

April 2019

International Research Symposium on PBL (IRSPBL)

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

A publication ethics and malpractice statements for the IRSPBL series are in compliance with *Elsevier*¹ existing policies and *Committee on Publication Ethics COPE Code of Conduct for Journal Editors*².

The publication of an article in the peer-review IRSPBL series is an essential part in the development of a coherent and respected network of knowledge and practices. They are a direct reflection of the quality of the work of authors and institutions regarding Problem Based Learning (PBL) research, implementation and/or practice. Peer-review articles support and embody the quality of scientific work. Therefore, it is of outmost importance that all the parties involved in the IRSPBL publishing process (i.e. author(s), editors, peer reviewers, the publisher and society) agree upon standards and ethical behaviour that reflects the afore mentioned quality.

Aalborg University Press (as publisher) and the IRSPBL editorial board take their duties of guardianship over all stages of publishing seriously and recognize their ethical and other responsibilities.

The following describes the responsibilities and duties to all parties involved in the IRSPBL publications.

<p>1. IRSPBL Editorial Board</p>	<p>The IRSPBL series have an editorial board and scientific committee as governing bodies whose members are recognized experts in the field. The editorial board is composed by researchers and academic staff from Aalborg UNESCO Centre for PBL in Engineering Science and Sustainability and institutions hosting the IRSPBL conference.</p> <p>The full names and affiliations of the members are available on the IRSPBL website, which are periodically revised by renewing of existent members and add new ones.</p> <p>Editorial decisions are of responsibility of editorial board and solely based on the quality of submissions and appropriate peer review, and not on any political, financial, and/or personal influences from others. The scientific committee members act primarily as peer-reviewers.</p>
<p>2. Author(s) responsibilities</p>	<p><i>Reporting standards</i></p> <p>Authors should report original articles accurately as well as an objective discussion of its significance. Underlying data should be represented accurately in the article. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behavior and are unacceptable. Review and conceptual articles should also be accurate and objective, and editorial opinion works should be clearly identified as such.</p> <p><i>Data access and retention</i></p> <p>Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review.</p> <p><i>Originality and plagiarism</i></p> <p>The authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works, and if the authors have used the work and/or words of others that this has been</p>

¹ Available at: <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/how-scopus-works/content/content-policy-and-selection#pems>.

² Available at: <https://publicationethics.org/>



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in Engineering Science and Sustainability
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appropriately cited or quoted. Guidelines for what is considered plagiarism can be consulted, for example, in Plagiarism.org ([LINK](#)).

Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.

Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication

An author should not in general publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one primary publication. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one publication (e.g. journals and conference proceedings) concurrently constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable. In general, an author should not submit for consideration in another publication a previously published paper. Publication of some kinds of articles (e.g. translations) in more than one publication is sometimes justifiable, provided certain conditions are met. The authors and editors of the concerned publication(s) must agree to the secondary publication, which must reflect the same data and interpretation of the primary document. The primary reference must be cited in the secondary publication.

Acknowledgement of sources

Proper acknowledgment of the work of others must always be given. Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work.

Authorship of the paper

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported work. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the work, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors. The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors and no inappropriate co-authors are included on the paper, and that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

Disclosure and conflicts of interest

All authors should disclose in their manuscript any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their work. All sources of financial support for the work should be disclosed. Potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed at the earliest stage possible.

Fundamental errors in published works

When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is their obligation to promptly notify the publication editor(s) or publisher(s) and cooperate to retract or correct the paper. If the editor or the publisher learns from a third party that a published work contains a significant error, it is the obligation of the author to promptly retract or correct the paper or provide evidence to the editor of the correctness of the original paper.

