The JPA's policy on duplicate submissions (October 1, 2014)

This announcement describes the Japanese Psychological Association's (JPA's) policy on what is considered to be a duplicate submission when a manuscript or presentation that is very similar to a previously published paper is found in our academic journals, *Shinrigaku Kenkyu* and *Japanese Psychological Research*. Please read our position, definitions of the terms, and FAQs concerning duplicate submissions below.

[The JPA's position]

Submitting duplicate content is currently considered to be unethical conduct by many academic institutions. The JPA agrees with this position against duplicate submissions. However, there are various levels of interpretation of what is considered to be a duplicate submission. This problem of duplicate submissions is arising coupled with other recent technical and societal changes including the advancement of search technologies, publication via repository, padding of academic papers to increase achievement, and redundant publications[1]; cases that had never been a problem before are now creating disputes. The JPA organized a subcommittee on submission criteria to discuss this matter, and considers a submission to be a duplicate based on the definition below.

Duplicate submission: When the same author submits the same or a very similar academic work[2] several times on a continuous basis to one or more academic publications[3] or general publications[4], it is called a duplicate submission. There are several examples of duplicate submissions, one of which is "when almost the same manuscript is submitted to multiple publications at the same time." Similarly, "dividing one piece of research on the same content or research content that should be in one manuscript into multiple segments to submit on a continuous basis (so-called "salami publishing") is also considered to be a duplicate submission. The above-mentioned "same author" refers to one or more same authors if the past academic work[2] is published by multiple authors.

[Definition of terms]

1. **Redundant publication:** Publishing a work made up of essentially redundant content of an already published work. This includes printed and electronically published media.
2. **Academic work:** Individual work (papers, articles, reports) or a publication consisting of a collection of such works that are published in academic-related documents[5], academic publications[3], and general publications[4] related to the published academic topic.
3. **Academic publication:** Academic journals or titles in general. There are two definitions in this: one is that they are widely obtainable if one requests and the other is that they are guaranteed to be academic in one way or another. The criterion for the former definition is that their distribution is not limited, and they are available and browsable through a general search. The criterion for the latter definition is the existence of a peer review system supported by a body such as the Editorial Committee.
4. **General publication:** All the magazines and works that are distributed in general.
5. **Academic-related document:** A document that is necessary for the operation of education and research. This specifically includes documents considered for a graduation

thesis, master's thesis, or dissertation; documents other than academic papers including working papers for internal circulation within an institution or smaller study group and technical reports; documents that are necessary for academic conference operation including shorter presentation summaries within the character limit; or reports that are prepared to check if Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and other grants are used and handled properly.

However, there are also cases that are not clearly defined. Please consult the Editorial Committee if you have any questions.

[FAQs]

1) Q: My presentation at an international conference was published in the conference archives. Is this academic work[2] as an academic-related document[5] or academic work[2] as an academic publication[3]?

   A: If the document in the archive is commonsensically considered to be essential for conference operation, including a presentation summary within the character limit, it would be an academic-related document[5]. The summaries that appear in the JPA annual collection of papers are academic-related documents. On the other hand, if the document is given sufficient space and published with almost the same format and content as an academic paper, it is considered to be an academic publication[3]. However, if the distribution is limited and the document is hard to access or browse via general search, or if there is no peer review system supported by a body such as the Editorial Committee before publication, it might not meet the requirements for academic publication[3]. For works where the categories are not clear and in the gray area, we strongly recommend consulting with the journal publisher before submitting the work concerned.

2) Q: I submitted a manuscript that had the same content as the research plans and report that I used for the application to Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research. Is this considered to be a duplicate submission?

   A: It should not be considered a duplicate submission. Research plans and reports for grant applications are considered to be academic-related documents[5].

3) Q: My review paper published in Journal A was noticed by the editor in chief of Journal B and that editor wanted to make it available to their readers. What kind of problems should I be concerned about in term of a duplicate submission?

   A: If a manuscript with almost the same content is published, it would entail copyright issues. Therefore, the person who is responsible for editing Journal A (the copyright holder) needs to be consulted with and approve the usage. Consequently, while Journal B is requesting a paper with the same content and it may seem that a duplicate submission is no longer a problem, a paper published in Journal B should indicate in some way that it is identical to or based on the one published in Journal A.