

## Article Withdrawal, Retraction, or Removal

A general principle of scholarly communication holds that the editor of a scholarly journal is responsible for deciding which articles submitted to the journal are to be published. In making this decision, the editor is guided by journal policies and guided by legal requirements regarding libel, copyright infringement, and plagiarism. An outcome of this principle is the scholarly archive as a permanent record of the transactions of scholarship. Articles that have been published remain extant and unaltered as far as is possible. Very occasionally circumstances arise in which an article is published that must later be retracted or even removed. Such actions must not be undertaken lightly and can only occur under exceptional circumstances.

This policy takes into account current best practices in the scholarly publishing.

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### Article Withdrawal

This action is only used for articles in press (articles that have been accepted for publication but which have not been formally published and will not yet have the complete volume/issue/page information), which represent early versions of articles and sometimes contain errors. Occasionally, the articles may represent infringements of professional ethical codes, such as multiple submission, bogus claims of authorship, plagiarism, and fraudulent use of data or the like. Articles in press that include errors or are discovered to be accidental duplicates of other published article(s) or are determined to violate our publishing ethics guidelines in the view of the editors (such as multiple submission, bogus claims of authorship, plagiarism, fraudulent use of data or the like), may be “Withdrawn” from *The Researcher* by the article author or the journal editor.

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### Article Retraction

Article retraction applies to published articles and may occur after infringement on professional codes of ethics, such as multiple submission, bogus claims of authorship, plagiarism, and fraudulent use of data or the like. Occasionally a retraction will be used to correct errors in submission or publication. Standards for dealing with retractions have been developed by a number of scholarly bodies, and this best practice is adopted for article retraction by *The Researcher*:

- A retraction note titled “Retraction: [article title]” signed by the authors and/or the editor is published in the paginated part of a subsequent issue of the journal and listed in the contents list.
- Electronic versions of the article are preceded by a screen containing the retraction note.

- The original article is retained unchanged save for a watermark on the .pdf indicating on each page that it is “retracted.”
  - The HTML version of the document is removed.
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#### Article Removal

In an extremely limited number of cases, it may be necessary to remove an article from the online database. This will only occur where the article is clearly defamatory or infringes others’ legal rights; where the article is or we have good reason to expect will be the subject of a court order; or where the article, if acted upon, might pose a serious health risk. In these circumstances, while the metadata (Title and Authors) will be retained, the electronic text will be replaced with a screen indicating the article has been removed for legal reasons.