

Corrections and retractions

Once an article has been published (either as the Version of Record in the journal issue, or ahead-of-print online before issue selection), it may not be changed.

The Version of Record is assumed to be the final version, and the one that is used as a trusted resource. If this is edited and changed then it will undermine the integrity of the record of knowledge – who will know which version was used for subsequent research? For this reason it is important that the Version of Record is not changed, and that any updates and corrections are clearly indicated.

- If an error is discovered then an erratum will be issued. Small errors that do not affect the understanding of the article (e.g. minor typographical errors) will not be corrected.
- If the error is so large that an erratum is not sufficient then the article will be retracted.
- If additional information is to be added to the article then this will be treated as a new article.

Notification of errors and issue of notice

Authors, readers, the publisher or the editors may discover and report errors. Authors will at all times be informed and the problem discussed with them. The final decision to issue an erratum or retraction lies with the publisher (after discussion with the editor). The wording of any errata or retraction notice will be submitted to the authors for their agreement. Note that if there is disagreement over the wording then the publisher has the final authority to make the decision.

Investigation

Sometimes the errors are not simple and an investigation needs to be undertaken by the publisher and the editor. (For example if an accusation of fabricated data has been made.) Authors and the person who has reported the problem will at all times be kept informed.

Errata and retraction notices

These will be published as a new article with the following titles:

- Errata: Title of the original article
- Retraction: Title of the original article

Authors will be informed before these are published.

The original article (Version of Record)

This may not be changed, but it will be flagged to indicate that an erratum has been issued or that it has been retracted.

An article may be removed from the journal site if there is likelihood of legal implications.

Author details

The author details (name, affiliation) should be those at the time the article was written and first submitted for consideration in the journal. If an author moves institution after publication, no correction will be made and no erratum issued.

Retractions

An article will only be retracted in extreme circumstances. These include:

- Plagiarism of another work
- Fabricated data
- Unethical research

If authors are found guilty of these behaviours then their institution will be informed.

Articles may also be retracted if the authors discover an honest – but irreparable – mistake within the article.