

RISING VOLUME, RISING RISK

HOW SURGING OUTPUTS ARE STRAINING RESEARCH INTEGRITY

frontiers

IGI Global
Scientific Publishing
Publishing Tomorrow's Research Today

Introduction



Priyanka Chandi

Research Integrity Manager

Frontiers



Danielle Rayner

Research Integrity Manager

Emerald Group Publishing



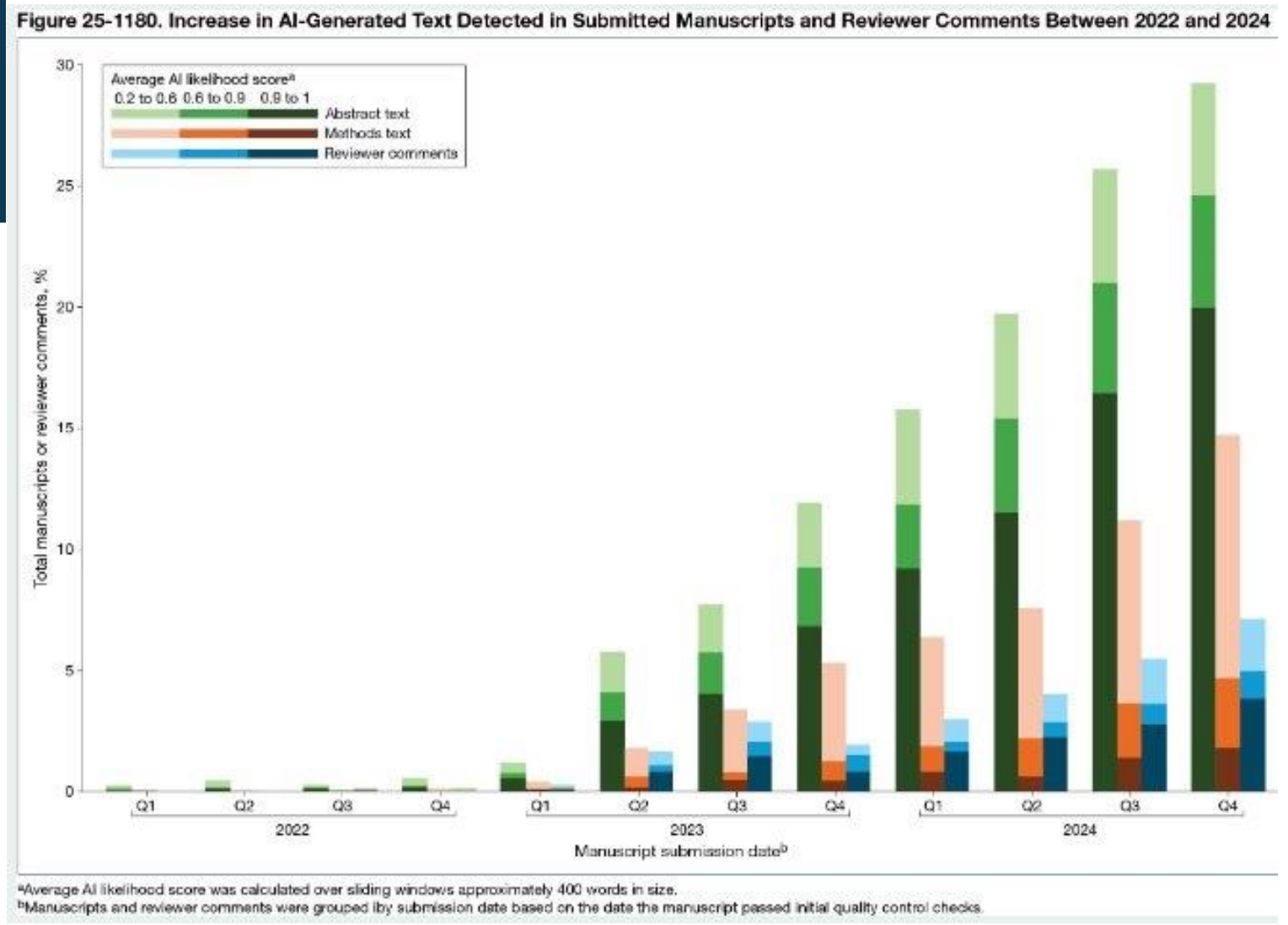
