

A Question of Interpretation

Question

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Solutions

I generally grant permission to any author requesting permission to quote my work. If a fact is wrong or the concept incorrectly quoted, however, I make suggestions for corrections. If these are declined or ignored, as in the scenario described, I would again contact the authors and ask them to change the item. They are free to use the material but must state "Adapted from . . ." rather than "Reproduced from . . ." After this practical attempt to correct the record, I would probably take no further action, because it's just not collegial to refuse permission, unless the misrepresentation would lead to a scientific error. In that case, I would withdraw permission.

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work enough to understand that the reference they want to use from my work is both appropriate and not misrepresented.

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New Question: A Question of Lead-Author Responsibility

The journal I edit publishes abstracts of the papers to be presented at the annual meeting of the sponsoring organization. Before publication of the abstracts, we received a letter from an individual who claimed exclusion from authorship on a submitted abstract and requested that the abstract (if accepted by the program committee) not be published. On speaking with the claimant, I learned that the disagreement was related to the order of authorship of the disputed abstract, which had led the lead author to leave the claimant off the submission, even though the claimant had been a recognized author up to that point. Does the program committee or journal editor have an obligation to hold publication of the abstract (if accepted)

pending resolution of the authorship question? Should the program committee or journal editor contact the lead author and ask for clarification? If the lead author confirms the above scenario, is there an ethical responsibility for the lead author to include the claimant as an author?

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