Jihočeská univerzita
v Českých Budějovicích
University of South Bohemia
in České Budějovice

Principles of Research Integrity at USB

'*So I have just one wish for you—the good luck to be somewhere where you are free to maintain the kind of integrity I have described, and where you do not feel forced by a need to maintain your position in the organization, or financial support, or so on, to lose your integrity. May you have that freedom.*' –– Richard Feynman, Nobel Prize-winning physicist
(https://calteches.library.caltech.edu/51/2/CargoCult.htm)

'Research is the quest for knowledge obtained through systematic study, thinking, observation, and experimentation. While different disciplines may use different approaches, they each share the motivation to increase our understanding of ourselves and the world in which we live.'
– The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, revised edition 2023
(https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/)

USB is committed to the highest standards of integrity in all aspects of its research activities and expects everyone involved in these activities at USB to make the same commitment. Adherence to these standards is essential not only to ensure the highest quality and excellence of science and research at USB, but it is also essential to ensure the confidence of other scientists as well as the public in our science, our scientists, USB as a research institution, and the scientific community, and science and research as a whole.

Recognizing this commitment, USB subscribes to the principles of research integrity as articulated in 'The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, revised edition 2023', available at https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/, including the basic principles of scientific integrity including **reliability** in ensuring research quality, **integrity** in conducting, evaluating and communicating research, **respect** for all research participants, society and the environment, and **accountability** for all research-related activities. USB also draws on this document in formulating the specific principles listed below.

USB is aware that some of the principles listed below cannot be applied literally to all fields of science in which research is conducted at USB (e.g. we can hardly talk about objectivity and replicability of scientific studies interpreting historical events). USB is therefore equally committed to disciplinary standards that respect such disciplinary specificities.

Principles of research work
Researchers:

- are responsible for the accuracy and objectivity of the research they conduct, transparently describe the objectives of the research as well as the methods of data collection and analysis, and are aware of and take due account of the limits of the research methods used; they do not adjust the methodology or the results of studies to the requirements of funders;

- are responsible for the efficient and effective use of research funding;

- if necessary, seek the approval of the ethics committee before starting their research;

- publish with the aim of advancing knowledge or making a societal contribution, not just to report work as scientific output; in doing so, they also share negative and inconclusive results as essential to a comprehensive picture of knowledge;

- when publishing findings and results on a particular problem, are responsible for their completeness and verifiability and interpret and communicate them without bias; in the case of publishing research that has not yet been peer-reviewed on one of the preprint servers, they communicate its results with this knowledge and in an appropriate manner;

- communicate the unclassified results of their research to the public; in addition to the traditional publication channels, they use, without undue delay and taking into account disciplinary standards, e.g. the form of publication of the final version of the text, or the version after peer review, in open trusted repositories, in accordance with the principles of open science;

- preserve primary data and documentation of all relevant results and, unless prevented by other obligations or regulations, publish them without undue delay and taking into account disciplinary standards in open trusted repositories, in accordance with the principles of open science;

- may be listed as an author or co-author of a publication if they contribute creatively to its production, e.g. to the design and execution of studies and experiments, to the analysis, interpretation, theoretical treatment or modelling of data, or to the writing of the publication, and if they agree to co-authorship;

- acknowledge in the publication the scientific contribution of predecessors and colleagues to the problem under study on which they directly build, and when citing the findings and conclusions of other authors, they make a clear reference to the relevant source; in doing so, they cite even scientific papers that are not in agreement with his own results and conclusions; whenever possible, they cite original research communications as opposed to review studies, in recognition of those who published their findings first;

- do not publish in an ethically questionable manner, including plagiarism, and do not use ethically questionable publishing platforms; they disclose the use of any external services in its publications, including AI software and tools, and use these in accordance with current disciplinary and publishing standards;

- if they discover a significant error in their published data, they will take appropriate action, such as printing an erratum or otherwise arranging for correction;

- respect and observe the rules of intellectual property protection;

- transparently and openly declare any conflicts of interest;

- treat all researchers as well as research subjects with care and respect; recognise other scientific disciplines and researchers as well as support staff in science (technical, project, administrative);

- prepare expert opinions while taking full responsibility, and with impartiality and objectivity, in the light of the current level of knowledge and only in its field of expertise and are not subject to any external pressures that could influence the opinion;

- protect the intellectual property of the authors of manuscripts, project proposals and reports, and special-purpose papers under review in their expert activities; they do not use the data contained in

the evaluated documents for any purpose other than the preparation of an expert opinion and do not provide them to a third party;

- are personally responsible for their own decisions in relation to research activities and for the manner in which these activities are carried out.