Melissa Wagner

VP of Publishing Ethics & Research Integrity

IGI Global Scientific Publishing

Rising Risks

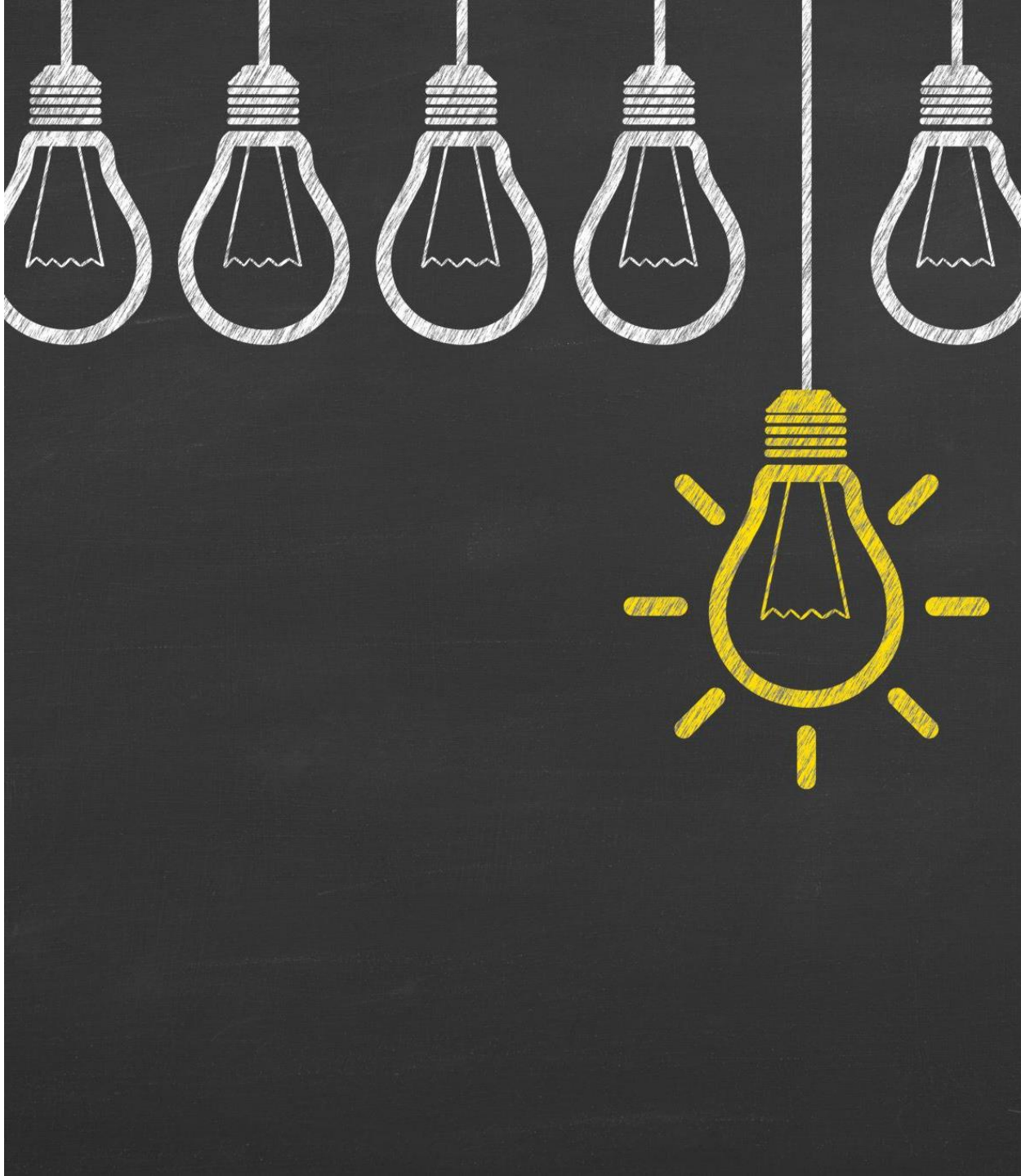
- AI-Generated Content/Hallucinated Content
- Data Fabrication
- Citation Manipulation
- Simultaneous Submission
- Salami Slicing & Data Fragmentation
- Plagiarism/Originality
- Authorship Fraud



