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## ICT Today Guidelines for Copyright and Plagiarism<sup>1</sup>

Submitting authors are required to acknowledge that they are aware of the ICT Today policy on plagiarism and copyright when signing the article's copyright transfer agreement.

The following topics are outlined in the policy below:

1. **Plagiarism** – Specific guidelines for when material can and cannot be copied from other work.
2. **Copyright** – A summary of policies on copyright and fair use of copyrighted material.
3. **Procedures and Penalties** – Procedures *ICT Today* uses when an instance of plagiarism is suspected and the penalties that can be assessed if plagiarism is found to have occurred.

### 1. Plagiarism

- 1.1. Plagiarism is the copying of ideas, text, data, and other creative work (e.g., tables, figures, and graphs) and presenting it as original research without proper citation. Separate from the issue of plagiarism is the need for authors to obtain permission to reuse previously published work (even if properly cited) from the holder of the copyright.
- 1.2. It is essential that the editor be told by the authors when any portion of a paper is based or incorporates previous work, even if this work has been written by one or more of the authors of the paper.  
It is the responsibility of the author not only to cite the previous work, including their own, but to provide an indication of the extent to which a paper depends on this work.
- 1.3. While following these broad principles, authors should recognize the following guidelines:
  - 1.3.1. Plagiarism covers the use of ideas that have been presented in prior work, regardless of whether the ideas are expressed using the same words, tables, or graphics.
  - 1.3.2. Word-for-word copying of the work by others must be clearly identified. Short segments (a few words to one or two sentences) must be put in quotes or italicized; longer segments (e.g., a paragraph) should be indented or italicized. In both cases, the quoted work has to be followed by a citation, which may be a URL. This does not apply to casual phrases that do not convey original content (e.g., "This paper makes the following contributions"). Extensive copying of the work of others, even if clearly indicated, is generally not allowed.
  - 1.3.3. More extensive word-for-word copying of one's own work is permitted (with permission from the holder of any copyright), but this must be clearly indicated in the article. If an entire section is copied from another source (coauthored by at least one author of the submitted paper), it should contain words to the effect: "This section is taken from section x.x of Roberts and Smith (1994)" (where Roberts and/or Smith are coauthors of the submitted paper). If the results of a section are based in large part on material presented in another article (without significant copying), the section should contain words to the effect: "This section is based on section x.x of Roberts and Smith (1994)." Alternatively, an article might include an opening footnote with a statement such as: An earlier version of this article was presented at the [...] conference on (date). [Reference to the original article or paper in the list of references]. The sections on [...] and [...] originally appeared in the article. This article or paper adds results [ideas, analysis, improvements, ...] in sections [...].
  - 1.3.4. Proper attribution of an idea is required. Authors should always cite related work even if that work is their own.
  - 1.3.5. The first article in which a creative contribution occurs (text, ideas, analysis) gets the credit for the contribution, even if it has not yet been accepted for publication. Subsequent papers or articles (by the same or different authors) are expected to cite the first paper or article (even if it is under review).

- 1.3.6. The use and reuse of empirical data follows the same principles as other types of research and information, although some issues are unique to the nature of data as opposed to ideas expressed in text and mathematics. Some general guidelines regarding plagiarism in the reporting of empirical research are:
  - 1.3.6.1. Reuse of empirical data to support new analysis must clearly identify the original source of the data and the degree to which the data is being reused or analyzed in a new and innovative way.
  - 1.3.6.2. Plagiarism in empirical research includes: i) copying or using any data without citation (and permission), ii) duplicating analysis (on the same data as an earlier paper or article) without citation that is essentially the same as the earlier paper or article, iii) copying, or direct reproduction, of charts and graphs that represent data from a previous publication in effectively the same way as an earlier paper, without citation.
- 1.3.7. Mathematics: While plagiarism of mathematical ideas is not allowed (credit must be given just as for other contributions), the re-use of notation for consistency is encouraged, including the re-use of variable definitions. If a mathematical idea is copied without attribution, but expressed with different notation, this is still plagiarism. This does not apply to mathematical models and algorithms that have become common knowledge within the research community. A paper or article should always indicate whether a mathematical model, algorithm, or other result is from the literature, or is an original contribution of the paper. When in doubt, it is always best practice to cite prior contributions.
- 1.4. The overarching goal of this policy is transparency, so that the editorial staff understands what is new and original, and the degree to which the paper is drawing on the work of others or the authors. If you are not sure how to properly credit work that is presented elsewhere (such as a parallel publication that is also under review or a conference proceeding), the best strategy is to describe the situation to the editor.

