

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CONSUMER STUDIES

Editorial Policies and Practices (revised 2011)

The ***INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CONSUMER STUDIES (IJCS)*** is published for academics, policy makers and lay people around the world who are interested in consumer affairs. It is published six times a year and publishes original articles of the highest quality.

Purpose of Board: The Editor invites a number of academic and policy specialists to become members of the Editorial Board. The functions of the Editorial Board are:

- to consider editorial policies and practices at least once a year
- to encourage the submission of original papers to the Journal
- to assist in identifying specialist referees
- to promote the Journal
- to guide the progress and direction of the Journal.

A listing of all Board members can be found in each issue of the IJCS. Editorial Board members are appointed for a renewable period of 3 years.

Journal scope: The *International Journal of Consumer Studies* provides an international forum for academic and research papers about consumer affairs. It publishes studies of interest to an international audience and at the leading edge of consumer research throughout the world. The scope of the journal includes:

- *consumer sciences and their application*
- *consumer policy*
- *consumer education*

Topics covered by the Journal include:

- *consumer protection:* empowerment and entitlement, safety, standards, economic security;
- *consumer behaviour:* goods and services, business and marketing practices, retailing all from a consumer perspective;
- *the consumer ecosystem:* globalisation, sustainability, technology, ethical consumption, gender issues and citizenship;
- *family and household studies:* quality of life, food and nutrition, textiles and clothing, shelter, health and well being.

Criteria for acceptance: The journal publishes articles that scholars and researchers will want to read and cite because they contain information in the form of theoretical statements, models of phenomena, and empirical findings that are valuable and relevant. Theories should be justified, models should be tested and empirical findings should be put into a relevant consumer context. Manuscripts should be well written, academically rigorous, and be relevant to the scope of the journal and its broadly based international readership.

Special Issues: At least one issue each year will be a Special Issue It will be edited by a Guest Editor, following guidelines prepared by the editor.

Guidelines for submission: Manuscripts must be in clear, concise, readable English. Authors for whom English is a second language must have their manuscript professionally edited by an English speaking person before submission to make sure the English is of high quality. It is preferred that manuscripts are professionally edited. A list of independent suppliers of editing services can be found at http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/english_language.asp . All services are paid for and arranged by the author and use of one of these services does not guarantee acceptance or preference for publication.

Manuscripts must be submitted online through Manuscript Central <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com.ijc>. The format of papers should follow that indicated in the "Notice to Contributors" inside the back cover of the Journal and on the website - wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/ijcs. Articles will normally not exceed 5,000 words.

All articles should report original research that has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere in any form other than as a simple abstract of 400 words or less. Papers presented at conferences are accepted provided that they have not been published in full in Conference Proceedings. All authors will see and approve a 'pre-final' version of the manuscript.

Authors are encouraged to cite references from articles previously published in the International Journal of Consumer Studies.

Prior publication: The IJCS considers the following to represent "prior publication": any printed material describing the findings, methods, or results of a submitted/in press manuscript in excess of 400 words; any published tables or illustrations that in any way duplicate the content of a manuscript; any posters, leaflets and video-tapes shown other than at an academic conference; electronic manuscripts or posters available to the public via the Internet.

Review process: The Editor assesses each manuscript within 10 days of receipt and acknowledges receipt of the article. Papers deemed to be of very poor quality or inappropriate for the IJCS may be rejected outright after initial review by the Editor.

The Editor relies on referees to advise on the originality, content, relevance, quality, potential interest and likely impact of an article. All manuscripts are subjected to peer review by at least two expert referees, selected by the Editor from a panel of referees. They are asked to review the manuscript within 28 days of receiving it.

The Editor will decide, based on her independent opinion and the report of the referees, whether the paper is suitable for publication, is capable of acceptance after revision, or should be rejected. The final decision remains with the Editor. Authors will be informed by the Editor about

the basic reasons for the positive or negative decision or the requirement to revise the manuscript. Appropriate comments from reviewers and editors will be appended.

Revisions and rejections: Occasionally, manuscripts may be accepted with no or minor changes. Others are returned for revision before being accepted. Some are rejected. A decision to reject is final. Authors of rejected manuscripts may be invited to resubmit if they can address the major criticisms by revision and/or additional research. Such manuscripts will be treated as a new submission.

Time from submission to decision and publication: The Editorial Office strives to minimise the time from submission to first decision. This time varies widely between individual manuscripts. The minimum time between initial submission and publication is 6 months, although it is more usual for this to take longer. The Editor seeks to keep authors informed of the likely timescale.

Once a paper is accepted, every effort is made to publish it as soon as possible. The *IJCS* uses *Early View* which provides for online article publication, prior to the article being allocated to an issue.

Reviewer anonymity: Except in very unusual circumstances, the identity of the authors and the reviewers involved is kept confidential. Although cogent arguments for an "open" review process can be made, the Board believes that the anonymous review process has merits that justify its continuation. The same is true of subsequent interactions between the authors and the Editor. Since the *IJCS* is a written medium, such interactions will be carried out in writing. Questions concerning manuscript status are usually handled by e-mail.

"Pre-approval" of papers: Authors may contact the Editor to determine whether a particular topic is likely to fit into the remit of the *IJCS*. However, the *IJCS* does not provide advance determinations as to the priority to be given to a particular manuscript, because this usually requires opinions through peer review.

Legal status of submitted manuscripts: All manuscripts are deemed to be the property of the submitting author(s) until such time as a decision is made and the authors officially assign or transfer the copyright to Wiley-Blackwell Ltd

Embargo policy: The Board recognises the legitimate desire of some authors to obtain publicity for their work published in the pages of the *IJCS*. The *IJCS* also stands to benefit from such publicity if it is tasteful, accurate, and occurs at the appropriate time. However, even if a manuscript has passed the peer review process and is considered "in press", public release of information should not precede the actual publication of the work (currently defined as the date the first copy is mailed from our publisher or the date of full publication on the Internet). These

restrictions do not apply to the presentation of the work at conferences that precede the actual publication date, including abstracts with less than 400 words. However, the authors should not provide information, tables, or illustrations that in any way duplicate the content of the manuscript to reporters.

Inclusiveness: The Editorial Board is seeking to expand its coverage of research from developing world researchers and endeavours to provide a peer mentoring scheme to ensure that such articles reach the requisite standard of academic rigour, are 'leading edge' and are of interest to an international audience.

Academic integrity: Duplicate publication and outright fraud are rare events that nevertheless have a very serious impact on the integrity of the research community. If the Editor uncovers possible evidence of such problems, she will first contact the corresponding author in complete confidence, to allow adequate clarification of the situation. If the results of such interactions are not satisfactory, the Editor will contact the appropriate official(s) in the institution(s) from which the manuscript originated. It will then be up to the institution in question to pursue the matter appropriately. Depending upon the circumstances, the IJCS may also opt to publish errata, corrigenda, or retractions.

Invitation to comment on policy and procedure: The peer review process is designed to promote scientific integrity in a fair and equitable way. The IJCS is committed to promoting the quality and fairness of this process in every way possible, as well as enhancing its speed and efficiency. The Board remains open to suggestions on ways to improve this process and to sustain the Journal's excellence.

Katherine Hughes, Editor / Revised September 2011