Quantifying and assessing the use of generative AI by authors and reviewers in the cancer research field - Peer Review Congress. (2025, August 25). Peer Review Congress. https://peerreviewcongress.org/abstract/quantifying-and-assessing-the-use-of-generative-ai-by-authors-and-reviewers-in-the-cancer-research-field

Existing Solutions

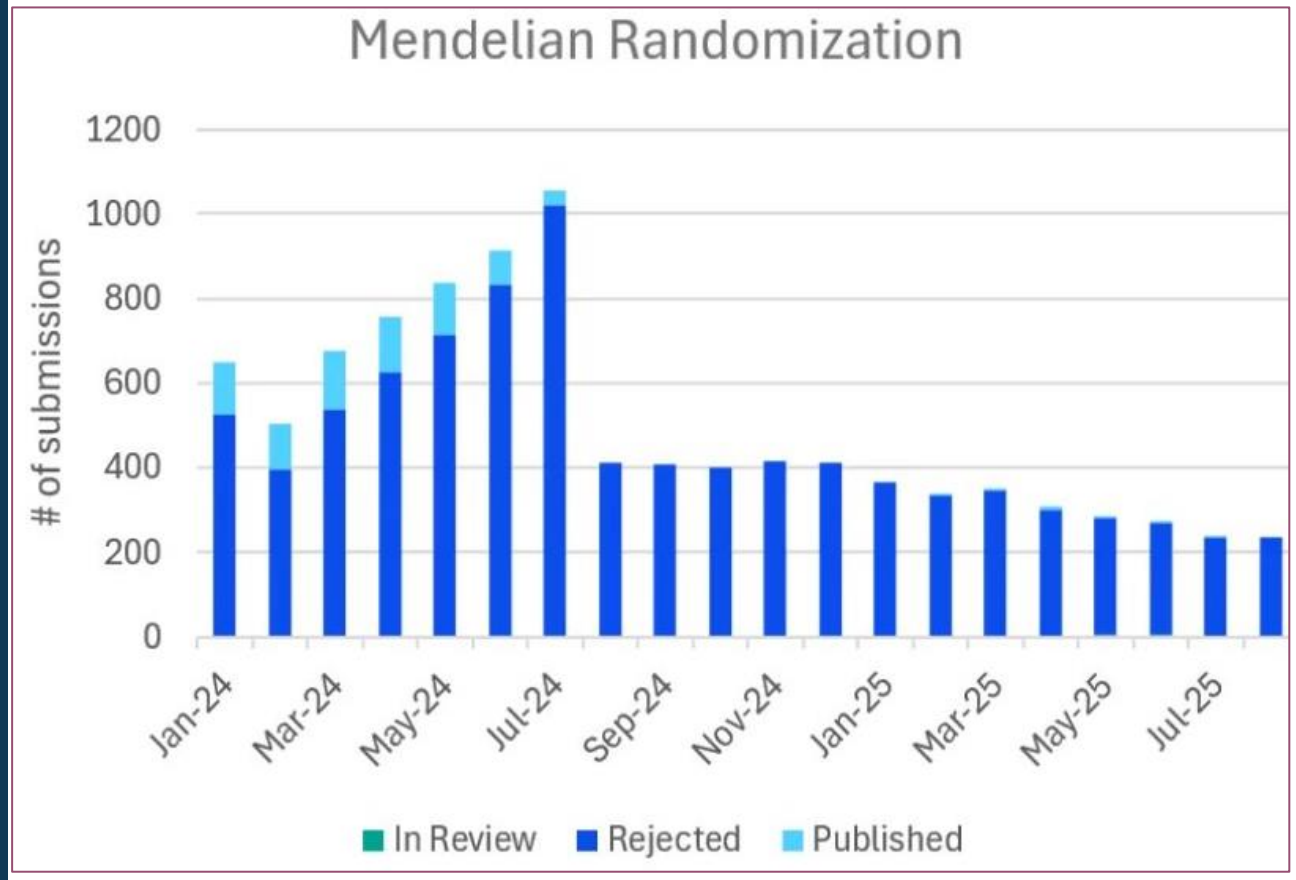
- No AI authorship and clear policies on acceptable AI use in manuscripts
- Standardization of AI Disclosure – GAIDeT (https://panbibliotekar.github.io/gaidet-declaration/) & Global Reporting Standard (https://wcri2026.org/focus-track/)
- Authorship Contribution Policies – CRediT (https://credit.niso.org/) & First-time-right (FTR)
- Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidance & standards (https://publicationethics.org/)



