



## Policy Regarding Corrections and Retractions

All MDPI journals have the same policy regarding corrections and retractions. We differentiate between *Addenda*, *Corrections*, *Retractions* (or *Partial Retractions*), and *Comments*.

### *Addenda*

If crucial results were unintentionally omitted from the original publication, the original article can be amended through an *Addendum* reporting these previously omitted results. The *Addendum* will be published, with page numbers added, in the current issue of the journal. A hyperlink to the *Addendum* will also be added to the original publication.

### *Corrections*

- *Before issue release*: prior to issue release, corrections are directly made to the original, published version of the article on the journal's website. A note will also be added to the *Article Versions Notes* and to the abstract page, which tells the reader that an updated version was uploaded. The original version is preserved and will remain accessible on the journal's homepage.
- *After issue release*: any corrections to published articles have to be published, with page numbers added, in a separate *Correction* notice in the current issue of the journal.

### *Retractions*

Sometimes, an article may present results or contents that are incorrect, misrepresented, carelessly prepared, intentionally falsified or plagiarized. Such articles threaten the integrity of scientific records and need to be retracted. When editors are alerted of possible scientific misconduct, the Editorial Office and the *Editor-in-Chief* will organize a careful investigation with authors, Editorial Board members, university authorities or other parties (as appropriate), and will make a decision on a possible *Retraction* of the original publication. If a *Retraction* is published, it will officially replace the original publication on the website. The original publication is amended with a "RETRACTED" watermark, but will still be available on the journal's website for future reference. *However, retracted articles should not be cited and used for further research, as they cannot be relied upon.* The *Retraction* is published, with page numbers added, as a separate item in the current issue of the journal, so that after issue release, the *Retraction* can be picked up by indexing & abstracting services. *Partial Retractions* might be published in cases where results are only partially wrong.

### *Comments and Replies*

Comments are short letters to the editors from readers questioning either the results reported or the experimental methods used in a specific article. Usually, a reader will approach the Editorial Office or the *Editor-in-Chief* of a journal, if he/she finds an article intriguing. In such circumstances, the Editorial Office may invite the reader to write a short and reasoned *Comment* on the article. After consideration and review by the Editorial Office, the *Comment* may be published, in which case the Editorial Office will approach the authors of the article in question and invite them to prepare a *Reply*. If the reader's complaints are substantiated, the authors or the Editorial Office may consequently publish a *Correction* or retract the paper entirely.