## 2. Copyright

- 2.1. The holder of a copyright owns the right to reproduce published work. A copyright is indicated by "© 2024 <Name of individual or publisher>". The date (or date range) only indicates when material was created or modified; this is not an expiration date. Copyrighted work can appear in print or on the internet. Authors need to use care when taking advantage of printed material, images, and/or data that is available for download from the internet. It is the responsibility of the author to ensure that proper permissions are obtained as appropriate, but some use of copyrighted material is permitted without permission under "Fair Use" doctrine (see below).
- 2.2. When authors sign a copyright transfer agreement with a publisher, ownership of the published work transfers to the publisher (for U.S. government employees, to the extent transferable). While it may be a courtesy to request permission to use published material from an author, permission to use previously published data, tables, figures, graphs, and substantial reprinting of text must be obtained from whomever holds the copyright (or owns the data). The ability of an author to re-use her/his own previously copyrighted work depends on the terms of the copyright.
- 2.3. Even when an author has permission to re-use the work of others or their own work, this permission does not absolve the author of the responsibility to cite prior work.

- 2.4. Fair Use – Authors are entitled to certain freedoms to take advantage of copyrighted material under the principle of “Fair Use”. The Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 107 defines fair use as follows:
  - 2.4.1. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 17 U.S.C. § 106 and 17 U.S.C. § 106A, the fair use of a copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies or phonorecords or by any other means specified by that section, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. In determining whether the use made of a work in any particular case is a fair use, the factors to be considered shall include:
    - 2.4.1.1. the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
    - 2.4.1.2. the nature of the copyrighted work;
    - 2.4.1.3. the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
    - 2.4.1.4. the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.
  - 2.4.2. The fact that a work is unpublished shall not itself bar a finding of fair use if such finding is made upon consideration of all the above factors.
- 2.5. There are no precise rules governing the distinction between fair use and infringement. If you have questions about material you are using in your article submitted to *ICT Today*, even if it involves material drawn from other publications, you may email questions to the *ICT Today* editor at [icttodayeditor@bicsi.org](mailto:icttodayeditor@bicsi.org).

### 3. Procedures and Penalties

- 3.1. The editor and the Editorial Review Board (ERB) are the primary means of detecting plagiarism in articles submitted to *ICT Today*. Complainants shall bring cases of suspected author misconduct to the attention of the editor. The editor shall ensure that the following documentation is provided: written description of the alleged misconduct; title of the manuscript or article; full list of author names; for alleged plagiarized manuscript or article – title, list of author names and publication in which the manuscript or article appeared; for use of ideas – title of idea, full list of creators and date of creation; copies of both manuscripts or articles; full name and address of complainant. The editor, after being made aware of a suspicion of plagiarism, shall review all evidence and forward to the publisher, who will then make a preliminary judgment regarding the claim. As part of the publisher’s deliberation, it is required that the authors be contacted and provided an opportunity to rebut the suspicion. If the publisher finds sufficient evidence for justification of a charge of plagiarism, the publisher shall forward all materials to the BICSI ERB for further review.
- 3.2. Upon receipt of materials in support of a charge of plagiarism, the ERB shall make a determination of the charge.
  - 3.2.1. The ERB shall first contact the author(s) in writing and ask for a response to the charge. Based on the response, the ERB may obtain additional information, which may include a review of the manuscript or article in question by experts to help determine the level of plagiarism. The ERB shall determine whether the charge is to be upheld and, if so, the sanction that is to be enforced against the author(s). Sanctions would typically include a ban from submission to *ICT Today* for a period of time. The ERB has the sole responsibility and authority to determine the sanction. Sanctions may be applied unevenly in the case of multiple authorstetermine the sanction. Sanctions may be applied unevenly in the case of multiple authors.

- 3.2.2. Once the finding and the sanction is determined, the ERB's appointed spokesperson will communicate the results in writing to the author(s) and make the finding known to the editor and the publisher. If the charge is not upheld, the process ends and no further actions are taken. In particular, the results are only communicated to those persons already involved in the process.
- 3.2.3. The decision of the committee may be appealed within 30 days of receiving written notification from the ERB via written notification to the BICSI Board President. In this case, the president will appoint an appeal committee. The appeal committee will review the charges and make a final determination. The result will be communicated back to the author(s) within 60 days of receipt of the appeal notification.
- 3.2.4. Given the serious nature of a charge of plagiarism, it is required that confidentiality be maintained throughout the process. The charge of plagiarism, supporting materials, and outcome are only to be made known to those persons who are involved in the review process.
- 3.2.5. If a determination of plagiarism has been made, and after any appeals are exhausted, the ad hoc committee will determine appropriate steps both to ensure that it does not happen again and, if the plagiarized article has appeared in print, to possibly notify the readership. These steps may include notification of the employer(s) of the author(s), and if the article has appeared in print, public notification to the readership.