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Preprints: COPE Discussion Document

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Discussion Document

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VERSION 1: March 2018

PREPRINTS

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

A preprint is a scholarly manuscript posted by the author(s) in an openly accessible platform, usually before or in parallel with the peer review process. While the sharing of manuscripts via preprint platforms has been common in some disciplines (such as physics and mathematics) for many years, uptake in other disciplines traditionally had been low, possibly influenced by differences in research culture and strong opposition by some journal publishers [1]. The landscape has evolved rapidly in other fields in recent years, however, thanks to the launch of additional, discipline-specific preprint platforms and increased support by funders and initiatives such as ASAPBio [2, 3].

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- Ethical questions for consideration:
 - Are preprints publications?
 - Do preprints establish precedence?
 - What happens to the preprint if the work is subsequently published in a journal?
 - Can papers be posted on multiple preprint platforms?
 - What are the license implications of posting on a preprint platform?

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Discussion Document



- Recommendations for journals, publishers, authors, and preprint platforms
- Welcome feedback:
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