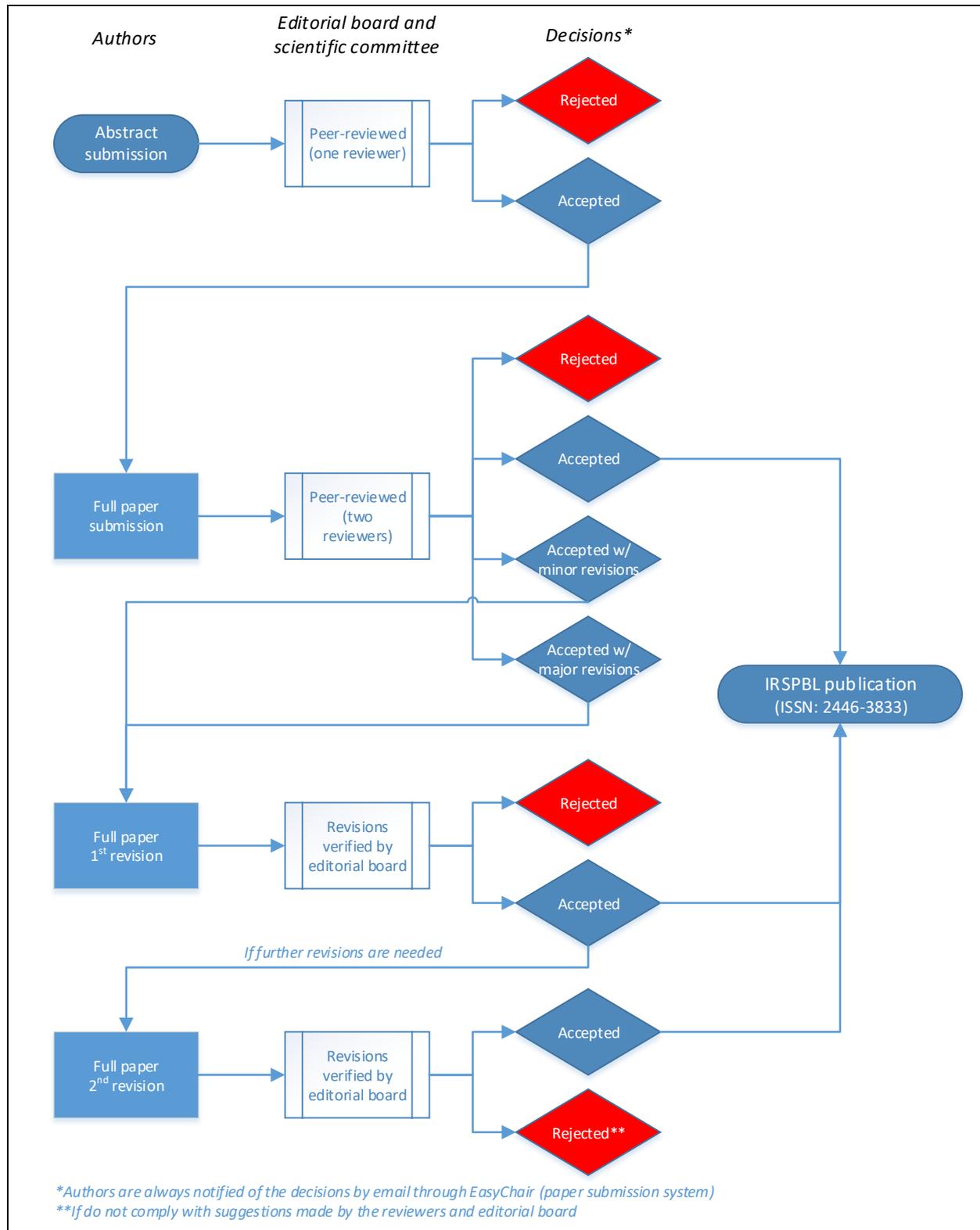
<p>3. Peer-review process and responsibilities</p>	<p>All contributions are subjected to peer-review. Peer-review is defined as obtaining advice on individual manuscripts from reviewers' expert in the field. IRSPBL peer-review is described as pre-publication; single blind; editors mediate all interactions between reviewers and authors; peer reviews are not published; review is facilitated by IRSPBL editorial board; reviews are owned by the authors of the reviews.</p> <p>Type of publications, review criteria (LINK) and review process (FLOWCHART) are described and made available beforehand to authors and reviewers. Additionally, reviewers' judgments should be objective and should not have conflict of interest. If conflict of interprets exists, reviewers have the obligation to inform the IRSPBL editorial team immediately. Reviewers should point out relevant published work, which is not yet cited, as well as recommendations for articles improvement publication according to the criteria provided. Reviewed articles treated confidentially. The guidelines for peer reviewers comply with COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers (LINK).</p>
<p>4. Publication ethics</p>	<p>In no case IRSPBL publisher and editorial board encourage misconduct, or knowingly allow such misconduct to take place. It is considered misconduct the following: including plagiarism, citation manipulation, and data falsification/fabrication, among others. In the event that any allegation of research misconduct is made aware, the IRSPBL publishers or editor shall deal with allegations appropriately, namely removing public access to the paper and investigate the allegations immediately. IRSPBL follows the COPE guidelines for retracting or correcting articles (LINK). The IRSPBL publishers and editors are always willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies when needed through its website.</p>
<p>5. Copyright and access</p>	<p>Responsibility for the content published, including any opinions expressed therein, rests exclusively with the author(s) of such content. The authors and/or other copyright owners retain copyright and moral rights of their work. The ability of an author to re-use their own previously copyrighted work depends on the terms of the copyright. The articles published in our journal are under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (LINK).The IRSPBL publications are open access, i.e. open access to scientific publications refers to free of charge online access for any user.</p>
<p>6. Ownership and management</p>	<p>IRSPBL publications are primarily managed by Aalborg UNESCO Centre for PBL in Engineering Science and Sustainability and in collaboration with partners, who supports and host IRSPBL conference. Publisher and editorial board shall not use organizational names that would mislead potential authors about the nature of the IRSPBL series.</p>
<p>7. Website</p>	<p>The Aalborg UNESCO Centre for PBL in Engineering Science and Sustainability detains a website where all relevant information about IRSPBL series is made available, including review process, publication of series, governing bodies and symposium events.</p>

