

Research Credibility and Administration Directive for the Member Organizations of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP

The **Research Credibility and Administration Directive** (hereinafter referred to as **RCAD**) is only effective and binding upon the member-organizations of **Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP** (formerly AbhiGlobal Legal Research & Media LLP) and does not extend to any independent publication supported by the organization.

Chapter 1 – The Basics

Article 1

Scope and Enforcement

The directive is strictly applicable to the following member-organizations of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP:

- Indian Society of Artificial Intelligence & Law Charitable Trust
- Global Law Assembly

The directive does not at all apply to any supported independent journal or magazine (online and offline) and any publishing platform. Thus, the directive is not applicable to the following:

- Indian Journal of Artificial Intelligence & Law [e-ISSN: 2582-6999] (Independent Publication)
- Indic Journal of International Law [e-ISSN: 2582-8398] (Independent Publication)
- The Indian Learning [e-ISSN: 2582-5631] (Independent Publication)
- Internationalism.in & Internationalism Global Podcasts
- IndicJIL Talk

The directive shall also not be applicable to any future online blog platforms and publication platforms conceived and made into existence by any member-organization.

Article 2

Specificity in Matters Related to Enforcement

The member-organizations on whom the RCAD is strictly applicable as per Article 1 have limited autonomy to reserve the following matters with respect to research credibility and enforcement, and the directive does not apply on such matters:

- Research Areas and Issues Selection & Adoption
- Research Trend Estimation
- Empirical Research (only matters related to democratization and implementation)
- Educational Activities
- Training Programmes
- Virtual Experience Programmes

The Directive does not at all affect the matters related to consultancy, legal work and internal research within Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP, even when the Research Team of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP is subjected to any administration of any research initiative affirmed by the Managing Partner or the Head of Research. Nor does the Directive in any way reflect the intentions of the members and partners of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP.

Chapter 2 – Research Administration

Article 3

Hierarchies in Research Administration

Within the institutional structure of the member-organizations as per the Article 1 of RCAD, the following system of hierarchies shall be followed for the purposes of appointment in line with Guidelines on the Positions of Responsibility and Resignation of the member-organizations and of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP. The hierarchies have been explained in the table as expressed below:

Title and Position	Eligibility
Administrative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Head of Research Division/Chief Research Officer ● Research Coordinator ● Programme Coordinator (if considered necessary) 	Discretionary Discretionary Discretionary Discretionary
Academic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senior/Distinguished Fellow ● Junior Fellow ● Research Specialist ● Senior Research Associate ● Junior Research Associate ● Contributing Researcher 	10-year research experience + PhD 5-year research experience + PhD 5-year research experience 3-5 years' research experience 2-3 years' research experience 6 months - 2 years research experience

Interns and externs are not considered as the members of the organizations. The Principal Researchers have ultimate discretion over the research teams of the member-organizations, and the same cannot be overridden unless the override is permitted by the Managing Partner of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or legal head of the member-organization.

Article 4

Remuneration and Compensation

Matters related to remuneration and compensation are not covered by this Directive and shall be subject to the following:

- The Non-Disclosure Agreements signed for the respective member organization(s);
- Discretion of the Secretariat for the respective member organization(s);
- The Nature and Specificities related to any specific activity involved and not any task done in an ordinary course of nature with the respective member organization(s), in due consultation with the representatives of the respective member organization(s);

The member-organizations specified under Article 1 are empowered to design their directives or guidelines on remuneration and compensation accordingly.

This article does not apply to any activity associated with Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP.

Article 5

Internship Structure

Only research-centric internships can be granted by the member-organizations, without any remuneration of stipend involved in the legal domain. The nature of research issues and areas are decided by the Research Team and the concerned superiors of the member-organizations. However, every internship programme must confer the following steps:

- The internship applicants must apply for the research internship and the member-organization must make a call for interns howsoever through legal means;
- Once the applicants are shortlisted after a process of selection, which is completely up to the concerned superiors of the member-organizations, the applicants must be asked to submit their writing samples based on the key research issues of the member-organization and must attend a virtual interview for further scrutiny;
- Once the applicants are recruited as interns, a proper notification has to be given to them within 1 day or so. Changing dates of internship is permissible, provided that the period shall not be beyond or less than 29 or 30 or 31 days in general;
- The Guidelines on Internship Regulation must be adhered at all costs;
- Every intern has to opt or asked to opt a research issue within a research area relevant to the research interests of the member-organization. The intern has to then work on a discussion paper, which must be an original work of the intern, which has to be submitted to the concerned superior(s) by the last

