

# Research Credibility and Administration Directive for the Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs [RCAD-VLiGTA]

The **Research Credibility and Administration Directive for the Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs** (hereinafter referred to as **RCAD-VLiGTA**) is only effective and binding upon **Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs**, the research institution run by **Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP** (formerly AbhiGlobal Legal Research & Media LLP) and does not extend to any independent publication supported by the organization.

## Chapter 1 – The Basics

### Article 1

#### Scope and Enforcement

The directive is applicable to:

- the **Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs**, the research institution run by Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP; and
- **Indic Pacific Publishing**, the publication department of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP.

The directive shall also not be applicable to any future online publication platforms created by the Firm.

### Article 2

#### Specificity in Matters Related to Enforcement

**Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs**, on whom the RCAD is strictly applicable as per Article 1 has limited autonomy to reserve the following matters with respect to research credibility and enforcement, and the directive does not apply on such matters:

- Research Areas and Issues Selection & Adoption
- Research Analytics
- Educational Technology and related operations

The RCAD is wholly applicable on **Indic Pacific Publishing** except on matters related to royalties.

The Directive does not at all affect the matters related to consultancy and legal work within Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP, nor does the Directive in any way reflect the intentions of the members and partners of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP.

## Chapter 2 – Research Administration

### Article 3

#### Hierarchies in Research Administration

Within the institutional structure of **Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs** as per the Article 1 of RCAD-VLiGTA, the following system of hierarchies shall be followed for the purposes of appointment in line with Guidelines on the Positions of Responsibility and Resignation of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP. The hierarchies have been explained in the table as expressed below:

<b>Title and Position</b>
<b>Administrative</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Head of Research and Innovation</li></ul> Eligibility: Discretionary, case to case basis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Deputy Head of Research and Innovation</li></ul> Eligibility: Discretionary, case to case basis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Principal Researcher(s)</li></ul> Eligibility: Discretionary, case to case basis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Head of the Research Departments</li></ul> Eligibility: Discretionary, case to case basis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Department Coordinator(s) (if required)</li></ul> Eligibility: Discretionary, case to case basis
<b>Academic/Policy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Senior/Distinguished Fellow</li></ul> Eligibility: 10-year research experience + PhD or 10-year work experience in a consulting/law firm /policy firm / government / technology firm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Junior Fellow</li></ul> Eligibility: 5-year research experience + PhD or 5-year work experience in a consulting/law firm /policy firm / government / technology firm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Research Specialist</li></ul> Eligibility: 5-year research experience or 3-year work experience in a consulting/law firm /policy firm / government / technology firm

- Senior Research Associate

Eligibility: 3-5 years' research experience or 2-year work experience in a consulting/law firm /policy firm / government / technology firm

- Junior Research Associate

Eligibility: 2-3 years' research experience

- Contributing Researcher

Eligibility: 6 months' research experience minimum

Interns and externs are not considered as the members of the organizations. The Principal Researchers have ultimate discretion over the research departments of the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs on certain matters, and the same cannot be overridden unless the override is permitted by the Managing Partner of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of the respective Research Department. Based on the table in this article, the term “concerned superior” can be construed to the specific members who have specific positions.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Remuneration and Compensation**

Matters related to remuneration and compensation are not covered by this Directive and shall be subject to the following:

- The Non-Disclosure Agreements signed;
- The Nature and Specificities related to any specific activity involved and not any task done in an ordinary course of nature in due consultation with the members of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP;

This article does not apply to any consultancy and legal work performed by the members of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Internship Structure**

Only research-centric internships can be granted by the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs, without any remuneration of stipend involved in the legal and policy domains. The nature of research issues and areas are decided by the Research Departments and the concerned superiors of the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs . However, every internship programme must confer the following steps:

- The internship applicants must apply for the research internship and the department must make a call for interns howsoever through legal means;
- Once the applicants are shortlisted after a process of selection, which is completely up to the concerned Heads of the respective Departments of the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs,

the applicants must be asked to submit their writing samples based on the key research issues of the department and must attend a virtual interview for further scrutiny;

