

Y5

Researchers ensure appropriate authorship and citation! (cf. ECoC 2017, p. 7)

Description and background

This learning unit:

Introduces researchers to rules of publication

Enables an understanding of authorship

Challenges researchers to learn how rules of publication can differ between disciplines

Emphasises the importance of proper publication in research



An advocate for research integrity

Tomasz Sulej

Keywords

Academic writing; author sequence; self-plagiarism; publication rules; misconduct in publication; authorship; citation

This unit has been prepared for interdisciplinary learning groups.

Learning objectives

- 1** *Explain the rule of author sequences from your discipline*
- 2** *Compare discipline-specific rules of author sequence*
- 3** *Accept different publication rules*
- 4** *Understand the purpose of publication in research*

Learning stages

- 1** *Become familiar with the topic*
- 2** *Dive into an interesting story*
- 3** *Discuss different author sequence rules*
- 4** *Engage in storytelling*
- 5** *Reflect on the purpose of publication*

“Reliability of research also means that everyone who has made a contribution to this research must be mentioned.”
(Tomasz Sulej, an advocate for research integrity)





1 Become familiar with the topic:

Homework (before the unit starts) or reading session

Read the paragraph on publication and dissemination in “The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity”.

Discuss the meanings of any unknown words.

European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity:



2 Dive into an interesting story:

Read or recall Hannah’s protocol and briefly flesh out what happened in the meeting. Now imagine the following:

Hannah sits calmly in her chair, reading a research paper that was published two months ago. In it, the authors explain “interdisciplinarity” comprehensively. The paper shows how different researchers define this field. By incorporating the latest findings from an Australian researcher, this paper has opened up a new way of thinking and has already attracted some remarkable attention.

These combined findings will set the groundwork for completely new insights, Hannah muses. Her finger brushes the list of authors at the top of the paper. These names represent a new start in the era of interdisciplinarity. All four of them contributed something important to this new way of thinking.

3 Discuss different author sequence rules:

Form groups of three to four students from different disciplines. Explain to the rest of the group what kind of rules on author sequence exist in your discipline. Take turns! Discuss the different forms.

4 Engage in storytelling:

Imagine you are a group of researchers in an interdisciplinary project. You just got cutting edge results from your first three work packages. You are celebrating and decide to communicate these findings and publish your work.

Please write a short story starting with this sentence:

“Even from far way, everyone could see that the group was a motley bunch of researchers celebrating something.”

Include three of the following topics in your story:



Misconduct in publication can appear in the following forms:

- “Manipulating authorship or denigrating the role of other researchers in publications.
- Re-publishing substantive parts of one’s own earlier publications, including translations, without duly acknowledging or citing the original (‘self-plagiarism’).
- Citing selectively to enhance own findings or to please editors, reviewers or colleagues.
- Withholding research results.
- Allowing funders/sponsors to jeopardise independence in the research process or reporting of results so as to introduce or promulgate bias.
- Expanding unnecessarily the bibliography of a study.”

(ECoC 2017, p. 8)

- Responsibility for the content
- Sequence of authorship
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest
- Significant contribution
- Acknowledgement of the important work and intellectual contributions of others
- Timely, open, transparent and accurate communication
- Consideration and validation of negative or non-significant results

Read your stories aloud!

Discuss some of the publication rules from your disciplines. Are you unsure about some of the rules? Clarify in class how to proceed with publication.

5 Reflect on the purpose of publication:

Discuss the following questions together as a class, and copy bullet point answers into your notebook:

- What were the three most important publication rules discussed during this session?
- Why does publication in research matter?
- Why do we need rules in research publication?