- day of the internship programme;
- In the duration of internship, the following assignments can only be granted to the interns:
 - **Analytical report: less than 10,000 words** approx. word limit from a qualitative point of view but not less than 6,000 words approx. from a qualitative point of view
 - **Policy brief: 4,000-6,000 words** approx. from a qualitative point of view
 - **Case Studies as exceptions**
 - The time period of each of the assignments is mentioned as follows:
 - **Analytical report: 1-3 weeks** (subject to the concerned superior of the member-organization(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of Research/Chief Research Officer of the member-organization(s))
 - **Policy brief: 5 days or 1 week** (subject to the concerned superior of the member-organization(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of Research/Chief Research Officer of the member-organization(s))
 - **Any report, discussion paper or any case study or any other research work submitted to the member-organizations are the properties of the member-organizations, with the authorship rights vested in the concerned authors of the work and the publication rights vested in the member-organizations;**
 - A certificate of internship completion has to be submitted to the intern only and only when the literature review, the discussion paper and all the assignments have been submitted by the intern. Special exceptions can only be granted by the legal heads of the respective member-organization and the Managing Partner or the Principal Researchers, Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP;

Article 6

Research Assignment Allocation

The concerned superior or the Principal Researcher, Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP is empowered to allocate research assignments to the members of the Research Team of the member-organizations respectively as the person deems fit.

- The following assignments can only be granted to the members of the Research Team:
 - **Technical report: up to 15,000 words** approx. word limit from a qualitative point of view
 - **Analytical report: less than 10,000 words** approx. word limit from a qualitative point of view but not less than 6,000 words approx. from a qualitative point of view
 - **Policy brief: 4,000-6,000 words** approx. from a qualitative point of view
 - **Case Studies as exceptions**
- The time period of each of the assignments is mentioned as follows:
 - **Technical report: 6-10 weeks** (subject to the concerned superior of the member-organization(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of Research/Chief Research Officer of the member-organization(s))
 - **Analytical report: 1-3 weeks** (subject to the concerned superior of the member-organization(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of Research/Chief Research Officer of the member-organization(s))
 - **Policy brief: 5 days or 1 week** (subject to the concerned superior of the member-organization(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of Research/Chief Research Officer of the member-organization(s))
- **Any report, discussion paper or any case study or any other research work submitted to the member-organizations are the properties of the member-organizations, with the authorship rights vested in the concerned authors of the work and the publication rights vested in the member-organizations;**
- A letter of recommendation can be, irrespective of the merits of the concerned member of the research team of the member-organization, can be granted to the member only and only with respect to the Technical Reports on which the concerned member has worked on. Special exceptions can only be granted by the legal heads of the respective member-organization and the Managing Partner or the Principal Researchers, Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP;
- The article does not override the Guidelines on the Positions of Responsibility and Resignation;

Article 7

Representation of any works submitted

The member-organizations are naturally empowered to disseminate, reproduce, represent, feature and publish any work submitted to them at their discretion any time. However, it is recommended the concerned superiors intimate the concerned members who are the authors of the work with respect to matters related to Article 7.

Chapter 3 – Research Credibility

Article 8

Matters of Reservation

Research Credibility will be a matter reserved for the member-organizations and their concerned research teams when following questions arise:

- Expertise of research areas or proficiency in the subject-matter research area and issues
- The epistemological, metaphysical and topological aspects related to the research area and issues
- Division of allotment of any task, whose substantive basis lies in the nature of the research issue under address by the concerned research members
- Research Writing Guidelines, for educational purposes

Article 9

Intellectual Contributions

If any dispute with respect to the intellectual contributions of the concerned author(s) arises, then the Principal Researchers or the Research Team of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP can act, at the consent of the member-organization subjected to the concerned author(s), decide the procedural and substantive viability of the ownership and rights of the intellectual contributions of the research members and interns.

- The term dispute applies to:
 - a. Conflict of interest over ownership, distribution and procurement of any idea, manuscript or draft material of reference used in an internship programme, a project or for a publication;
 - b. Matter related to the theft, undue appropriation or misuse of any idea, manuscript or draft material of reference used in an internship programme, a project or for a publication;
 - c. Notwithstanding the definitions, but not in conflict with the guidelines mentioned in the **Annex 1 of the RCAD** and the Research Writing Guidelines of the member-organizations, the term can be interpreted only by the Principal Researchers or the Research Team of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP with absolute and exclusive discretion;

Article 10

Definitive Aspects of Research Credibility

Annex 2 of the RCAD will be the sole authoritative source to interpret and acknowledge binding guidelines on Research Credibility. With proper notification, only the Partners of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP are empowered to amend the Annex.

Article 11

Amendment of the Directive

The amendment of the provisions of the Directive and the Annexes is possible only when a resolution is approved by the Partners of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP declares the intent to amend. Once the resolution is approved, the amendment is considered valid, and an amended version of the Directive has to be published and submitted to the member-organizations subject to Article 1.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Guidelines to be Adhered by the Member-Organizations

The annex has no applicability on any work handled by Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP, nor it reflects the position of the organization in any way.

The following guidelines are to be suggestively adhered by the Member-Organizations:

- Guidance from Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

- Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) GUIDELINES ON GOOD PUBLICATION PRACTICE
- Guidance Document: Good Academic Research Practices (GARP) by University Grants Commission, Government of India
- UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018

The guidelines above however will have special value once any dispute under Article 7 will be raised.

Annex 2 – Parameters of Research Credibility

The guidelines have binding value. However, they must be adhered with a pragmatic approach considering that any new legal propositions might not be detectable in the process of peer-review.