Frontiers

Fast Churn Science

- “Fast-churn” science is flooding journals
- Quick queries of public datasets (Mendelian Randomization, NHANES) produce low-quality, redundant papers — a 400% jump in 2024, per a new preprint



Article decisions for submissions based on Mendelian Randomization studies submitted to Frontiers over the period January 2024 to August 2025, with the updated policy introduced June 2024

Fast Churn Science – Policy & Impact

- July 2024: required independent external validation for all health-dataset MR studies
- Early 2025: extended the requirement to all papers based on simple public-data queries, including NHANES
- Policy requires new experimental validation or additional institutional data — not just a dataset correlation

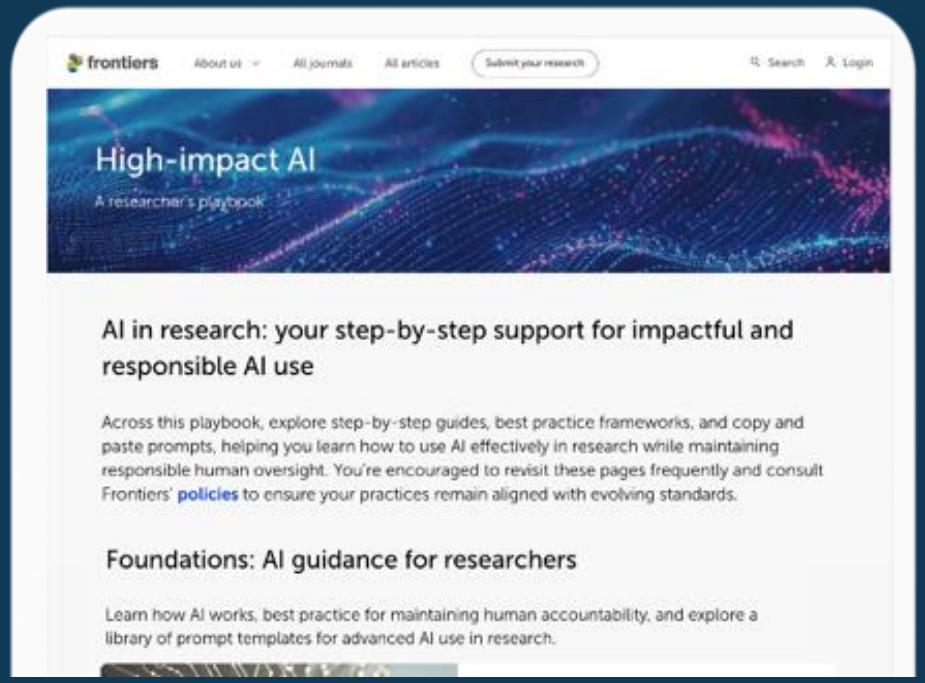
Measurable Impact Since the Policy:

