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### RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES IN INTERNATIONAL PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

**Abstract.** The purpose of this article is to answer the questions of a researcher when he faces with difficulties in the course of publication of scientific manuscripts in the international peer reviewed journals indexed in international databases.

In the article authors intended to focus on the practical recommendations on how a national author can present research work in the international arena, in particular how to correctly identify priority in the selected area of research, highlight the international requirements on the preparation of the article, indicate the aspects required to ensure an appropriate orientation in the variety of outlets and capacity to use information in a scientific research paper.

The article provides recommendations for selection of a scientific paper title, planning the content of the main sections of the text, and compliance with the editorial policy (requirements) of scientific journals as well as recommendations for the architectonics of scientific articles and author's art, on the assessment of rating journals, how to deal with the editors of publishing houses and dealing with the databases.

In the conclusion, it is indicated that the quality of the manuscript and shape of scientific research paper is affected by many factors such as level of education and horizon of the author, knowledge of the language, breadth of interdisciplinary knowledge, analytical and logical abilities, author's art, the correctness of the chosen themes and trends in research, and most importantly – the desire to obtain recognition of the national and international scientific community. Also, it is mentioned that a good scientific article is a distinctive scientific style; seamless, integrated and consistent semantic charge not only of the research text but of every paragraph; justified facts; reasoned evidence and scientific principles; citation with references to the original source (anti-Plagiarism); lack of emotions, uncertainties, and inconsistencies; use of bookish/neutral vocabulary and terminology.

**Keywords:** publication in a scientific journal, editorial policy, article, author's art, structure, style, antiplagiarism, IT, law.

#### I. Introduction

Due to the rapid development of information technologies and the emergence of a virtual world, young scientists can show their scientific talents in the global digital arena, get credit from the global scientific community, keep track of new discoveries, and conduct online discussions with their peers on the Internet. With this, it will be important to note that publications

by national researchers in internationally recognized journals will increase credibility for the country as a whole [1].

The author has many reasons to publish his/her work both for scientific and professional growth and personal satisfaction. Perhaps, the biggest obstacle for publications is the lack of good practical advice in terms of the architectonic, structure, style, the content of the

scientific papers, the methods to select the papers, and most importantly, the way the rating publishing world operates in general.

In 1936, Fred Rodell said the famous line in his article "Goodbye, legal reviews": "Almost all legal works contain two errors. One of them is style. The other one is its content." [2] We will add that the science of law has become more complex, profound, large-scale, and voluminous over the past few decades. While the Bluebook [3] strictly regulates the citation methods, the law journals generally adopt similar standards of their own, and the papers submitted for publication should meet those requirements.

In this article, we have tried to focus on the practical recommendations on how a national author can present his/her intellectual work to the international community, correctly identify its priority in the selected area of research, highlight the international requirements for preparation of the article, indicate the aspects required to ensure an appropriate orientation in the variety of outlets and capacity to use information technologies [4].

### II. Recommendations for the architectonics of scientific articles and author's art

Firstly, we would like to introduce a brief overview of our research, various types and categories of scientific, legal papers. Indeed, the "case cruncher" [5], that is, a "typical" article, is the most common. This type of article analyzes the law in cases of confusion, conflict, or transition. Perhaps, the doctrine is outdated or inconsistent and calls for changes. The author often resolves a conflict or problem by referring to the applicable policy and offering a solution that best contributes to achieving the goals of fairness, efficiency, etc.

Another type of article is "on law reform", which states that a legal rule or institution is not just incoherent, but even bad, since it is biased or unfair and entails deplorable consequences. Out there, the author shows how to change this rule to avoid those problems.

We can note such articles as "legal note", where the author analyzes the proposed or recently adopted law, often comments, criticize, and sometimes suggests for improvement throughout the paper.

Another type is the "**interdisciplinary**" article, where the author describes possibilities for the law to resolve some recurring problems in a better way through knowledge of another field, such as psychology, economics, or sociology. The upcoming article by professor Charles Lawrence on theories of unconscious motivation and their relationship [6] to race relations is a good example of that kind of article.

There is a "proper and theoretical" type of articles where the author examines developments in the area

of law and finds the beginnings of a new legal theory or delict in them. The famous article by Warren and Brandeis on private life [7] is a well-known example of such type of research.

