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Corrections, Retractions & Appeals Policy

How AJATE maintains the integrity of the published record, and how authors can appeal or complain

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AJATE treats each published article as a permanent version of record. Once published, an article is not silently changed or removed. Any change is made transparently through one of the notices below, following COPE's Retraction Guidelines. Every notice is published online, linked to the original article, and freely available.

1. Types of Post-publication Notice

Notice	When it is used	What happens to the article
Correction (Erratum / Corrigendum)	An honest error that affects the scholarly record but not the overall findings, e.g. a wrong figure in a table, an omitted author or a missing funding statement. An *erratum* corrects a publisher error; a *corrigendum* corrects an author error.	A corrected version is published, with a dated note explaining the change, and the correction notice is linked to the article.
Expression of Concern	Serious concerns are raised, but an investigation is ongoing or inconclusive.	The article stays online with a prominent notice. The notice is later updated or replaced by a retraction or correction.
Retraction	The findings are unreliable (because of major error, fabrication or falsification), or there is plagiarism, duplicate publication, unethical research, review manipulation, or serious undisclosed conflicts of interest.	The article remains online but is clearly watermarked "RETRACTED", with a notice stating the reason and who requested the retraction.
Removal	Only in exceptional legal cases (e.g. defamation, court order, or serious risk to a person's privacy or safety).	Content is removed; the metadata and a notice explaining the removal remain.

Minor changes

Spelling or formatting errors that do not affect meaning or metadata may be corrected within 7 days of online publication without a formal notice. Changes after that point require a correction notice.

2. Duplicate Publication

Where the same article has been published more than once, whether in AJATE and another journal or in two AJATE issues, AJATE will:

1. identify the first (original) publication;
2. retract the later version with a notice that cites the original, stating the reason ("duplicate publication") and whether the duplication was caused by the authors or by the journal;
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4. where the duplication resulted from an editorial or production error, state this clearly so that the authors are not unfairly blamed.

3. Requesting a Correction

Authors who find an error in their published article should email the Editor-in-Chief at editor@ajate.org with the AJATE article number, a description of the error and the proposed correction. Requests from readers are also welcome. Changes to authorship require written agreement from **all** authors.

4. Appeals Against Editorial Decisions

Authors who believe a decision was based on a factual error or a misunderstanding may appeal **once**, within **30 days** of the decision.

1. Send a written appeal to the Editor-in-Chief, explaining point by point why the decision should be reconsidered, with supporting evidence. Disagreement with a reviewer's opinion alone is not grounds for appeal.
2. The appeal is assessed by an editor who was not involved in the original decision. A new reviewer may be consulted.
3. The outcome (decision upheld, or manuscript reconsidered) is communicated within 4 weeks. **The decision on the appeal is final.**

The manuscript may not be submitted elsewhere while the appeal is under consideration.

5. Complaints

Complaints about the journal's processes, delays, conduct of editors or reviewers, or fees should be sent to editor@ajate.org (editorial matters) or business@ajate.org (financial matters). AJATE will acknowledge complaints within 5 working days and aim to resolve them within 30 days. Complaints about the Editor-in-Chief should be addressed to the Head of Department, Department of Economics,

University of Port Harcourt. If a complainant is not satisfied, they may refer the matter to COPE (https://publicationethics.org) once AJATE is a member.