- MR submissions fell 61% in the first month, over 70% to date
- 5,513 MR studies rejected since July 2024
- 1,382 NHANES-based submissions rejected since May 2025



Fast Churn Science

Ongoing Safeguards



AIRA screens every submission for 20+ integrity indicators, including a dedicated papermill check

60+ research integrity experts plus specialist editors and reviewers judge each paper's science

Partnerships with two external problematic-content detection providers

We create a unique and powerful feedback loop between AIRA checks, RI specialists' assessments and auditing investigations

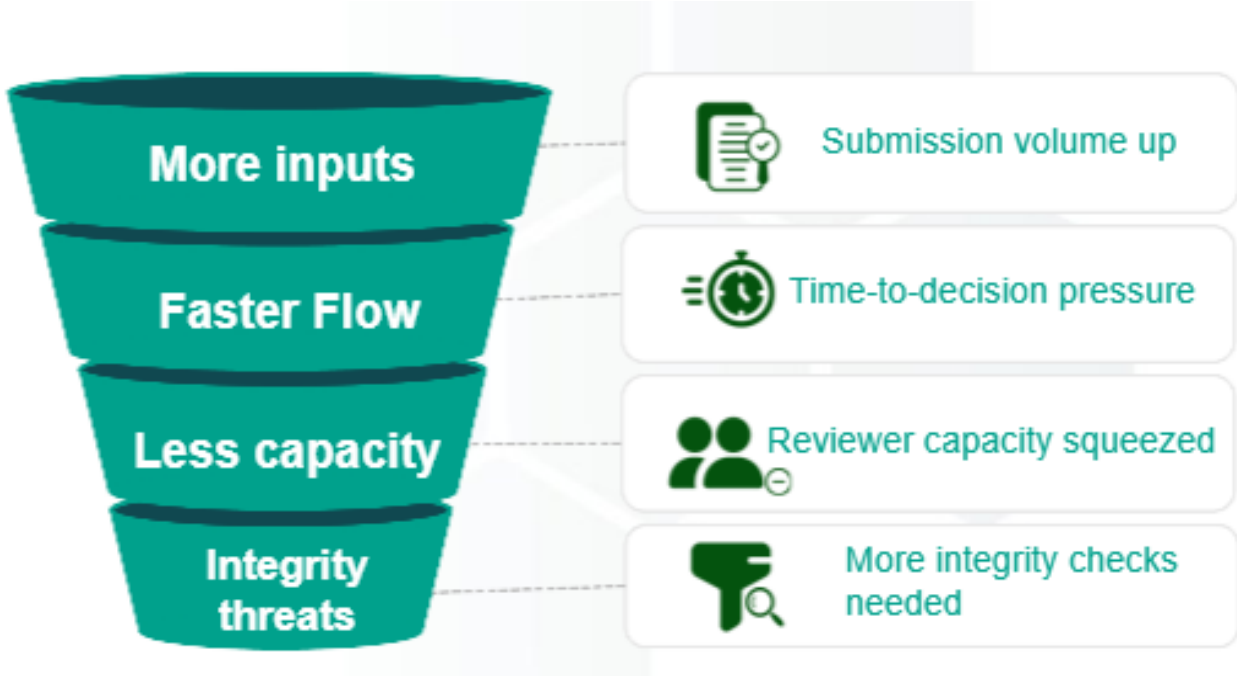
Researchers can also access our AI Playbook, which provides step-by-step support for impactful and responsible AI use

frontiers

Emerald

From Reactivity to Proactivity

- Emerald's submission volumes have doubled in the past five years.
- Increasing pressure across editorial and peer review workflows.
- AI has made it easier than ever to produce at scale and manipulate content.
- Traditional interventions are no longer enough.
- Balancing trust and quality without creating unnecessary barriers for genuine research.



