and changes in conventions over time.[1,2] Nowadays, on the one side publishers and on the other side researchers are faced with variety of challenges to declare result of scientific studies to the world. The scientific journals are concerned with dissemination of correct results, on right time to right people. On the other hand, they undertake to observe ethic and rules of publication. In this article our aim was to recognize challenges which author and publisher face in Scientific Journal, such as:

1.   Order (Who is an author, Lead Author, Co-Author, Corresponding Author), responsibility and right of authorship is based on cooperation and participation in their research project;

2. Misuse of authorship: removing and adding some names as the author (gift or honorary authorship, pseudo-authorship, ghost authorship, and surprise authorship);
3. Students as authors;
4. Lack of software to control plagiarism in Persian that led to fraudulent data in Persian articles;
5. Research Funding: Lack of disclosure the name of organization which supported research project
6. Imperfect manuscript;
7. Disclosing the names of referees to authors;
8. Disclosing the names of authors to referees;
9. Failure to communicate reasons for rejection to the authors.

METHODOLOGY

This was a unsystematic-review study. The literature was searched to evaluate the "challenges of author and publisher in scientific journals" with the help of library, books, conference proceedings, data bank, and also search engines available at Google, Google scholar. For our searches, we employed the following keywords and their combinations: challenge, author, publisher, fraud, plagiarism in the searching areas of title, keywords, abstract, and full text. In this study, more than 100 articles and reports were collected and 16 of them were selected based on their relevancy.

RESULTS

Who is an author?
Authorship is usually attributed for those, and only those, who have made significant intellectual contribution to the research. Participation solely in the acquisition of funding or general supervision of the research group is not sufficient for authorship. The Vancouver Group recommends that authorship should be based on meeting all three of the following conditions in project or paper:

1. **Scholarship:** Contribute significantly to the conception, design (e.g. Co-investigator, consultant or research), OR execution, OR collection of data, OR analysis and interpretation of data;
2. AND
3. **Authorship:** Participate in drafting, reviewing, and/or revising the manuscript for intellectual content;
4. AND
5. **Approval:** Approve the manuscript to be published.

* Everyone who is listed as an author should have critically reviewed successive drafts of the paper and should approve the final version. All three of these conditions must be met to satisfy the authorship criteria. ** Approve the manuscript to be published. *** Persons who have not contributed in all of the above ways should not be included in the authorship list.

Who is not an author?
Participation solely in:
* the acquisition of funding, or
* the collection of data, or
* General supervision of the research group is not sufficient for authorship.[2-5]

An administrative relationship, acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of a research group alone does not constitute authorship.

Simply by virtue of being the head of the department or institute, one does not get an automatic right to be an author! Though excluding a non-contributing colleague or the head may at times be difficult, authorship cannot be granted for departmental peace and amity.[5] Authorship cannot be gifted as a means for appreciation or encouragement. Providing help in literature search, technically editing the manuscript, or helping with statistical analysis themselves do not deserve byline listing.[5] Technical help, without intellectual participation in writing and reviewing the manuscript, that otherwise would have been done as per the work schedule, too, is not worthy of credit as an author.[5]

Acknowledgment issue:
Individuals who may have made some contribution to a publication, but who do not meet the criteria for authorship, such as staff, editorial assistants, medical writers, or other individuals, can provide a valuable contribution to the writing and editing of publications. The names of the contributors, who do not meet the criteria for authorship including those who provided purely technical help or writing assistance, should be listed in the Acknowledgment.[5]

Lead Author (The first Author): The lead author assumes overall responsibility for the manuscript, and also often serves as the managerial and corresponding author, as well as providing a significant contribution to the research effort. A lead author is not necessarily the principal investigator or project leader. The lead author is responsible for:
Authorship: Including as co-authors all and only those individuals who meet the authorship criteria

set forth in this policy. *Approval:* Providing the draft of the manuscript to each individual contributing author for review and consent for authorship. The lead author should obtain from all coauthors their agreement to be designated as such and their approval of the manuscript. A journal may have specific requirements governing author review and consent, which must be followed. *Integrity:* The lead author is responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole, and ensuring that reasonable care and effort has been taken to determine that all the data are complete, accurate, and reasonably interpreted.[6]