- Once the applicants are recruited as interns, a proper notification has to be given to them within 1 day or so. Changing dates of internship is permissible, provided that the period shall not be beyond or less than 28 or 29 or 30 or 31 days in general;
- The Guidelines on Internship Regulation must be adhered;
- Every intern has to opt or asked to opt a research issue within a research area relevant to the research interests of the department. The intern has to then work on a discussion paper, which must be an original work of the intern, which has to be submitted to the concerned superior(s) by the last day of the internship programme;
- In the duration of internship, the following assignments can only be granted to the interns:
  - **Analytical report: less than 10,000 words** approx. word limit from a qualitative point of view but not less than 6,000 words approx. from a qualitative point of view
  - **Policy brief: 4,000-6,000 words** approx. from a qualitative point of view
  - **Case Studies as exceptions**
- The time period of each of the assignments is mentioned as follows:
  - **Analytical report: 1-3 weeks** (subject to the concerned superior of Research Department(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of the respective Research Department within the Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs);
  - **Policy brief: 5 days or 1 week** (subject to the concerned superior of Research Department(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of the respective Research Department within the Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs);
- **Any report, discussion paper or any case study or any other research work submitted to Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs are the properties of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP, with the moral authorship rights in recognition attributed to the concerned authors of the work and the publication rights vested in Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP;**
- A certificate of internship completion has to be submitted to the intern only when the literature review, the discussion paper and all the assignments have been submitted by the intern. Special exceptions can only be granted by the Department Coordinator, the Head of the Research Department, the Managing Partner or the Principal Researchers;

## Article 6

### Research Assignment Allocation

The concerned superior within the specific Research Department(s) or the Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP is empowered to allocate research assignments to the members of the Research Team of the Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs respectively as the person deems fit.

- The following assignments can only be granted to the members of the Research Team:

- **Technical report: up to 15,000 words** approx. word limit from a qualitative point of view
- **Analytical report: less than 10,000 words** approx. word limit from a qualitative point of view but not less than 6,000 words approx. from a qualitative point of view
- **Policy brief: 4,000-6,000 words** approx. from a qualitative point of view
- **Case Studies as exceptions**
- The time period of each of the assignments is mentioned as follows:
  - **Technical report: 6-10 weeks** (subject to the concerned superior of Research Department(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of the respective Research Department within the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs)
  - **Analytical report: 1-3 weeks** (subject to the concerned superior of Research Department(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of the respective Research Department within the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs)
  - **Policy brief: 5 days or 1 week** (subject to the concerned superior of Research Department(s) and/or Principal Researcher of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP or the Head of the respective Research Department within the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs)
- **Any report, discussion paper or any case study or any other research work submitted to Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs are the properties of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP, with the moral authorship rights in recognition attributed to the concerned authors of the work and the publication rights vested in Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP;**
- A letter of recommendation can be, irrespective of the merits of the concerned member of the research department, granted to the member only with respect to the Technical Reports on which the concerned member has worked on. Special exceptions can only be granted by the Department Coordinator, the Head of Research Department, the Managing Partner or the Principal Researchers, Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP;
- The article does not override the Guidelines on the Positions of Responsibility and Resignation;

## Article 6A

### **Publication Guidelines for Indic Pacific Publishing and the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs**

Indic Pacific Publishing, the publication department of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP and the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs, are open to accept research contributions of academic or policy aspects, in the fields of law or public policy, in the public domain of the following kinds:

- **Technical report: up to 15,000 words** approx. word limit from a qualitative point of view
- **Analytical report: less than 10,000 words** approx. word limit from a qualitative point of view but not less than 6,000 words approx. from a qualitative point of view
- **Discussion Paper: less than 10,000 words** approx. word limit from a qualitative point of view but not less than 6,000 words approx. from a qualitative point of view

- **Policy brief: 4,000-6,000 words** approx. from a qualitative point of view
- **Case Studies**
- **All submissions will have to be sent at [publish@indicpacific.com](mailto:publish@indicpacific.com) or [vligta@indicpacific.com](mailto:vligta@indicpacific.com).**
- **Any report, discussion paper or any case study or any other research work (including those submitted to digital publications) submitted to Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs and / or Indic Pacific Publishing are the properties of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP, with the moral authorship rights in recognition attributed to the concerned authors of the work and the publication rights vested in Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP;**
- **All quotes and data should be appropriately cited with both footnotes (for print) and hyperlinks (for online publication). Reference OSCOLA Style of Citation when preparing drafts for submission.**
- **For any digital publication, such as Visual Legal Analytica, VLA Pro or any other digital publication, please refer to the specific editorial guidelines referred to in the webpages owned by Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP.**

## **Article 7**

### **Representation of any works submitted**

Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs is naturally empowered to disseminate, reproduce, represent, feature and publish any work submitted to them at their discretion any time. However, it is recommended the concerned superiors intimate the concerned members who are the authors of the work with respect to matters related to Article 7.