"The discussions of a legal profession, legal language, legal argument, or legal education" create another category of the articles reviewing the law [8].

There is such a type of research as "book-based and learned dialogues" where existing are continued [9].

Another category is "the legal history". The study of the origins and development of the law of any given relationship can enlighten their state or shortcomings. Equally, articles on "comparative law" are often valuable and interesting upon many similar reasons: sometimes, it happens that other legal system deals with a problem more effectively or more humanely than the existing one. The famous article by Friedrich Kessler on Adhesion Contracts is a well-known example of the work based on the experience of foreign systems comparison with the aim to improve the quality of American Justice [10].

One of the most important categories is "the empirical research" [11], where the recent solutions of the problem are examined by its predecessors, the gaps and possible consequences are identified, and own arguments are given with subsequent application in practice. It is the most useful one among all genres since the author can expand theoretical and practical knowledge here; it is not found in most of the other types of scientific works. Such research enables to apply organically the methods of the conceptual, problem-oriented, structural-system, comparative-legal, historical-legal, concrete-historical, logical approach, and other methods that are generally recognized in scientific research [12].

Analyzing the above, we can say objectively that there are many generally accepted formats to write an article, and each type and category has its own goal, therefore, before writing a scientific work, the author should first study the principles and practical application of various styles and methods of knowledge.

We would like to note straight away that all legal publications are intended for university teachers and professional lawyers, and hence, they accept scientific articles with reasoned research results only.

So, what makes a topic interesting? An **interesting topic** shall substantially answer the questions and address the actual challenges. Here is a list of indicative areas that should be published in 2020:

- legal trends in the time of crisis;
- research in related disciplines (law/economics, political science, sociology, psychology, philosophy);

- human rights/cyberlaw/counter-terrorism.

In addition, the scientific journal shall be selected depending on the characteristics of the topic of the article proposed for publication, and the author should study the content of published documents and analyze the scientific policy of the publishing house [13] for compliance with the profile of the journal.

Having analyzed **the titles of articles** in rating journals, we came to the following conclusions regarding the selection of the title and naming:

- the wording of the title should be clear and specific, without complex phrases and word combinations, with revealing the area of research [14];
  - the title shall provoke an interest of the reader;
- the usual parasitic words like "some", "certain", "special" should be avoided.
  - the title should not be long [15].

We think that an **abstract** is an equally important structural element of any article. The main task of the abstract is to provide maximum but concise information on the study to the reader.

The ability to provoke the interest of the reader in a meaningful but concise text (up to about 500-600 characters, i.e. 4-5 sentences maximum) is one of the main incentives to read the article. An author should briefly describe the problem, research methods and indicate the scientific novelty [16].

Keywords are an important part of the article. Correctly selected keywords will enable other researchers to find the author's article in the first place when searching on the Internet. The keywords should reflect the subject/object/problem of the research in a global and profound way [17]. Also, in our opinion, when keywords are being selected, attention should be paid to the insertion of highly specialized or specific terms since they are valuable for specialists when they search the profile in question. We recommend selecting no more than ten keywords.

The **introduction** should focus on the object and subject of research, describe the applied method of cognition, and formulate a hypothesis. It means that the author should pose the problem, state the goals and objectives of the research, explain the limitations of this work (what exactly the reader will get) in the introductory part. At this stage, it is advisable to determine the status and genre of the proposed material. This can be a summary of independent work, theoretical or empirical work. It is important to explain whether it is popular science or a purely professional text, what should be paid attention to, and what requirements should be imposed on.

Finally, you need to justify the structure of the work in a simple manner, what order the material will be presented in, and the reason for this logic [18]. Also, depending on the volume of the article, it is necessary to indicate the results of the work prepared by the predecessors and provide a reference to their works [19].

The main part is the most extensive and important section of a scientific article. It gradually reveals the research process, sets out the reasoning for the findings. This section should describe the results of any conducted analyses or methods, explaining the stages and intermediate results. The negative aspects identified in the course of the study should also be described, with suggesting own methods of how to eliminate the shortcomings.

The editors also want the scientific work to be understandable and have a distinguishable "storyline". The author should not be tempted to write down an idea on paper or discuss a case simply because it exists. Everything should contribute to the development of the central theme, otherwise, it is better to put it in a footnote.