8. Publishing schedule	The periodicity of IRSPBL series is every year and half and in simultaneous with IRSPBL symposium.
9. Name of the IRSPBL series	The IRSPBL series has a unique name and is not easily confused with another series in the field of PBL and education.

Review criteria

1. The manuscript must respect/ follow the instructions provided by the paper template, in the conference webpage. The author must indicate the type of contribution: research paper, review/ conceptual paper or best practice paper. If not, the reviewers can make the recommendation for a revision.
2. The reviewers are advised to provide clear and objective comments/ suggestions regarding each section of the manuscript.
3. The manuscript must address the following points in order to comply to the IRSPBL quality standard:
 - 3.1. **For research papers:** there must be an identification of research questions/ problems, goals and hypothesis/ assumptions.
For review/ conceptual papers: there must be a motivation for submitting such a paper.
For best practice papers: there must be a motivation/ triggers to change and implement new models and practices.
 - 3.2. **For research papers:** there must be a description of the research methodology, namely methods and instruments.
For review/ conceptual papers: there must be a description of how literature study was carried out.
For best practice papers: there must be a description of curriculum model and how it is practiced.
 - 3.3. **For research papers:** there must be a description of the data collection and analysis (if empirical paper)
For review/ conceptual papers: there must be a consistent analysis of literature.
For best practice papers: there must be a discussion of model implemented/ practiced its challenges, lessons learned and futures perspectives.
 - 3.4. Results, discussion and/ or conclusions should contain a critical reflection on the study
 - 3.5. References (comply with style provided in template, relevance)

Review process: Flowchart



The review process is managed through EasyChair System ([LINK](#)).