## **Chapter 3 – Research Credibility**

## **Article 8**

### **Matters of Reservation**

Research Credibility will be a matter reserved for the Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs and their concerned research teams when following questions arise:

- Expertise of research areas or proficiency in the subject-matter research area and issues
- The epistemological, ontological, (optionally metaphysical) and topological aspects related to the research area and issues
- Division of allotment of any task, whose substantive basis lies in the nature of the research issue under address by the concerned research members
- Research Writing Guidelines, for educational purposes
- Legal and ethical issues pertaining to the use of AI-generated content by the author of a manuscript

## **Article 9**

### **Intellectual Contributions**

If any dispute with respect to the intellectual contributions of the concerned author(s) arises, then the Principal Researchers or the Research Departments within Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP can act, at the consent of the Head of the concerned Research Department, provided that the research issue corresponds to the areas covered by that respective department, subjected to the concerned author(s), decide the procedural and substantive viability of the ownership and rights of the intellectual contributions of the research members and interns.

The term dispute applies to:

- a. Conflict of interest over ownership, distribution and procurement of any idea, manuscript or draft material of reference used in an internship programme, a project or for a publication;
- b. Matter related to the theft, undue appropriation or misuse of any idea, manuscript or draft material of reference used in an internship programme, a project or for a publication;
- c. Notwithstanding the definitions, but not in conflict with the guidelines mentioned in the **Annex 1 of the RCAD-VLiGTA** and the Research Writing Guidelines of the Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs, the term can be interpreted only by the Principal Researchers or one of the Partners of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP with absolute and exclusive discretion;

## **Article 10**

### **Definitive Aspects of Research Credibility**

Annex 2 of the RCAD-VLiGTA will be the sole authoritative source to interpret and acknowledge binding guidelines on Research Credibility. With proper notification, only the Managing Partner of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP is empowered to amend the Annex.

## **Article 11**

### **The Principal Researchers**

The Principal Researchers act in three specific capacities to gauge the process of research development in Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs: advisory, semi-supervisory and academic. They are within their rights to be in direct correspondence to the research departments and their members.

## **Article 11A**

### **Use of AI-generated Content in Manuscripts**

1. The Author(s) acknowledge and represent that they have used artificial intelligence tools ("AI Tools") to generate portions of the work. The Author(s) further represent that they are familiar with the limitations and potential biases of AI Tools and have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and originality of the AI-generated content.
2. In consideration of the publication of the work, the Author(s) hereby waive all claims against Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP arising from or related to the use of AI-generated content in the work. This waiver includes, but is not limited to, claims of copyright infringement, intellectual property

- infringement, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and inaccuracy.
3. The Author(s) represent and warrant to Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP that:
    - They have obtained all necessary licenses and permissions to use the AI-generated content in the work.
    - The use of the AI-generated content does not violate the rights of any third party.
    - The AI-generated content is original and does not infringe any copyright, trademark, or other intellectual property rights.
    - The Author(s) have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and originality of the AI-generated content.
  4. The Author(s) agree to indemnify and hold Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP harmless from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses (including attorney's fees) arising from or related to:
    - The use of the AI-generated content in the work.
    - Any breach of the representations and warranties made in this Waiver.
    - Any violation of the rights of any third party.

## **Article 12**

### **Amendment of the Directive**

The amendment of the provisions of the Directive and the Annexes is possible only when a resolution is approved by the Managing Partner (or the Partner(s) delegated by the Managing Partner to perform the same activity) of Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP declaring the intent to amend. Once the resolution is approved, the amendment is considered valid, and an amended version of the Directive has to be published subject to Article 1.