The key link "thesis-argument" is the core of any written text. This scheme can be realized in several ways. For example, the work can be theoretical or empirical, which will obviously impact the presentation structure [20].

Let's start with a **theoretical work** based on literary sources, primarily or solely. The author can start such a work with a brief but impressive survey of those sources to show the literary tradition and identify the predecessors. At the same time, the author can demonstrate not only his/her knowledge, but present a meaningful context to a reader as well. A thesis is then delivered, an idea or concept explaining the key questions raised in the study. Having stated such an idea, the author moves on to the most important part of the text – argumentation.

If the publication is empirical, its structure changes in some way. At first, it must be a conceptual approach with stating the thesis, followed by a methodological part revealing the nature of the data in use. Finally, the actual results of the empirical study are presented [20].

Let us go back to one of the main aspects, namely, "argumentation". When argumentation is formed, you should comply with the rules as follows:

- proving with examples is not the best way to justify an opinion. Since, at best, the examples just illustrate the general propositions, they can be used to reinforce and enliven dry logical postulates [21];
- the text should contain a critical assessment of the stated viewpoints. There are no good works without a critical argument, which can be presented in different

ways. You can compare different authors' viewpoints or introduce a critical argument in the first person and analyze the theoretical evidence from your own positions [20].

We would like to share the following conclusions about the general style and formalism in terms of writing scientific articles (regarding the main part of the article):

- when a text is prepared, you should avoid two common mistakes: the first one is to overload it with extra clever words and sentences, the second to simplify the material (lack of scientific knowledge, translation problem);
- do not include the particulars and details into the text, if so necessary, make a reference to the literature in question;
- avoid introductory words and sentences that do not convey any meaning and seriously burden the text (do not speculate with the phrases "as it is known", "it is well known that" or "it is quite obvious that" when we want to convey some controversial idea);
- do not use specific slang and terms borrowed from other people's subcultures; if so necessary, provide explanations and appropriate references to them;
- do not repeat the same words and expressions in limited text space.

Findings (conclusion). This section shall contain a summary of the main achievements of the author. All conclusions shall be impartial, based on the analysis of the obtained results, and published as is, without the author's interpretation. With this, the readers will be able to evaluate the quality of the data obtained and draw their own conclusions based on such data, lay out a subjective view with respect to the significance of the work performed [20].

# III. Recommendations for assessment of peer reviewed journals

Even the most experienced legal scholars can experience challenges with the submission of the materials for a legal expert opinion. If the material is to be submitted for several legal reviews, issues like the selection of journals for "targeting" [22], identifying what legal reviews have taken a decision in terms of the article, and understanding when expedited requests should be made should be considered. Accordingly, each author shall address important and complicated dilemmas associated with such a concept as the "quartile" of a scientific journal. How to define it, and what does it mean?

Quartile [23] is a system of categories for ranking and evaluating the scientific journals based on their popularity, relevance, and citation rate [24]. Journals with a special subject area are ranked in descending order based on the corresponding indicator (impact factor or SJR), respectively, and the list is divided into four equal parts. Following this distribution, each journal falls into one of four quartiles: from Q1 (the value of the most reputed foreign journals) to Q4 (the lowest rank). The quartile system helps to assess the quality and level of the journal in a most unbiased manner [25]. Depending on a particular database the journal belongs to, it is evaluated by one of two main indicators. The journals included into the "Web of Science" are evaluated by the "Impact Factor" called as Journal Citation Reports (JCR) [26], while publications of "Scopus" are evaluated by SCIMago Journal Rank (SJR) [27]. Let's consider each of the presented indicators in greater detail.

The JCR parameter is calculated based on the annual number of references to the articles published in the last two years. The principle of its operation is quite complicated; more information can be found on the official website. The Web of Knowledge system provides an official rating for various journals by JCR on its website, which changes every year [28].

This "impact factor" was developed in the 1960s at the US Institute for Scientific Information [29]. It should be noted that this parameter is suitable for journals active in the same scientific area, and you cannot compare the journals representing different scientific areas. For this reason, the JCR parameter is not published for a number of humanitarian journals; they are evaluated by SJR. For comparison, JCR takes into account around 12,5 thousand journals, while SJR – more than 21 thousand.