Reviewing Guidelines

Reviewers could judge any manuscript on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Format of the Article:** Any major divergence from the standard manuscript format should be indicated.
- **Technical Presentation:** The research work should be technically presented instead of being presented as a story. Mere repetition of past work should not be accepted. You can look for conceptual advancement over previously published work. Any major omission of the previously published findings on the similar problem must be checked.
- **Interpretation:** The discussion should hover around the result and should not include irrelevant and unachievable statement.
- **Summary:** Pinpoint the strength and weakness of the article considering the potential importance of the work in the context of present and future.
- **Conclusion:** At the end reviewer(s) can recommend necessary corrections needed to accept the work, if they are actually required, else recommend it for publication. If found unsuitable the work should be declared as unacceptable for publication.

Special and Suggestive Tips

- a. Kindly use Grammarly for grammar-checking, provide comments and track changes using Google Drive or Microsoft Word. Provide a PDF version of the file along with the DOC version of the file to the author for the purpose of review.
- b. Provide comments which are lucid, understandable and reasonable.

Similarity Check

The guidelines on similarity check are inviolable.

- Any manuscript which surpasses the range of 9-15% similarity is not eligible for publication. The reviewers can opt a policy to share the similarity check report with the author(s) to rectify their similarity issues.
- Similarity essentially is not equivalent to academic plagiarism.

Plagiarism (Academic)

Plagiarism is defined as ‘submitting as one’s own work, irrespective of intent to deceive, that which derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others without due acknowledgement. It is both poor scholarship and a breach of academic integrity. Examples of plagiarism include:

- copying (using another person’s language and/or ideas as if they are one’s own), by:
- quoting verbatim another person’s work without due acknowledgement of the source;
- paraphrasing another person’s work by changing some of the words, or the order of the words, without due acknowledgement of the source;
- using ideas taken from someone else without reference to the originator;
- cutting and pasting from the Internet to make a pastiche of online sources;
- submitting someone else’s work as part of one’s own without identifying clearly who did the work.

For example, not attributing research contributed by others to a joint project. Plagiarism might also arise from colluding with another person who has not been declared or acknowledged (i.e. where collaboration

is concealed or has been forbidden).

Work should include a general acknowledgement where it has received substantial help, for example with the language and style of a piece of written work.

Plagiarism can occur in respect to all types of sources and media, including:

- text, illustrations, musical quotations, mathematical derivations, computer code, etc.;
- material downloaded from websites or drawn from manuscripts or other media;
- published and unpublished material, including lectures, presentations and grey literature.

We do not tolerate plagiarism in any of our publications, and we reserve the right to check all submissions through appropriate plagiarism checking tools. Submissions containing suspected plagiarism, in whole or part, will be rejected. exert an undue influence on the presentation, review and publication of a piece of work. These may be financial, non-financial, professional, contractual or personal in nature.

We also expect that anyone who suspects undisclosed conflict of interest regarding a work published or under consideration by the member-organizations.

Duplicate and Redundant Publication

Duplicate or redundant publication, or ‘self-plagiarism’, occurs when work, or substantial parts of a work, is published more than once by the author(s) of the work. This can be in the same or a different language. The redundant publication can occur when there is substantial overlap between two or more publications without appropriate cross-referencing or justification for the overlap.

We do not support duplicate or redundant publication, unless:

- it is felt that editorially this will strengthen the academic discourse, and
- we have clear approval from the original publication, and
- we include citation of the original source. We expect our readers, reviewers and authors to raise any suspicions of duplicate or redundant publication, either by contacting the relevant reviewers or by email to the concerned reviewers.

Libel, Defamation and Freedom of Expression

Freedom of expression is critical to us in publishing, but we do not support publishing false statements that harm the reputation of individuals, groups, or organisations. Our legal team can advise on pre-publication libel reviews, and will also address allegations of libel in any of our publications.

Transparency

We strive to follow COPE’s Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing and encourage our publishing partners to uphold these same principles.

PR/Media

We recommend Academic colleagues who are involved in media or publicity familiarise themselves with and follow the International Public Relations Association’s Code of Conduct, and observe these standards in any press releases or other media communications. Where we solicit or encourage media activities concerning one of our authors, editors or publishing partners, we strive to keep them informed.

How Research Integrity Really Works

We will follow the principles of research integrity, i.e.,

- honesty in all aspects of research;
- scrupulous care, thoroughness and excellence in research practice;
- transparency and open communication;
- care and respect for all participants in and subjects of research. In addition to the general principles above, we expect our journal and book editorial teams to provide specific guidelines and policies for authors on research integrity and ethics appropriate to their subject matter and discipline.

We are committed to research independence and strive in all cases to prevent this principle from being compromised through conflicts of interest, fear, or any other corporate or political influence. Our review processes reflect this commitment to research independence.

Where no other criteria are specified, authorship should be based on the below principles. These should apply to all fields of research:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and
 2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
 3. Final approval of the version to be published; and
 4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
- Our default position is that the corresponding author has the authority to act on behalf of all co-authors, and we expect the corresponding author to confirm this at the beginning of the publication process.