

Effective: July, 2026
Version 1.0

IJUDA - Plagiarism and Originality Policy

The **International Journal of Underwater Domain Awareness (IJUDA)** is committed to maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity, originality, and ethical publishing. The journal has a zero-tolerance policy towards plagiarism, data fabrication, falsification, duplicate publication, and other forms of research misconduct. All submitted manuscripts are subject to rigorous editorial screening, including plagiarism detection, before being considered for peer review.

Originality of Submitted Work

IJUDA accepts only original manuscripts that have not been previously published, either in whole or in part, and are not simultaneously under consideration by another journal, conference proceeding, or publisher. Authors are responsible for ensuring that their submission represents original scholarly work and that all ideas, data, figures, tables, and text derived from the work of others are appropriately acknowledged through accurate citation and referencing.

Plagiarism Screening

All manuscripts submitted to IJUDA undergo mandatory plagiarism screening using recognised similarity detection software. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying text, ideas, data, images, or results without proper attribution;
- Self-plagiarism or the substantial reuse of an author's previously published work without appropriate citation or justification;
- Mosaic or patchwork plagiarism;
- Improper paraphrasing without acknowledgement; and
- Any other form of misappropriation of intellectual property.

As a general editorial guideline, manuscripts with an overall similarity index exceeding 30% may be rejected without external peer review. Editorial decisions, however, are based not only on the similarity percentage but also on the nature, source, and context of the overlapping material. Legitimate overlap arising from references, standard methodologies, legally reproduced material, or properly cited quotations may be excluded from the assessment at the discretion of the editors.

Prior Publication and Redundant Submission

Submitted manuscripts must not have been published previously in any language or substantially overlap with work already published or under review elsewhere. Authors must disclose any prior dissemination of the work, including publication as:

- a preprint;
- a conference paper or proceedings contribution;
- a thesis or dissertation; • an institutional or technical report; or
- any other publicly accessible format.

Such disclosure enables the Editorial Office to determine whether the submission satisfies the journal's originality requirements. Failure to disclose prior dissemination may constitute publication misconduct. Duplicate submission, duplicate publication, or redundant publication involving substantial overlap with previously published or concurrently submitted work is considered a serious breach of publication ethics and may result in rejection or other editorial action.

Anti-Plagiarism Declaration

Each manuscript must be accompanied by a signed Anti-Plagiarism Declaration Form. By signing this declaration, all authors confirm that:

1. The manuscript is their original work and has not been copied, in whole or in part, from any other source.
2. The manuscript complies with all ethical, editorial, and submission policies of the International Journal of Underwater Domain Awareness (IJUDA).
3. All sources of information, ideas, data, figures, and previously published material have been appropriately acknowledged through accurate citation and referencing.
4. The manuscript has not been submitted simultaneously to another journal or publisher and is not under consideration elsewhere.

Consequences of Academic Misconduct

Where plagiarism, duplicate publication, data fabrication, data falsification, image manipulation, or any other form of academic misconduct is identified before or after publication, IJUDA reserves the right to take appropriate corrective action. Such actions may include:

- Immediate rejection of the manuscript;
- Withdrawal of the manuscript from the editorial process;
- Publication of a correction, expression of concern, or retraction;
- Prohibition of future submissions from the responsible author(s) for a specified period; and
- Notification of the authors' affiliated institutions, funding agencies, or other relevant authorities where appropriate.

All cases of suspected misconduct will be investigated in accordance with internationally accepted principles of publication ethics, ensuring fairness, confidentiality, and due process.

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IJUDA - Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The **International Journal of Underwater Domain Awareness (IJUDA)** recognizes the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in scholarly research and scientific writing. While these technologies can support research, language improvement, and manuscript preparation, their use must be transparent, ethical, and consistent with the principles of academic integrity. Authors remain fully responsible and accountable for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of all content submitted to the journal.

Disclosure of AI Use

Authors must disclose the use of any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, Large Language Models (LLMs), or AI-assisted technologies—including, but not limited to, ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot, Grammarly, or similar applications—if they have been used in the preparation of the manuscript. The disclosure should clearly describe the purpose and extent of AI assistance and should be included in the Methods, Acknowledgements, or another appropriate section of the manuscript.

Routine use of software solely for spelling, grammar, reference management, or formatting does not generally require detailed disclosure unless the software has contributed substantively to the intellectual content of the manuscript.

