



We hope that this newsletter finds you well despite the circumstances. We realize the pandemic has been disruptive for many people across the globe and sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well. Through this newsletter we would like to inform you about some new options that were implemented in Editorial Manager over the past year. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to [contact us](#).

Conflict of Interest Statement

We have added a question to the submission process asking the author whether there may potentially be a conflict of interest with their submission, and if so, to provide more details as to the nature of this conflict, and what they have done to avoid this conflict (the second question is only shown if the author answers the first question with 'Yes'):

Is there a potential conflict of interest related to your submission?

Answer Required: Please select a response
 Yes
 No

Please clarify what the conflict of interest may be and what actions you have taken to avoid the conflict. Also, please confirm that you have included relevant information about this in your manuscript.

Answer Required: Character Count: 236
Research sponsored by industry that is reviewed in this article. They had no insight into or power over the actual research so our research and conclusions were made fully independently. Note to
Limit 20000 characters

On the editor's side you can view the question and author's response by clicking on the [Details](#) action link and scrolling all the way down to the 'Additional Information' section:

Questionnaire Responses

Please confirm that this manuscript has been checked by a qualified native speaker (Prerequisite) (Yes/No).
No

Have you anonymized your submission (Yes/No)?
No

Does your article contain non-Roman scripts (e.g., Greek, Hebrew) or diacritics? If so, please also submit a pdf file in which all non-Roman characters are displayed correctly.
No

Have you ensured that this article conforms to the journal style guide and instructions (Yes/No)?
No

Is there a potential conflict of interest related to your submission?
Yes
Please clarify what the conflict of interest may be and what actions you have taken to avoid the conflict. Also, please confirm that you have included relevant information about this in your manuscript.
Research was sponsored by industry that is reviewed in this article. They had no insight into or power over the actual research so our research and conclusions were made fully independently. Note to this effect included in the ms as well.

Author(s) Invited to Submit Commentary
No Authors have been invited to this manuscript.

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In addition, the [Ethical and Legal Conditions](#) that the authors need to agree with upon submission have been updated as well.

If you need any further advice on how to handle potential ethical issues, please review our [Publication Ethics page](#). You can also contact your journal's Acquisitions Editor or publicationethics@brill.com with any questions.

iThenticate Similarity Check (Plagiarism Checking)

For a number of our journals, we have activated a plagiarism checking tool called 'iThenticate Similarity Check'. If active for your journal, you will find that for *newly submitted* papers you now have a [Similarity Check/iThenticate Results](#) action link through which you can access the report. Full details as to how this feature works in EM can be found in the [Editor's Manual](#), section 3.1.1.3. For more guidance as to how to interpret the report, please contact

the Acquisitions Editor for your journal, and review the substantial iThenticate guidance available online and via [CrossRef](#). If the feature is not yet active for your journal, but you would like to have this switched on, please contact your Acquisitions Editor.

Institutional Open Access Agreements & EM

Brill has made several “transformative agreements” that allow corresponding authors affiliated with participating institutions to publish their research or review articles in Open Access free of charge. For more information as to which agreements are currently in place, [please check this page](#). Authors are directed to this page during the submission process. If they qualify for the free Open Access publication, they can indicate this so that Brill can easily process this during the publication phase.

Kudos

Earlier this year, for quite a few of our journals, we switched on [Kudos](#), whereby authors can submit a Plain Language Summary for their paper during submission. If provided, this summary will be automatically forwarded to Kudos as soon as the accepted manuscript is sent through to Brill by setting the final disposition to ‘Accept’. This makes it easier for the author to promote and track their published paper via Kudos.

Please note that if you are not routinely setting the final disposition to ‘Accept’ for accepted articles (i.e. sending them through to Brill for typesetting *via EM*), this feature will likely not have been switched on for your journal and other crucial connections to other systems will not work either. For example, the connection to Rightslink, which is used to process invoices for articles where the author indicated in EM that they would like to publish in Open Access does not work and can result in complications and unnecessary delays.

Updated Editor’s FAQ

We have recently revised and greatly expanded the [Editor’s FAQ](#). While the [Editor’s Manual](#) shows how individual steps in EM work (e.g., taking a decision, or inviting reviewers), the FAQ approaches the system via common questions asked and answered (e.g., how does final acceptance work in EM?). It refers to the Manual for specific details as to how to take the related steps in EM. We hope you find this a useful resource. You can access the Editor’s FAQ and Editor’s Manual via the direct links above, but also via the [EM Support page on brill.com](#). The Editor’s Manual can also be accessed via the direct link to the right of the login box on your EM login page.

EM Support Team

As you know, you are more than welcome to send any queries you have related to EM to EM@brill.com. This mailbox is monitored by the Brill EM Support Team, which currently consists of Brenda Kaldenbach, Wendel van der Sluis, Kayla Griffin, Dick Kraaij, Daniëlle de Roo and Marjon Jekel. Brenda will be retiring from the EM Support team at the end of this year and will be greatly missed. She has been a valued part of the team for a very long time and has helped tremendously with all things EM.

Contact us

For any questions or comments related to EM, please contact us at EM@brill.com. To avoid unnecessary delays, please include the journal title or acronym in your email for easy reference.

Requests for changes in the configuration of your EM site can only be implemented if approved by the main decision-taking editor (usually this is the Editor-in-Chief). In case of multiple Editors-in-Chief, your co-editors need to agree with the changes requested. Requests for the addition or removal of editors (other than Guest Editors) in your Editorial Manager site should be sent to the journal’s Acquisitions Editor. EM Support will not be able to process these without prior approval from publishing.