The SJR parameter is calculated in a more complicated manner comparing to its main competitor. This parameter analyzes and considers many factors, not only the frequency of citations but also the credibility of a particular journal, its life span, and many other important indicators. The SJR rating is published annually on the SCIMago Journal Ranking website, likewise to JCR. This impact factor was developed in the 2000s at the University of Granada [30] in Spain; it is available more widely than JCR and free. One of the main disadvantages of the system is that the rating of journals is calculated for a big period, it is four years for Web of Science (WoS) at least and no less than two for Scopus. The relatively young journals are not rated by this system.

It is also important to note that all journals rated by WoS and Scopus belong to different thematic categories. There are about 250 categories in WoS, and more than 350 – in Scopus. The categories do not always match, but the impact factor parameter is calculated separately for each category. It means that journals can have different JCR and SJR rates in terms of certain categories.

The impact factor of the journal shall be studied carefully in terms of many things that impact citation indicators: for example, the average number of references cited in an average article. Sometimes, it is inappropriate to use the impact of the source journal to evaluate the expected frequency of a recently published article when it comes to an academic assessment of the journal's lifetime. Again, when you are up to an informed expert assessment you should pay attention to the impact factor of the journal [31]. The frequency of citation of individual articles can vary dramatically. Journal citation reports now include more data at the article level to provide a better understanding of the mutual relationship between the article and the journal. This level of transparency allows you to see not only the data but also view it through to get a more detailed picture of the journal's significance.

# IV. Recommendations for dealing with the editors of publishing houses

In the next stage, the future authors deal with the editors of journals. This includes both the technical regulations of journals, and ethical requirements imposed for the author and the paper to be published [32]. We recommend the authors to use the following tricks in dealing with the employees of journals that should increase the chance to publish an article:

**Step one** is to know for sure when most law journals are active in filling out their next issues. Obviously, there is no exact consistency and no scientific grounds, yet, nevertheless, we could observe that time for submission of application has two peak periods:

- from August to October;
- from February to April;

During these months, most of the materials received are reviewed with most positive decisions taken. Submission of papers during one of these peak periods can increase the chance for publication, since many of journals actively review articles at that time. However, review journals open and close throughout the year, depending on the stage of the editorial cycle they are on. In addition, many of them consider open applications for symposia and special issues throughout the year. So, if there is a finished article and the application time has not yet come, there may be a good chance to have an offer. If an author submits an article during the offseason, we recommend checking the websites [33] of the journals for updates on whether they will actively review new articles. If it is not clear from the website whether the editors are actively reviewing the submitted materials, the author can always contact them directly to ask a question.

**Step two** is to develop an application strategy. The author needs to determine a list of 3-5 best journals that are suitable in terms of parameters that will give him/her the best professional advantages and best suited for publishing an article. This will allow the author to focus his/her efforts on sending the material.

When a target list is prepared, a special attention should be paid to editorial requirements (both technical and ethical) and all kinds of editorial policies.

When an article is submitted, the author should look it through carefully to make sure that it is in optimal form and meets the requirements. The author should make sure that the article is clean, contain no typos, grammatical or formatting errors. In case of the necessity to arrange technical translation of an article into a foreign language, she/she should consult with a translator specialized in this particular field [34].

The written article should be checked with a fresh look, that is, to look at it from the viewpoint of a person who is not familiar with this topic. In particular, focus on the title, abstract, and introduction. This is the first thing the editors pay attention to, so you need to make sure that they are catchy and can state the arguments of the article in a quick and concise manner [35]. Additionally, you need to think how relevant the article is with respect to the current events and highlight the most appropriate features, if applicable. For example, you should inform the editor if your paper is devoted to one of the most discussed but least published legal topics.

Step three is one of the most important stages of publication, that is, additional verification of citations of the author's articles. The editors of law review journals are very vigilant about citations and will tick off the areas of the article that, in their opinion, require additional references or any reference that seems incomplete. Make sure that all author's statements are referenced and that no citation information is missed.

