

Multiple, redundant, and concurrent publication: Why are they problematic?

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EDITORIAL

The integrity of scholarly publishing rests on a shared commitment to trust, transparency, and the responsible stewardship of editorial and peer-review resources. Within this system, editors, reviewers, and readers must be assured that every manuscript submitted for consideration is original, is not under review elsewhere, and is accompanied by full disclosure of any related scholarly work. These expectations are not merely administrative requirements; they constitute the ethical infrastructure through which research acquires credibility, becomes part of the scholarly record, and informs academic, institutional, and policy deliberation.

In the current publication cycle, the Mindoro Journal of Social Sciences and Development Studies (MJSSDS) received a substantial number of submissions, including manuscripts that had progressed through editorial screening and peer review before being withdrawn after acceptance by other journals. While withdrawal may arise from legitimate circumstances, such cases also raise concern about undisclosed concurrent submission when the same manuscript is considered by more than one journal at the same time. This practice undermines editorial efficiency, diverts reviewer labor from other manuscripts, delays decisions for authors who observe proper submission protocols, and may create ethical complications when more than one journal asserts publication rights over the same work.

Simultaneous submission occurs when a manuscript is sent to two or more journals at the same time. When this action is not disclosed to the editor, it is termed duplicate submission. Duplicate or redundant publication refers to a paper that contains substantially the same content as an earlier work authored by at least one of the same researchers (Uzun, 2013). Multiple, redundant, and concurrent publication are recognized concerns in publication ethics because they compromise originality, distort the scholarly record, and consume editorial resources intended for legitimate peer review. Guidance from COPE and ICMJE emphasizes that authors should submit a manuscript to one journal at a time and disclose related manuscripts, prior dissemination, translations, preprints, overlapping data, or substantially similar work (Committee on Publication Ethics [COPE], 2024; International Committee of Medical Journal Editors [ICMJE], 2026). Such disclosure enables editors to evaluate the scholarly distinctiveness of a submission and to prevent avoidable duplication, misrepresentation, or distortion of evidence.

MJSSDS therefore affirms that manuscript submission entails an ethical declaration: the work is original, is not under simultaneous consideration elsewhere, and has been submitted with sufficient transparency for editorial judgment. Authors are expected to notify the editorial office promptly of any circumstance that may affect a manuscript's originality, availability, or publication status. When undisclosed concurrent or redundant submission is established, the journal may reject the manuscript, withdraw it from consideration, or refer to the matter for appropriate institutional review. These measures are necessary to preserve procedural fairness, protect the integrity of peer review, and sustain public confidence in the journal's editorial standards.

For a scholarly journal, publication integrity is inseparable from editorial accountability and the credibility of the peer-review process. MJSSDS thus calls on authors, reviewers, editors, and partner institutions to regard publication ethics not as a compliance obligation alone, but as a collective scholarly responsibility essential to protecting the reliability of the academic record and sustaining public confidence in the journal's standards.

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