From Reactivity to Proactivity – Policy Updates

Policy & Prevention:

- Expanded and updated our AI policy for authors and reviewers
- Introduced additional identity and due-diligence checks for new editorial appointments
- Using insights from investigations to strengthen policies and guidance

Data-Led Risk Identification

- Analyzing submission, rejection and author-activity data
- Identifying unusual trends, patterns and emerging risks
- Combining data signals with investigative and editorial context



From Reactivity to Proactivity

Ongoing Safeguards



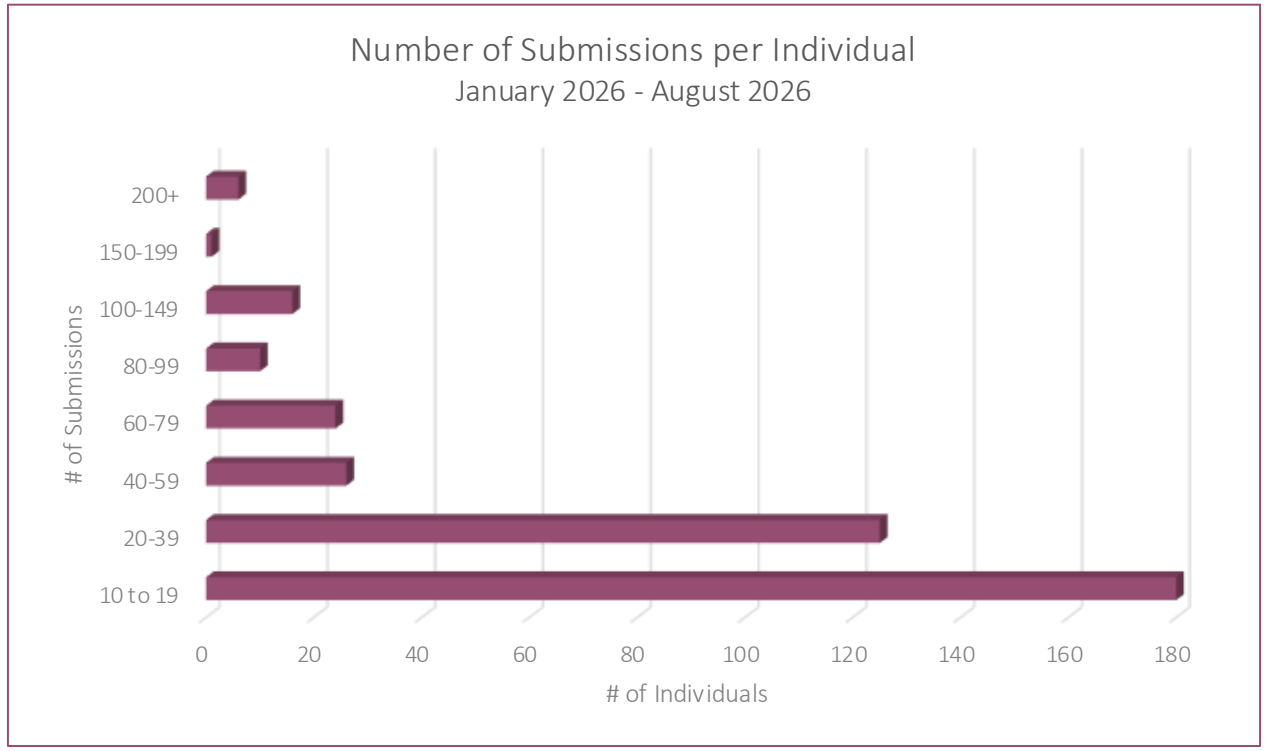
- Screening at Submission
- Human-Led Assessment
- Cross-Publisher Collaboration
- Practical Editorial Support

