The Role of the Business Librarian in Data Ethics: Serving and Preserving Individual Academic and Institutional Reputations and Scholarly Integrity

Chelsea Jacobs, West Virginia University Libraries
November 10, 2022
Prevalence of publicly available retractions & examples of high-profile cases which have received public scrutiny...

- “The persistence of error: a study of retracted articles on the Internet and in personal libraries.” Journal of the Medical Library Association

- Most people associate retractions with life science scholarship, but it is also prevalent in business literature.

- Bentley University, Waltham, Massachusetts
- Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Why would scholarly research be retracted?

- Fabrication
- Forgery
- Misrepresentation
- and/or Plagiarism

5, 6
Authors, Editors, and Referees are all capable of engaging in conduct that has the potential to compromise the integrity of data or research.
Authors:

- Fabricating data
- Forging documents or objects
- Misrepresenting or deliberating distorting real data
- Plagiarizing or violating copyrights
- Omitting an author or including a noncontributing author\(^8\)
Editors:

• Forging or fabricating peer review report
• Misrepresenting the status of the review process to the author
• Plagiarism or copyright violation involving manuscripts under review\(^9\)
Referees:

- Misrepresenting facts or being dishonest in a review
- Delaying a review for a purpose unrelated to quality, or the review process itself
- Plagiarism or copyright violation involving manuscripts under review\(^\text{10}\)
“Separate mistakes from misconduct”\textsuperscript{11}
How does the research community address misconduct or mistakes?

- Correction,
- Expression of Concern,
- or Retraction$^{12}$
Retraction Watch$^{13}$
Why do we care about this?

- “In the midst of great prosperity and the boom of the 1990s, there has been a [certain] erosion of professional, managerial, and ethical standards and safeguards.”
  
  Paul Volcker, former chair, Federal Reserve Bank

- “All good decisions are Data dependent. To make good decisions, you need good data. And you need that good data to be organized according to its applicable use value. So, every business should be mining data and organizing data to enable business leaders to make good decisions on behalf of the business.”

  Hendrith Vanlon Smith Jr, CEO, Mayflower-Plymouth
Whose responsibility is this?

- Scholar
- Institution
- Publisher
- Funder (Government)
- The Role of the Business Librarian...
Sources