

Dear Editor,

I hope this finds you well. Following [our last issue in November](#), it gives me pleasure to share the latest updates from us here at Elsevier.

As an editor, you curate trusted research and help authors improve their work. Our role is to provide you with tools, support, and guidance which enable us to accomplish these goals and advance human progress together. Below you will find an overview of [recent work on our key themes](#). As you will see, this issue has a special focus [on research integrity matters](#).

Collaborating to advance trusted research

Strengthening research quality with Check Integrity

I'm pleased to share that our submission screening tool [Check Integrity has now been announced publicly](#) to show the research community how we are actively safeguarding content quality, research integrity and publishing ethics. Providing the broader community with insights into the tool and its capabilities is a positive differentiator for your journals, showcasing a proactive approach to upholding integrity throughout the publishing process.

Learn more about [how we combine human oversight with technology to uphold research integrity](#).

AI-generated letters to the editor

We are aware that some journals have seen exponential increases in certain article types, such as [letters to the editor, raising concerns about systematic manipulation facilitated by AI](#). Whilst [AI use to improve language is acceptable](#), you remain empowered to (desk) reject letters to the editor that raise concerns and/or do not significantly contribute towards advancing the field of knowledge and we thought it might be helpful to share some tips/hallmarks for identifying possible AI-generated letters.

For a start, do pay attention to the history and output of the letter's author. Be wary of authors who publish a high number of letters in a short time frame or publish letters across a wide range of topics. Don't forget you can use Scopus to search for an author's profile and review their output.

While indications of AI-generated written content are not in themselves a sign of misconduct, they may flag papers that deserve additional attention. Here are a few indicators:

- » Inclusion of obvious GenAI-generated phrases (e.g., "Regenerate response", "Please note that as an AI language model...", "Certainly! Here is a possible introduction to your topic...")
- » Fake or improbable references (suggestive of hallucinated output from a large language model (LLM))
- » Inclusion of outdated/unreliable information (limitations to LLM training data)
- » Stylistic mismatch (e.g., repetition of words and/or phrases)
- » Lack of specific feedback/expert insight (a superficial letter might indicate output from an LLM)

Increase in phishing

Further to the above, we are also aware that phishing emails are being sent to editors of some Elsevier journals. These emails may offer to provide journals with original articles, help find reviewers, and/or offer to pay an additional fee for accepted papers. It is important to note that such promises of payment are considered bribery, and such offers are not considered a legitimate business or ethical practice.

Should you receive one or more of these emails, **please do not respond**. If you accidentally do respond, please inform your regular publishing contact who will advise on what to do. Forward all such emails to your publishing contact.

If you are experiencing a significant increase in cases, please discuss this with your regular publishing contact who can help you to deal with this.

Other updates in this area

- » [Top 10 ethics pitfalls of well-intentioned researchers](#) [Researcher Academy webinar]
- » [How human expertise works with cutting-edge tools to safeguard scientific integrity](#)
- » [Prevention is better than retraction: Why education is key to research integrity](#)
- » [Researchers have their say on what research integrity means in the age of AI](#)

Enhancing the service provided to authors

We are pleased to share that, to date, over 236,000 submissions have been initiated across nearly 800 journals using Editorial Manager's new submission experience (NSE). NSE offers a simplified, accessible, and intuitive user interface that provides authors with a more streamlined submission process. By only requiring essential details, the average submission time has been reduced by approximately 70%, saving authors around 60 minutes — time they can dedicate to focus on other priorities.

Authors are indicating that the platform is easy and intuitive, with 84% rating the new interface as highly useful, reinforcing our commitment to delivering solutions that enable better outcomes. These improvements are driven by a modern interface, clear guidance tailored to each journal's requirements, single sign-on for Elsevier journals, consistent author declarations, and simpler transfers between journals.

The new submission system is clearly preferred over the previous Editorial Manager interface: 95% of authors choose to continue their submissions in the new system vs. switching back. Author feedback has also been very positive as the following sample quote attests: "A great thank you. That was the best and easiest submission system I encountered among the different journals from Elsevier. Suggest sharing your approach with the others."

Please take a moment to [watch this short video to see these enhancements in action](#) and how they support your editorial work and improve the experience for your journal community. Your Publisher will keep you updated as the new submission experience becomes available for your journal.

Other updates in this area

- » [Saving time and effort with the new submission experience in Editorial Manager](#)

I hope that you have found this update useful. If you have any questions or feedback, please let your regular publishing contact know.

Thank you, as always, for your continued commitment and support.

Laura Hassink
Managing Director, STM Journals