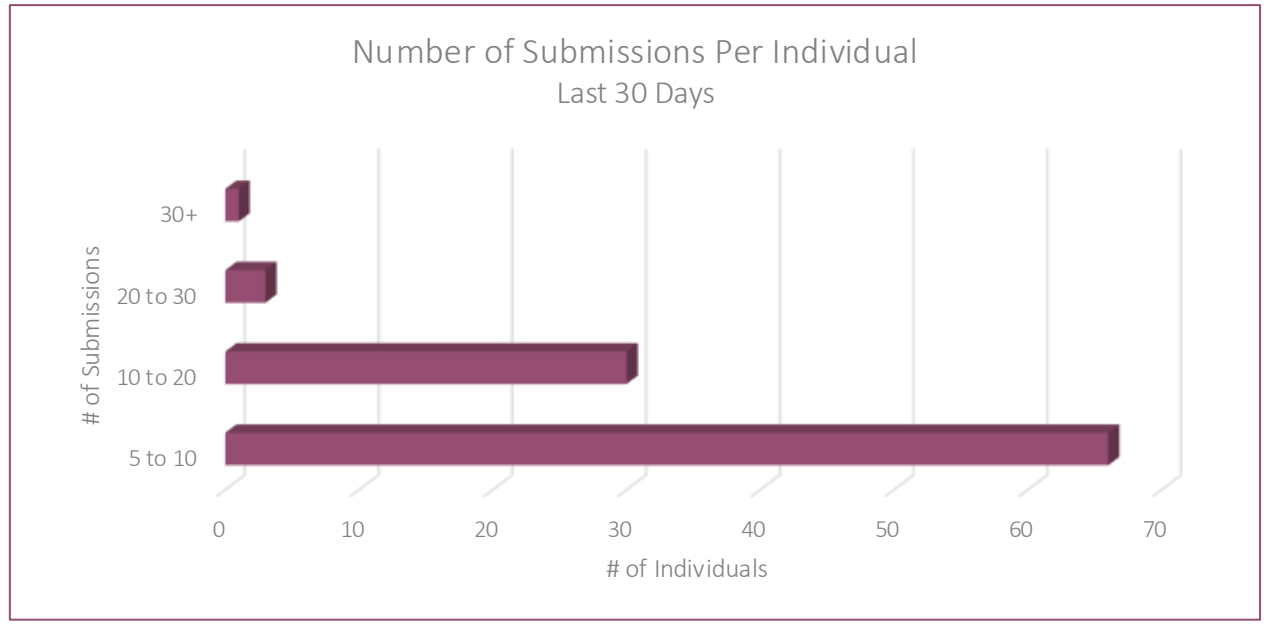
IGI Global
Scientific Publishing
Publishing Tomorrow's Research Today

IGI Global Scientific Publishing

Annual Chapter Contribution Limit

- Data from across all current book publications revealed the same authors submitting high numbers of chapters
- Majority were not duplicates/simultaneous submissions
- Chapters highly suspected of being "fast-churn" science, AI-generated, or salami slicing
- Amounts likely higher due to multiple account creations





Annual Chapter Contribution Limit Policy

Policy applies to:

- All IGI Global Scientific Publishing books.
- Chapters submitted individually or as part of a multi-author project to edited books.
- Authorship in any capacity, including sole author, co-author, lead author, corresponding author, or contributing author.
- Applies regardless of whether a chapter receives a final decision of acceptance or rejection.

- No individual author may submit or be credited as an author on more than 10 book chapters in a single calendar year (January 1 – December 31).
- Once an author reaches the maximum of 10 chapter submissions, all subsequent submitted chapters that include the author will be rejected.



Annual Chapter Contribution Limit

How It Works



Publishing Ethics & Research Integrity Team analyzes submission data on a weekly basis

Submissions in violation of the policy are rejected with notifications sent to the chapter authors and book editors

NO AI or automation – Decisions are 100% made by humans

Exceptions including submissions for authored books, supervisory credit, etc. applied as necessary

IGI Global
Scientific Publishing
Publishing Tomorrow's Research Today



Thank You!

Priyanka Chandi

frontiers

www.frontiersin.org/guidelines/policies-and-publication-ethics

Danielle Rayner

www.emerald.com/publish-with-us/pages/publication-ethics

Melissa Wagner

IGI Global
Scientific Publishing
Publishing Tomorrow's Research Today

www.igi-global.com/about/rights-permissions/ethics-malpractice/