Let's take a brief look at the ethical policy of publishing houses, with taking the Stanford Law Review [35] as an example, where the conditions for accepting an article as follows were accepted:

- (I) Distinction. The article must be the distinctive work of the author or authors listed in the application, with the exception of materials which are in the public domain, or materials from other works that are properly cited or included with the permission of the copyright holders. The article shall not be published in whole or in part before.
- (II) Reproducibility. At the very least, the empirical work shall document and archive all data sets so that third parties could reproduce the published results. Those data sets will be published on the journal's website.

(III) Peer review. Peer review not only improves the quality of the article but also guarantees the distinction. The Stanford Law Review practices conducting an expert evaluation of submitted materials in a form that meets the standard selection deadlines when an article is under review.

(IV) Plagiarism. The most important point requiring the attention of the researcher is the policy of law journals regarding the problem of citation and plagiarism. The importance of this issue can be noticed by the fact that many types of guidelines for the use of citation styles have been developed and are used, for example, The Bluebook, which prescribes the most widely used legal citation system in scientific journals in the United States. There are alternative guidelines to the legal citation style, including the Maroonbook and the ALWD Citation Manual. There are also several "home" citation styles used by legal publishers in their work [36].

Each article received is carefully reviewed by the editorial board and passes a multi-stage selection process, one of which is checking the article for plagiarism. Each journal uses an "anti-Plagiarism" system, a specialized search engine mainly devoted to checking text file, whether it contains the work done by another person [37]. For example, plagiarism can be checked by such Internet services as https://www.scribbr.com/plagiarism-checker/, https://www.turnitin.com/, https://plagiarismdetector.net/ru, https://antiplagiat.ru, etc.

The editorial policy of journals requires the publicist to have a clear novelty, a pronounced author's viewpoint and correct citation so that, the young scientists have a long way to go in the study of the author's art.

## V. Recommendations for dealing with the database

Further, we would like to note a constant problem occurring among the scientific papers by many legal researchers. Due to their lack of knowledge of foreign languages, the authors try to refer mainly to the papers of scientists from the CIS countries, conduct a comparative analysis of the law with neighboring countries, and give suggestions based on their experience. Not diminishing the work of scientists and the legal experience of the CIS, we assume that this is the original fundamental error in conducting research in the area of science of law. The CIS countries gained independence about 30 years ago, which surely affected the formation of fundamental concepts and principles of market relations, the reflection of their level in the legal system; and the most interesting thing is that the system of market relations is not fully formed in the minds, mentality, and lifestyle of people. Therefore, we consider that comparison or study of examples of weakly developed countries, reference to their theoretical and practical experience, introduction of it into scientific theory and national law is not reasonable, since subsequently it is revealed the gaps or contradictions in the adopted legal, often requiring to make additions and changes, which hinders the development of social and economic relations. It should be borne in mind that developing countries undoubtedly copy or adapt the experience of advanced developed countries such as the United States, Great Britain, the EU, South Korea, etc., customizing it in compliance with the national interests. This poses the question of whether it is necessary to study a secondary analysis of the experience of developing countries if digitalization and information technologies make it possible to go to the original source. Given the above, the answer is as follows: the editors of rating journals are not interested in those types of scientific papers.

In our opinion, this problem can be addressed by improving the IT skills of researchers; developing such skills as proper work with the database; understanding search engines; selecting the necessary and excluding unnecessary information; extracting the fundamental idea from a huge array of information; applying scientific knowledge methods correctly. We think that the lack of knowledge of foreign languages can be resolved by using online translators, which have shown their high efficiency and are constantly improving.

In this article, we would like to recommend a number of electronic libraries and databases that publish the papers of world-renowned scientists, which, if studied, would improve the quality of research and the ability to publish articles in international rating journals. Information systems offering access to abstract-bibliographic and full-text databases, such as Web of Science [38], Scopus [39], WestLaw [40], Lexis-Nexis [41], ssrn.com [42] and many more [43] encompass a large number of different information databases within a single search interface and language of information records.

It should be noted as well that registration of authors in ID systems and Science Citation Databases (SCD) has become an essential requirement of international journals.

SCDs are databases for evaluating the publications and citations of authors and journals. They track authors' publication activity, rating of journals in terms of the quality of publications in the relevant subject area, form an assessment of recognition degree and level of publications in the world community, etc.