## **Annexes**

### **Annex 1 – Guidelines to be Adhered by the Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs**

The annex has no applicability on any work handled by Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP, nor it reflects the position of the organization in any way.

The following guidelines are to be suggestively adhered by the Vidhitsa Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs :

- Guidance from Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
- Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) GUIDELINES ON GOOD PUBLICATION PRACTICE
- Guidance Document: Good Academic Research Practices (GARP) by University Grants Commission, Government of India
- UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018

The guidelines above however will have special value once any dispute under Article 7 will be raised.

### **Annex 2 – Parameters of Research Credibility**

The guidelines have binding value. However, they must be adhered with a pragmatic approach considering



that any new legal propositions might not be detectable in the process of peer-review.

### **Reviewing Guidelines**

Reviewers could judge any manuscript on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Format of the Manuscript:** Any major divergence from the standard manuscript format should be indicated.
- **Technical Presentation:** The research work should be technically presented instead of being presented as a story. Mere repetition of past work should not be accepted. You can look for conceptual advancement over previously published work. Any major omission of the previously published findings on the similar problem must be checked.
- **Interpretation:** The discussion should hover around the result and should not include irrelevant and unachievable statement.
- **Summary:** Pinpoint the strength and weakness of the article considering the potential importance of the work in the context of present and future.
- **Conclusion:** At the end reviewer(s) can recommend necessary corrections needed to accept the work, if they are actually required, else recommend it for publication. If found unsuitable the work should be declared as unacceptable for publication.

### **Special and Suggestive Tips**

- a. Kindly use Grammarly/any other grammar-checking software for grammar-checking, provide comments and track changes using Google Drive or Microsoft Word. Provide a PDF version of the file along with the DOC version of the file to the author for the purpose of review.
- b. Provide comments which are lucid, understandable and reasonable.

### **Similarity Check**

The guidelines on similarity check are inviolable.

- Any manuscript which surpasses the range of **9-15%** similarity is not eligible for publication. The reviewers can opt a policy to share the similarity check report with the author(s) to rectify their similarity issues.
- Similarity essentially is not equivalent to academic plagiarism.

### **Plagiarism (Academic)**

Plagiarism is defined as ‘submitting as one’s own work, irrespective of intent to deceive, that which derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others without due acknowledgement. It is both poor scholarship and a breach of academic integrity. Examples of plagiarism include:

- copying (using another person's language and/or ideas as if they are one's own), by:
- quoting verbatim another person's work without due acknowledgement of the source;
- paraphrasing another person's work by changing some of the words, or the order of the words, without due acknowledgement of the source;
- using ideas taken from someone else without reference to the originator;
- cutting and pasting from the Internet to make a pastiche of online sources;
- submitting someone else's work as part of one's own without identifying clearly who did the work.

For example, not attributing research contributed by others to a joint project. Plagiarism might also arise from colluding with another person who has not been declared or acknowledged (i.e. where collaboration is concealed or has been forbidden).

Work should include a general acknowledgement where it has received substantial help, for example with the language and style of a piece of written work.

Plagiarism can occur in respect to all types of sources and media, including:

- text, illustrations, musical quotations, mathematical derivations, computer code, etc.;
- material downloaded from websites or drawn from manuscripts or other media;
- published and unpublished material, including lectures, presentations and grey literature.

We do not tolerate plagiarism in any of our publications, and we reserve the right to check all submissions through appropriate plagiarism checking tools. Submissions containing suspected plagiarism, in whole or part, will be rejected. exert an undue influence on the presentation, review and publication of a piece of work. These may be financial, non-financial, professional, contractual or personal in nature.

We also expect that anyone who suspects undisclosed conflict of interest regarding a work published or under consideration by the Vidhitsu Law Institute of Global and Technology Affairs.

### **Guidelines on the Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Manuscripts**

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are becoming increasingly popular in all fields of research, including industry, policy, and academia. These tools can be used to automate tasks such as data collection, analysis, and visualization. They can also be used to generate new insights and hypotheses.

While AI tools can be a valuable asset for researchers, it is important to use them responsibly and ethically. The following guidelines are intended to help researchers ensure that their use of AI tools is transparent, reproducible, and trustworthy.