Co-authors: Who provides consent to authorship to the lead author; co-authors acknowledge that they meet the authorship criteria set.[6]
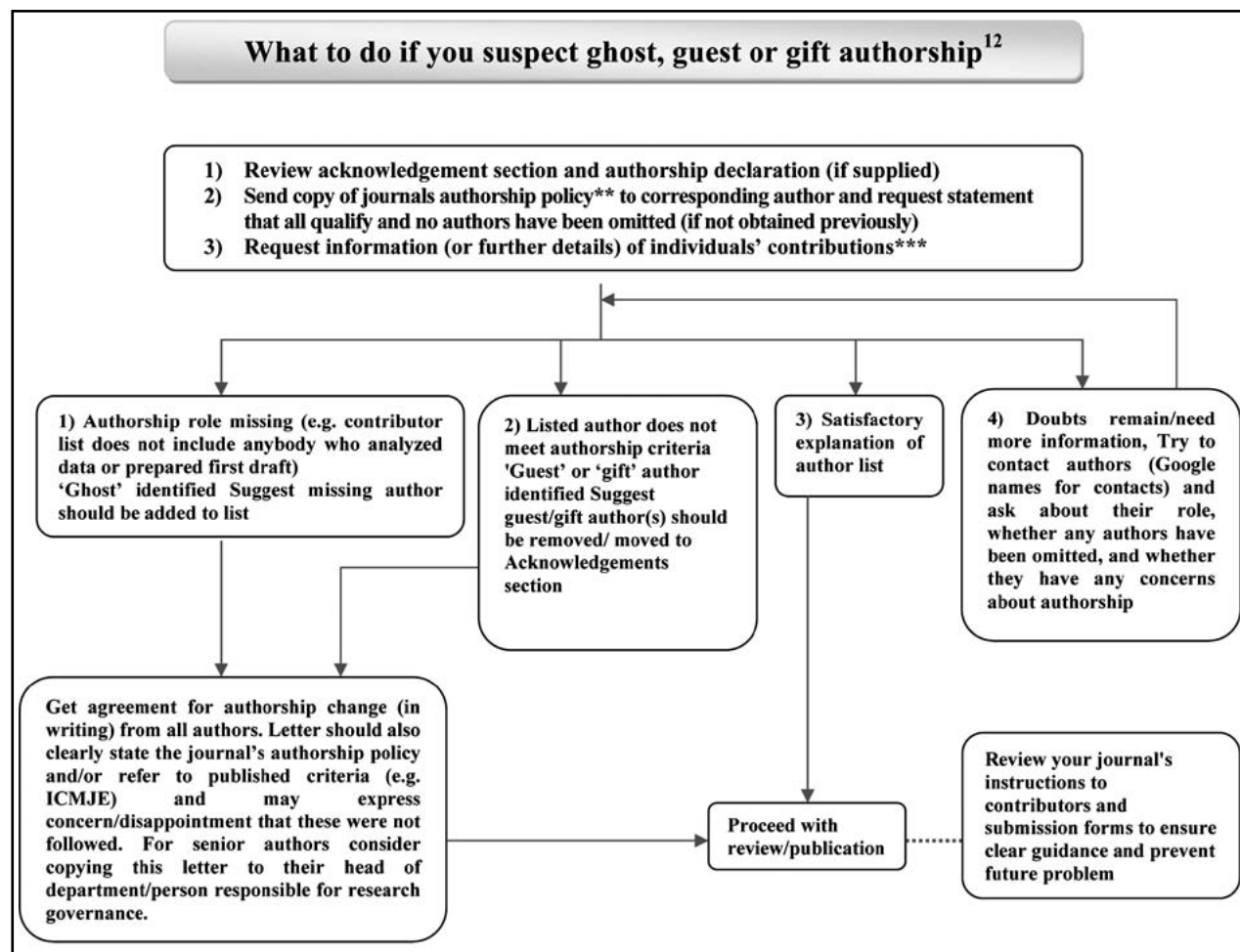
The order of authorship:

The various suggestions have been to list authors;
* by alphabet,
* by seniority,
* by importance of contribution.*****

The most accepted and the logical one is that the order should be based on the relative contribution.

The person who has made the major contribution to the paper and / or taken the lead in writing is entitled to be the first author. Decisions about who should be an author, the order of authors and those included in the acknowledgements should usually be made by the first author in consultation with other authors. All others who fulfill the criteria for authorship should complete the list in alphabetical order of their surnames. If all the authors feel that they have contributed equally to the paper, this can be indicated in a footnote. Authors, by general agreement, may wish their names to be listed in alphabetical, reverse alphabetical or random order. This is acceptable as long as each member of the party gives consent. The method is then made explicit in the publication (e.g. by stating, "All authors contributed equally and are presented in alphabetical order").[7]

The Corresponding Author: The Corresponding Author is the person who is responsible for the manuscript as it moves through the journal's submission process. Who is the least busy to

What to do if you suspect ghost, guest or gift authorship[12]