The identifier assigned to the author creates a relationship between the author and his/her

publications. Identifiers allow to establish an unambiguous concordance between the author and the results of his/her work and activities, which cannot be specified by first and last name due to the problems with namesakes, surnames change married, incomplete names stated in publications in various languages. For example, author ID systems are used to track publications, both by the author himself/herself, by the organization where he/she works, and by other persons concerned.

Unfortunately, there is no single global database of publications yet, but several identifiers – ORCID, Google Scholar, Researcher ID (WoS), and Scopus Author ID. In particular, ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) [44] is a non-proprietary alphanumeric code that identifies authors of scientific articles and seeks to become a single unified author identifier in the future.

For instance, the use of a unique author identifier (i.e., the scientist's ID) enables to establish the authorship of a particular scientific work, to measure citation rate, to simplify the process of evaluating the author's popularity, to store the data, and to improve the visibility of the author's publications on the Internet.

With this, the use of international databases to determine scientometric indicators is an integral part of the author's international publication activity and citation rate.

#### VI. Conclusion

Summarizing our work, we would like to note that the quality of the written work and shape of scientific work is affected by many factors such as level of education and horizon of the author, knowledge of the language, breadth of interdisciplinary knowledge, analytical and logical abilities, author's art, correctness of the chosen themes and trends in research, and most importantly – the desire to obtain recognition of the national and international scientific community.

A good scientific article is a distinctive scientific style; seamless, integrated and consistent semantic charge not only of the research text, but of every paragraph; justified facts; reasoned evidence and scientific principles; citation with references to the original source (anti-Plagiarism); lack of emotions, uncertainties and inconsistencies; use of bookish/neutral vocabulary and terminology.

We believe that the above tips on the proper selection of topical themes, technical and stylistic conformity of the level of writing, comprehensive logical coverage of the topic, clear and practical insights, as well as related ethical rules of the publishing houses of the leading journals of the world will help to the young scientists of Uzbekistan in terms of acceptance of their scientific works for publication.

The proposed recommendations can be similarly applied not only in law but in other areas of science and education as well.

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- 15. For example: "The structural factors and techniques of social construction of masculinity and femininity types in the framework of joint (separate) education of students of different sexes in the secondary schools of the Soviet and post-Soviet periods". https://elibrary.ru/
- 16. For example: "Abstract. The purpose of this article is to answer the questions of a researcher encountered difficulties in the course of publication of scientific papers in the international rating journals. The article provides recommendations for selection of a scientific paper title, planning the content of the main sections of the text, and compliance with the editorial policy (requirements) of scientific journals.
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Article Submissions. Available at: https://www.stanfordlawreview.org/submissions/article-submissions/; How to Submit. Available at: https://harvardlawreview.org/submissions/.

- 33. Social Science Research Network's Partners in Publishing. Available at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/DisplayPipPublishers.cfm
- 34. English legal terminology is very complex, each term has its own background. Online translators often simplify translation and this distorts the meaning of the text.

- 35. Article Submissions. Available at: https://www.stanfordlawreview.org/submissions/article-submissions/
- 36. Notes for Contributors. Available at: https://academic.oup.com/ojls/pages/General\_Instructions; Article Submissions. Available at: https://www.stanfordlawreview.org/submissions/article-submissions/; How to Submit. Available at: https://harvardlawreview.org/submissions/.
- 37. The anti-Plagiarism system is a unique algorithm applied for efficient and fast search for matches and borrowed fragments in a huge, constantly updated database of text works. This system can encompass such parameters as checking texts in different languages; identifying and correcting the replacement of letters similar in spelling; identifying rearranged sentences, paragraphs, pages; processing correctly the insertions, deletions and replacements of word forms. https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Антиплагиат
  - 38. https://webofknowledge.com
  - 39. https://scopus.com
  - 40. https://www.g2.com/products/westlaw/reviews
  - 41. https://www.lexisnexis.com/
  - 42. https://papers.ssrn.com/
- 43. Nauchnye bazy dannyh v internete [Scientific databases on the Internet]. Available at: https://www.kv.by/archive/index2003270601.htm
- 44. ORCID is one of the widely used international systems for personal identification of authors of scientific publications, used to identify the authors in international databases of scientific publications (including Scopus). ORCID ID is a unique 16 digit code assigned to the author.