### *Transparency*

Researchers/authors should disclose the use of AI tools in their manuscripts and provide sufficient detail about how the tools were used. This includes identifying the specific tools used, the parameters used, and any limitations of the tools.

For example, if a researcher/author used an AI tool to generate text, they should disclose the name of the tool, the prompt they provided, and the number of outputs generated. They should also discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the tool, and how they evaluated the quality of the generated text.

Our reviewers and editors may be expected to use tools like ZeroGPT, and others as may be required to check if any of the text is generated by a large-language-model (for example, Bard, ChatGPT, Grok, etc.) or not.

### *Reproducibility*

Researchers should make it possible for other researchers to reproduce their work. This means providing access to the data, code, and scripts used in the research. It also means providing clear and detailed instructions on how to use the AI tools.

For example, if a researcher used an AI tool to analyze data, they should provide a copy of the data, the code used to analyze the data, and the scripts used to generate the results. They should also provide instructions on how to install and use the AI tools.

### *Trustworthiness*

Researchers should take steps to ensure that their use of AI tools is trustworthy. This means evaluating the quality of the AI tools and the results they produce. It also means being aware of the potential biases of AI tools.

For example, a researcher should evaluate the accuracy and reliability of the AI tool they are using. They should also be aware of the potential for the AI tool to produce biased results.

### *Guidelines for Specific AI Tools*

The following guidelines are specific to certain types of AI tools:

- Large language models (LLMs): When using LLMs to generate text, it is important to be aware of the potential for the models to produce biased, inaccurate, or misleading results. Researchers should evaluate the quality of the generated text and take steps to mitigate any potential biases.
- Code generation tools: When using code generation tools, it is important to carefully review the generated code and test it thoroughly before using it in production. Researchers should also be aware of the potential for code generation tools to produce code that is insecure or inefficient.
- Image generation tools: When using image generation tools, it is important to be aware of the potential for the tools to produce copyrighted or trademarked images. Researchers should also be aware of the potential for image generation tools to produce images that are offensive or misleading.

## **Duplicate and Redundant Publication**

Duplicate or redundant publication, or ‘self-plagiarism’, occurs when work, or substantial parts of a work, is published more than once by the author(s) of the work. This can be in the same or a different language. The redundant publication can occur when there is substantial overlap between two or more publications without appropriate cross-referencing or justification for the overlap.

We do not support duplicate or redundant publication, unless:

- it is felt that editorially this will strengthen the academic/policy discourse, and
- we have clear approval from the original publication, and
- we include citation of the original source. We expect our readers, reviewers and authors to raise any suspicions of duplicate or redundant publication, either by contacting the relevant reviewers or by email to the concerned reviewers.

## **Libel, Defamation and Freedom of Expression**

Freedom of expression is critical to us in publishing, but we do not support publishing false statements that harm the reputation of individuals, groups, or organisations. Our legal/management team can advise on pre-publication libel reviews, and will also address allegations of libel in any of our publications.

## **PR/Media**

We recommend colleagues who are involved in media or publicity familiarise themselves with and follow the codes approved by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, and observe these standards in any press releases or other media communications. Where we solicit or encourage media activities concerning one of our authors, editors or publishing partners, we strive to keep them informed.

## **How Research Integrity Really Works**

We will follow the principles of research integrity, i.e.,

- honesty in all aspects of research;
- scrupulous care, thoroughness and excellence in research practice;
- transparency and open communication;
- care and respect for all participants in and subjects of research. In addition to the general principles above, we expect our journal and book editorial teams to provide specific guidelines and policies for authors on research integrity and ethics appropriate to their subject matter and discipline.

We are committed to research independence and strive in all cases to prevent this principle from being compromised through conflicts of interest, fear, or any other corporate or political influence. Our review processes reflect this commitment to research independence. Where no other criteria are specified, authorship should be based on the below principles. These should apply to all fields of research:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis,

or interpretation of data for the work; and

2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
3. Final approval of the version to be published; and
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. Our default position is that the corresponding author has the authority to act on behalf of all co-authors, and we expect the corresponding author to confirm this at the beginning of the publication process, except in certain cases, which depends on the nature of contributions involved.