

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP 7

Scientific Integrity, Research Misconduct and Retractions: What Can Be the Role of Research Libraries?

Jasmin Schmitz*

Abstract

Scientific integrity of research is vital for the liability and credibility of science. Nevertheless, there are numerous reports on research misconduct (see e.g. <https://retractionwatch.com>).

Research misconduct can be subdivided in several categories such as (see <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40199.020.00332-1/tables/1>):

- Inventing data, experiments or references.
- Falsifying results by omitting data points or data that do not support the hypothesis; manipulating images.
- Plagiarism: using someone else's content or ideas without acknowledgement. This includes self-plagiarism, which means reusing content from one's own previously published articles.
- Authorship issues: Failing to attribute authorship; claiming authorship even though no contribution was made by that person. Examples include ghost authorship and honorary authorship.
- Peer Review issues: Improper conduct in the peer review process, in particular discrimination, making false claims or manipulating the process.

"Salami slicing", which means the segmenting of results of a single study into two or more publications, simultaneously submitting a manuscript to multiple scientific journals, supplying false information in grant applications and other application processes or sabotaging experimental set-ups and destroying primary data, or careless choice of publication venues (predatory journals) can be considered as research misconduct as well.

Research misconduct can either be committed deliberately or by mistake. The latter might occur when these issues are not properly addressed during the training of young academics.

* ZB MED, Germany, publikationsberatung@zbmed.de

The central question of this workshop is therefore: How can research libraries support researchers in order to prevent them from conducting research misconduct inadvertently or due to lack of information, or at least prevent them from applying wrong or fake results? Examples for support services are: providing information on copyright issues and citation practices, courses on reference management to avoid plagiarism, or on how to conduct literature searches, and evaluate search results in order to detect retractions.

The interactive workshop addresses colleagues in research libraries that are interested in these topics and do or want to (prospectively) offer services that support researchers.

Types of activities: After a short introductory presentation attendees are invited to an exchange of ideas: – Does the attendee's library already offer services that address issues like research misconduct? – Does the attendee's library plan to offer such services? – Brainstorming: What can research libraries realistically offer and where are the limitations? – What are suitable formats? Discussion will be accompanied using the "pin board technique": ideas will be written on cards which are attached to a pin board (or something similar). Method of documentation: photo protocol (or similar).

Technical and logistics requirements: Computer for presentations with MS Powerpoint, pinboard or similar

Learning outcomes: After the workshop, attendees will have a general idea of the topics scientific integrity and research misconduct, and of how a retractions process works. Furthermore they can assess to what extent research libraries in general and "their" library in particular can support researchers with regard to these topics and where the limitations are.

MARMARA
ÜNİVERSİTESİ