

# Editorial Policies of LiveCoMS

Editorial Board of LiveCoMS

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## Abstract

The current draft list of editorial board policies for the Living Journal of Computational Molecular Science (LiveCoMS). These policies are not yet active, as they are still in draft.

## 1 Policies on Submissions to LiveCoMS

### 1.1 Policy on Licensing

LiveCoMS does not ask for or request any copyright transfer.

However, in order to submit to LiveCoMS, authors must provide, at minimum, a license for LiveCoMS to publish the article and distribute it free of charge. We recommend that the authors release the article under an open source license such as Creative Commons Attribution (also known as CC-BY) releasing the document for anyone to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format, and remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. Making it available to all of course makes it possible for LiveCoMS to publish it, and for the community to edit and contribute. We highly recommend the CC-BY license in order to ensure your work can reach and help the broadest audience possible, and suggest that when considering the appropriate license you read this analysis.

Other more restrictive licenses may be permissible as long as LiveCoMS has the permission to publish and excerpt from the document; this might be required if someone other than the authors has some rights to the material (for example, if it was previously published in some other journal). Generally, we only allow a more restrictive license in these cases, but are happy to discuss. Please ask the managing editors if you require some other licensing regime.

For employees of the U.S. Government, their work products are under public domain, and thus CC-BY is not appropriate. We recommend the license language: “As a work of the United States Government, this package is in the public domain within the United States. Additionally, [Agency Name] waives copyright and related rights in the work worldwide through the CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication (which can be found at <https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>).” See the analysis of this language here.

## **1.2 Policies on Author Order**

Authors should, to the extent possible, determine the author order among themselves. Each work must have a section describing the actual contributions of authors (and of those acknowledged) to provide clarity, and journal templates include such a section.

However, we acknowledge that institutions evaluating for merit, promotion, tenure or other cases may not read this level of detail, so traditional notions of author order (first author, corresponding author, etc.) may still be relevant and the authors will need to coordinate who should occupy these positions.

## **1.3 Policy on Abandoned Documents**

By the submission of their paper, document, or materials, all the authors consent that if they no longer are willing or able to maintain their work, LiveCoMS may assign another individual or individuals to do so, with appropriate modifications to the authors list. Authors would be given written notice (by e-mail and formal letter) if this were to happen and would have a period of six months to respond and/or designate a successor before LiveCoMS would do so for them. Typically, authors are implicitly giving a right to do this via licensing under Creative Commons - Attribution or similar licenses which give others the right to create derivative works (potentially allowing others to “resurrect” a document which has been abandoned); however, we expect all authors to explicitly consent to this policy to avoid any confusion. Ordinarily, we expect this policy will be relevant only in unusual or extreme cases where an author or authors dies or leaves the field; in most other cases authors will presumably be available to designate their own successors or succession plan if a work is valuable to the field and will continue to need maintenance and the original author(s) are no longer willing or able to do so. However, we want to plan for the possibility of unusual events, hence our need for this policy.

Thus, for these reasons, authors submitting to LiveCoMS are agreeing that others may take over authorship of their article (with appropriate acknowledgment/recognition of the original authors) if they have abandoned their article as described above, and that LiveCoMS may accept revised versions of papers which have amended authorship in such circumstances.

# **2 Policies About the Editorial Boards**

## **2.1 Policies on Decisions**

Issues regarding governance structure, editorial board membership, leadership, and financial model must be decided by a 2/3 majority vote of the voting members of the editorial board.

Other issues, such as editorial policy, licensing policy, can be decided by a majority vote.

Votes will be are tallied based on the fraction of the editorial board responding within one week written notice via e-mail. In exceptional circumstances advance notice may be given of a rush decision, where the board may be given one week (or more) notice that their votes will be needed within a shorter window, such as a 12 hour window.