

# ALA Council Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: June 7, 2024

RE: *(select one)*

- ACTION REQUESTED
- INFORMATION
- REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: *(add below)*

## Publishing Committee Accomplishments, January–June 2024

- Voted on awardees of the Carnegie-Whitney grant for 2024:  
<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/publishing/sundry/alapubawrds/carnegieviewhitneypast>
- Continued to oversee the Publication Ethics subcommittee. The group created draft recommendations for ethical guidelines for ALA journal editors. ***See the action requested below.***
- Continued to review and provide feedback about ALA Publishing & Media products (content and marketing).
- Through our committee representative on the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC), learned of ALA technology updates.
- Planned the committee's meeting at ALA Annual.

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to: *(if applicable)*

Per the [Publishing Committee charge](#), by which the committee “recommends policies on publishing for the approval of Council if revision or new policies are needed,” the Publishing Committee requests that ALA Council approve the creation of an ALA journal publication ethics policy (***draft attached***) as association policy, permitting this new policy to be added to the [ALA Policy Manual](#) and [ALA Publishing web page](#), and enabling the association to pursue [membership in COPE](#).

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**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** *(add committee name)*

ALA Publishing Committee

**CONTACT PERSON:** *(add chair information)*

Heather Campbell, chair July 2023–June 2024, [campbe11@iastate.edu](mailto:campbe11@iastate.edu)

Sara Kelly Johns, chair July 2024–June 2025, [skjohns@gmail.com](mailto:skjohns@gmail.com)

**STAFF LIAISON CONTACT:**

George Kendall, Interim Director, ALA Publishing & Media, and Editor & Publisher, *Booklist*, [gkendall@ala.org](mailto:gkendall@ala.org)

Mary Jo Bolduc, ALA Licensing & Permissions Manager, [mbolduc@ala.org](mailto:mbolduc@ala.org)

**BACKGROUND:** *(add information)*

In October 2022 ALA Publishing Committee member Emily Knox shared this article in the committee's ALA Connect discussion group; it calls out ALA journals for their lack of publishing ethics guidelines:

Green, L. S., & Johnston, M. P. (2022). A contextualization of editorial misconduct in the library and information science academic information ecosystem. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 73(7), 913–928.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24593>

Knox requested that the committee consider creating a publishing ethics policy or guidelines that could be reviewed and adopted by all ALA journal editors. The committee discussed the proposal during the 2022–2023 term and agreed to form a subcommittee to draft the guidelines.

In July 2023 the Publishing Committee formed the Publishing Ethics subcommittee. The chair sent an invitation to editors and editorial board members of ALA publishing units, including *C&RL News*, *Children and Libraries*, *College & Research Libraries*, *ITAL*, *Journal of*

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*Intellectual Freedom & Privacy, Knowledge Quest Editorial Board, LRTS, RBM, School Library Research, and YALS.*

The invitation stated the subcommittee's charge as the creation of draft publishing ethics policy, which ALA editors ultimately would implement for their publications. The expected time frame was given as one year.

The following people accepted the invitation to join the subcommittee: Emily Knox, Lynn M. Dixon, Heather Campbell, Sarah Searles, Elizabeth A. Burns, Sharon Verbeten, Jacquie Kociubuk, Megan Thomas, Kristen Totleben, David Free, Richard Saunders, Diane Dias De Fazio, Ken Varnum, Rachel Scott, and Joni Bodart. The Publishing Committee staff liaisons, George Kendall and Mary Jo Bolduc, agreed to support the subcommittee.

The subcommittee first met virtually in September 2023. Members continued to meet periodically and communicate through spring 2024 as they produced a draft of a publishing ethics policy for the association. The draft was based on guidelines developed by the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE).

Once the creation of a journal publication ethics policy for the association is approved by ALA Council, committee and subcommittee members recommend the following actions:

1. Review of the journal publication ethics policy draft by the Policy Monitoring Committee, with the goal of adding the policy to the [ALA Policy Manual](#).
2. Posting of the journal publication ethics policy on the [ALA Publishing web page](#).
3. Association application for [membership in COPE](#).
4. Implementation by ALA journal editors and/or editorial boards of publishing ethics policies for their publications based on the association policy.

The Publishing Committee will support the implementation of the policy by:

1. Developing publishing ethics onboarding for new editors—for example, an agreement letter sent by the ALA Publishing Committee to new editors that outlines the policy and shares COPE resources.
2. Serving as the point of contact for allegations of editorial or authorial misconduct and reviewing, investigating, and recommending action as appropriate in response to allegations of misconduct. The [Publishing Committee charge](#) supports this role: "The committee mediates any conflicting practices, inconsistencies, or irregularities it observes among the units its members represent."
3. Discussing the adaptation or extension of this policy for monograph editors and other ALA publishers of non-peer-reviewed formats.