

## EASE-Forum Digest: June – September 2018

You can join the forum by sending the one-line message "subscribe ease-forum" (without the quotation marks) to [majordomo@helsinki.fi](mailto:majordomo@helsinki.fi). Send in plain text, not HTML. Details at [www.ease.org.uk/node/589](http://www.ease.org.uk/node/589).

### Can authors claim coauthorship when their data is reanalyzed?

Andrew Davis, an author's editor, was handling a manuscript which reanalyzed data from the supplementary information provided with a published paper. The manuscript cited the source of the data but the authors of the published paper were claiming that they should be added to the new manuscript as coauthors. Both Reme Melero and Duncan Nicholas agreed with Andrew that the authors of the original paper had not made a substantial contribution to the new study. Therefore, they could not qualify as authors under the provisions of the ICMJE guidelines.

The supplementary information had been published under a creative commons licence. Duncan pointed out that the CC-BY 4.0 licence terms (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>) allow full reuse and reanalysis of data, provided the original author is cited. Andrew's manuscript had complied with this provision and was therefore totally in order.

### Can an author's email address be changed after publication?

Can a journal editor change an author's email address once an article is published? Pippa Smart asked this question explaining she had received such a request from an author. The email address although correct at the time of publication had since been suspended. The general consensus of the forum was that although the author's affiliation had strictly to be where the work being reported was carried out, there could be no objection to changing an email address in an electronic publication. Yateen Joshi and Pekka Nygren suggested the new address should be labelled as the "current address." Andrew Davis, however, was of the view that journals should not be asked to act as a mail readdressing service for authors. Authors should take responsibility and arrange forwarding from their previous address to their new one. Institutional IT and the major webmail providers can do this.

### Can publishers request payment for permission to reuse a few lines?

Carol Norris is an author's editor at the University of Helsinki and has worked with students on hundreds of medical PhD theses. Recently, a student had wanted to incorporate some phrases and definitions from two tables in a published review article into one table of a thesis manuscript. Carol helped the student with making a request to the publishers for permission for reuse. The publishers responded by asking a number of questions about the intended use, such as whether it would be in print or digital and the length of usage, indicating they would require payment for the reuse. Carol had expected them to require only a permission line to

appear in the thesis, as was her usual experience.

Pippa believed the amount of text the student wanted to reuse was within the use permitted under the Fair Use guidelines (<https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>) and advised Carol to quote these to the publisher stating that she was informing them out of courtesy. As the publishers were based in the USA, Carol could also quote the interpretation of Article 13 of the WTO Analytical Index TRIPS Agreement, which states that exceptions to exclusive rights (1) be confined to certain special cases, (2) do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work, and (3) do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the right holder ([https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/publications\\_e/ai17\\_e/trips\\_art13\\_jur.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/trips_art13_jur.pdf)).

Andrew Davis provided a list of copyright explanations drawn from numerous sources, including the ICJME guidelines, the Harvard law school guide to copyright for librarians and his 30 years of experience teaching scientific writing. With his kind permission, I have quoted the list in full below:

1. You are reproducing a whole figure or table  
If the source publication owns copyright, then you have to have their full permission. Since copyright is a tradable item, they are within their rights to charge for use of copyright material.
2. You are using, in a table, data from a unpublished source  
You must have the permission of the data owner
3. You are using, in a table or elsewhere, data from a published source  
Data that have been published are not covered by copyright (only the way in which they are presented) and can be used without permission or charge. Since they are not copyrighted, fair use provisions aren't relevant. Use can mean either presentation of individual data items in a new table or the use of such data to calculate new numbers. But of course the source must be cited
4. You are using a sentence or phrase verbatim from a published work in either text or a table - the phrase might contain data (eg In Buena Silva there is a population of over 300.)  
The sentence must be in quotes and the source fully cited
5. You are using a sentence or phrase from a published work but in your own paraphrase  
The sentence should not be in quotes (as no one else said it) but should be fully cited
6. You are using more than just a sentence verbatim  
Should be set off from the main text and source cited
7. You are using more than just a sentence but you are rewriting it in your own words  
Is a normal part of science writing but the source should be cited (eg Human facial expressions resemble those of other animals and fulfill the same purposes (Darwin 1872)).

Andrew added a caveat that he is not a copyright lawyer and copyright lawyers might see things differently.

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