Authorship and Accountability

Artificial Intelligence tools cannot be listed as authors or co-authors of a manuscript, as they cannot assume responsibility for the accuracy, integrity, originality, or ethical conduct of the research. Authorship is reserved exclusively for individuals who satisfy the journal's authorship criteria and have made substantial intellectual contributions to the work. All named authors are solely responsible for the manuscript's content, including any text, figures, tables, data analyses, code, or other materials that have been generated or assisted by AI technologies.

Integrity of Research Content

The use of AI to fabricate, falsify, manipulate, or misrepresent research data, images, results, references, or scientific interpretations is strictly prohibited. Authors must not use AI-generated content without appropriate verification and critical evaluation. Any undisclosed or deceptive use of AI that compromises the originality, reliability, or integrity of the manuscript may constitute research misconduct and may result in rejection, retraction, or other editorial actions in accordance with the journal's publication ethics policies.

Author Responsibility

Authors are responsible for carefully reviewing, verifying, and editing any AI-assisted content before submission. They must ensure that all information is accurate, properly referenced, free from plagiarism or copyright infringement, and reflects their own scholarly judgment and interpretation. The final manuscript must represent the authors' independent intellectual contribution, and authors retain full responsibility for all statements and conclusions presented in the published work.

Editorial Oversight

The Editorial Office reserves the right to request additional information regarding the use of AI technologies during manuscript preparation and may take appropriate action where AI use is inconsistent with this policy or accepted standards of research integrity.

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IJUDA - Authorship Policy

1. Criteria for Authorship

The International Journal of Underwater Domain Awareness (IJUDA) expects authorship to be based strictly on a substantial intellectual contribution to the published work. To be listed as an author, an individual is generally expected to meet all four of the following criteria:

- Made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study.
- Drafted the manuscript or critically revised it for important intellectual content.
- Provided explicit approval of the final version slated for publication.
- Agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work, ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the research are appropriately investigated and resolved.

2. Non-Author Contributors

Individuals who contributed to the research but do not meet all four criteria for authorship (for example, those who provided strictly technical support, language editing, general mentorship, or funding acquisition) should not be listed as authors. Instead, their contributions should be formally recognized in the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript, with their explicit permission.

3. Post-Submission Authorship Changes

The journal recognizes that collaborative research is dynamic. However, to protect the integrity of the academic record, any changes to the authorship list (including additions, removals, or reordering of authors) made after the initial submission require formal approval.

- The Corresponding Author must submit a written request to the Editorial Office explaining the rationale for the requested change.
- The request must be accompanied by written confirmation (via email or signed letter) from all originally listed authors, as well as any author being added or removed, stating their agreement to the proposed modification.
- The Editor-in-Chief retains the discretion to accept or deny the requested changes. Post-publication changes to authorship are generally not permitted unless a formal Correction (Corrigendum) is deemed necessary by the Editorial Board.

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IJUDA - Corrections & Retractions

IJUDA is committed to maintaining the integrity, accuracy, and historical continuity of the scholarly record. In the event that errors or ethical breaches are identified post-publication, the journal follows the guidelines established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) to issue appropriate amendments.

1. Corrections (Erratum / Corrigendum)

The journal will issue a formal Correction notice if a significant error is discovered that affects the publication record, the scientific accuracy, or the reputation of the authors, but does not invalidate the core findings or conclusions of the paper.

- Examples include major typographical errors in formulas, mislabeled figures, or the omission of a legitimate author.
- The Correction will be published as a standalone document linked directly to the original article, clearly detailing the error and providing the amended text.

2. Retractions

A formal Retraction is considered when the core findings or conclusions of a published article are found to be unreliable or invalid. The Editor-in-Chief may determine that a retraction is necessary under circumstances including, but not limited to:

- Clear evidence of data fabrication, falsification, or severe methodological flaws.
- Substantive plagiarism or redundant publication without proper attribution.
- Severe breaches of ethical research standards (e.g., lack of required ethical approvals).
- When a retraction is issued, the original article remains accessible to preserve the historical record, but the PDF is prominently watermarked as "RETRACTED." A Retraction Notice is published alongside it, explicitly citing the evidentiary basis for the removal.

3. Editorial Expressions of Concern In rare instances where the Editorial Board receives serious allegations of research misconduct but an investigation yields inconclusive results, or if an investigation requires an extended period to complete, the journal may publish an Editorial Expression of Concern. This notice alerts the readership to potential issues with the manuscript while the formal adjudication process is ongoing.

4. Reporting Errors

Authors who discover a significant error in their own published work are expected to promptly notify the Editorial Office to initiate a correction or retraction. Readers who identify potential errors or ethical concerns are encouraged to contact the journal through the official contact portal, providing detailed evidence to support their claims. All such reports are investigated confidentially by the Editorial Board.