1) Review acknowledgement section and authorship declaration (if supplied)
2) Send copy of journals authorship policy** to corresponding author and request statement that all qualify and no authors have been omitted (if not obtained previously)
3) Request information (or further details) of individuals' contributions***

1) Authorship role missing (e.g. contributor list does not include anybody who analyzed data or prepared first draft) 'Ghost' identified Suggest missing author should be added to list

2) Listed author does not meet authorship criteria 'Guest' or 'gift' author identified Suggest guest/gift author(s) should be removed/ moved to Acknowledgements section

3) Satisfactory explanation of author list

4) Doubts remain/need more information, Try to contact authors (Google names for contacts) and ask about their role, whether any authors have been omitted, and whether they have any concerns about authorship

Get agreement for authorship change (in writing) from all authors. Letter should also clearly state the journal's authorship policy and/or refer to published criteria (e.g. ICMJE) and may express concern/disappointment that these were not followed. For senior authors consider copying this letter to their head of department/person responsible for research governance.

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correspond with editorial board. In addition, one should have participated sufficiently in the work to take full responsibility for the content. One should be able to defend, without help from co-authors, the work, the results, and everything else that has been included in the manuscript.[8,9]

Misuse of Authorship: 'Ghost authorship' is the term used for a condition where the name of the original or deserving author does not appear in the printed version of the manuscript.[5]

Honorary authorship (guest, courtesy, or prestige authorship) is defined as naming, as an author, an individual who does not meet authorship criteria. Authorship is defined as granting authorship out of appreciation or respect for an individual, or in the belief that expert standing of the guest will increase the likelihood of publication, credibility, or status of the work.[5] Gift authorship is credit, offered from a sense of obligation, tribute, or dependence, within the context of an anticipated benefit, a department chair or to the person who acquired funding for the study. An individual has not contributed to the work.[5]

A review of peer-reviewed articles in medical journals found that 19% had evidence of honorary authors and 11% had evidence of ghost authors. Junior researchers may feel pressure to accept or assign honorary authorship because they do not want to offend their bosses who have substantial power over their future career, they need to increase their publication list quickly in order to secure their next job or because they believe that including more experienced colleagues as authors will increase their chances of publication. Other common reasons for honorary authorship include repaying favors, encouraging collaboration and maintaining good working relationships.[3] A total of 156 articles (19%) had evidence of honorary authors (range, 11%-25% among journals); 93 articles (11%) had evidence of ghost authors (range, 7%-16% among journals); and 13 articles (2%) had evidence of both. The prevalence of articles with honorary authors was greater than research articles among review articles.[10]

Students as an Author: Students will normally be primary authors on research publications that arise from their masters or doctoral thesis work provided they meet journal requirements.

Students should normally be the first author on any multi-authored article based on their thesis or dissertation.[5] Students should be aware of their rights…to publish papers independently of their supervisors. Where students are working as part of a larger project team, or where joint supervisor/ student publications are proposed, questions of intellectual property rights should be carefully considered.[3] Students who undertake a research internship as part of a professional degree will normally not be first authors on publications arising from this work except when they meet all the criteria for first authorship. They should be recognized as co-authors provided they meet the journal requirements.[6]

Research Funding: All authors, in manuscripts submitted for review and publication, must acknowledge/disclose the source(s) of support for the work. Support includes research and educational grants, salary or other support, contracts, gifts, and departmental, institutional and hospital support.[6]

*Disclosing the names of referees to authors:*In developing countries ask the author suggest suitable independent reviewers when they submit their manuscripts, but these suggestions may not be followed by the journal.[1] But sometimes the names of referees will not be disclosed to the authors to feel free submit their comments. If so Judgment becomes paler because of connections.

Disclosing the names of authors to referees: The names of the authors will not be known to the referees to prevent any bias to process of judgment.[11]

Failure to communicate reasons for rejection to authors: Give rejection reasons for using them to edit and improve their manuscript.[13] Lack of software to control plagiarism in Persian has led to fraudulent data in Persian articles.[13-16]

CONCLUSION

These guidelines; they should be used by Heads of department as a basis for departmental discussions and decisions about institutional policy and practice on authorship. Heads of department should also bear in mind that the relative power of different members of the department will influence how guidelines are interpreted. Senior researchers, supervisors and chairs of research committee can use these guidelines to discuss models of authorship at an early stage in research projects. Postgraduate students and junior researchers can also use these guidelines to initiate a discussion about authorship, particularly if the subject has not been raised by their supervisors. Authorship should be discussed between researchers at an early stage in any project and renegotiated as necessary. Individual authors contribution is usually listed at the end of the manuscript by most of the journals as a policy which at times may or may not fully justify authorship to

all listed as authors as per International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) criteria.

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