

## **Author Submission Guidelines for India Legal Research Foundation Journal**

The **India Legal Research Foundation Journal (ILRF Journal)** is a scholarly platform dedicated to encouraging rigorous legal research and meaningful academic dialogue. The Journal aims to promote critical thinking, doctrinal analysis, and interdisciplinary scholarship in the field of law.

We invite submissions from **students, researchers, academicians, legal practitioners, and policy professionals** who wish to contribute to the advancement of legal knowledge and discourse.

Authors are requested to carefully review and comply with the following submission guidelines before sending their manuscripts.

### **1. Scope of the Journal**

The Journal welcomes scholarly work addressing **contemporary legal issues, doctrinal developments, comparative legal analysis, public policy concerns, and interdisciplinary legal studies.**

Submissions may focus on, but are not limited to:

- Constitutional and Administrative Law
- Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
- Corporate and Commercial Law
- Technology and Data Protection Law
- International Law and Trade Law
- Environmental and Human Rights Law
- Emerging areas of legal policy and governance

Manuscripts that demonstrate **original research, analytical depth, and well-reasoned arguments** are particularly encouraged.

### **2. Categories of Submissions**

The Journal accepts manuscripts under the following categories.

#### **Research Articles**

Research Articles are expected to present comprehensive and well-structured research on a specific legal issue. These papers should include doctrinal analysis, relevant case law discussion, statutory interpretation, and engagement with existing academic literature.

**Word Limit:** 8,000 – 10,000 words (including footnotes)

#### **Short Articles / Essays**

Short Articles or Essays may address a focused legal question, contemporary development, or theoretical debate. These pieces are shorter but should still demonstrate analytical clarity and scholarly engagement.

**Word Limit:** 2,500 – 4,000 words (including footnotes)

### **Case Comments**

Case Comments analyse recent judicial decisions and discuss their legal significance, reasoning adopted by the court, and potential implications for future jurisprudence.

**Word Limit:** 1,500 – 2,500 words (including footnotes)

### **Legislative or Policy Comments**

These submissions analyse newly enacted legislation, amendments, regulatory developments, or public policy initiatives and their broader legal and societal impact.

**Word Limit:** 1,500 – 2,500 words (including footnotes)

## **3. Originality Requirement**

All submissions must be **original and unpublished work**.

Authors must ensure that:

- The manuscript has **not been previously published** in any journal, blog, or online platform.
- The manuscript is **not simultaneously submitted to another publication**.
- All sources used in the manuscript are properly cited.

The Journal follows strict academic integrity standards and does not tolerate **plagiarism, data manipulation, or misrepresentation of sources**.

If plagiarism is detected at any stage of the review or publication process, the manuscript will be **immediately rejected**, and the author may be barred from future submissions.

## **4. Manuscript Formatting Requirements**

To ensure uniformity and readability, authors must follow the formatting requirements listed below.

### **Font and Text Formatting**

- **Font Style:** Times New Roman

- **Font Size:**
  - Main text: 12
  - Footnotes: 10
- **Line Spacing:**
  - Main text: 1.5 spacing
  - Footnotes: Single spacing
- **Alignment:** Justified
- **Margins:** 1 inch on all sides

Page numbers should be placed at the **bottom centre of each page**.

### **Headings and Subheadings**

Authors should structure their manuscript using **clear headings and subheadings** to improve readability.

For example:

- I. Introduction
- II. Legal Framework
- III. Judicial Interpretation
- IV. Comparative Analysis
- V. Conclusion

Headings should be concise and logically organized.

### **5. Abstract and Keywords**

Every manuscript must include:

#### **Abstract**

A brief **abstract of 150–250 words** summarizing:

- the research issue
- methodology or approach
- key arguments or findings

The abstract should allow readers to quickly understand the focus and contribution of the paper.

#### **Keywords**

Authors must provide **4–6 keywords** that represent the core themes of the manuscript.

These keywords assist in indexing and improving the discoverability of the research.

## 6. Citation and Footnoting Style

The ILRF Journal follows the Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation citation style.

Authors must adhere to the following rules:

- All references must be cited using **footnotes rather than endnotes**.
- Citations must follow the formatting standards prescribed in the Bluebook.
- Authors should ensure accuracy in citing **case laws, statutes, books, journal articles, and online sources**.
- Web sources should include the **date of last access**.

Excessive citation should be avoided. Footnotes should support the argument rather than overwhelm the main text.

## 7. Anonymity and Author Information

The Journal follows a **double-blind peer review system** to ensure impartiality.

Therefore:

- The manuscript **must not contain the author's name, affiliation, or any identifying information**.
- Author details must be provided in a **separate cover page**.

The cover page should include:

- Name of the author(s)
- Institutional affiliation
- Contact email address
- Title of the manuscript
- A brief author bio (50–80 words)

Submissions that disclose the identity of the author within the manuscript may be returned for correction before review.

## 8. Editorial Screening Process

Once a manuscript is received, it undergoes an **initial editorial review**.

During this stage the editorial board examines:

- whether the manuscript falls within the scope of the Journal
- compliance with formatting and citation guidelines
- originality and clarity of the submission

Manuscripts that do not comply with the submission requirements may be returned to the author for technical revisions before proceeding to peer review.

## 9. Peer Review Process

The Journal follows a **double-blind peer review system**, meaning that both the author and the reviewers remain anonymous during the evaluation process.

Each manuscript is reviewed by **subject experts or experienced researchers** in the relevant area of law.

The reviewers evaluate the manuscript on the basis of:

- originality of the research
- clarity of arguments
- methodological rigor
- quality of legal analysis
- relevance to contemporary legal discourse

Based on the reviewers' recommendations, the editorial board may decide to:

- Accept the manuscript
- Accept with minor revisions
- Request major revisions
- Reject the submission

## 10. Response Timeline

The Journal strives to maintain a **transparent and efficient review process**.

Authors can generally expect:

- **Acknowledgment of submission:** same day
- **Initial editorial decision:** within 7 working days
- **Final review decision:** within 30 days

In cases requiring extensive peer review or revisions, the process may take slightly longer.

Authors will be informed promptly about the status of their manuscript.

## 11. Plagiarism Screening and Authentication Process

All manuscripts submitted to the Journal undergo **plagiarism screening using recognized academic plagiarism detection software**.

Submissions with **similarity exceeding approximately 10–12%** (excluding citations and commonly used legal terminology) may be rejected or returned for revision.

The Journal may also verify:

- authenticity of citations
- accuracy of legal references
- integrity of sources cited

This process ensures that the work published maintains **high academic and ethical standards**.

## 12. Editing and Proofreading

The editorial board reserves the right to make **minor editorial changes** to improve clarity, grammar, and formatting.

However:

- Substantive changes will always be communicated to the author.
- Authors may be required to review **proofs prior to publication**.

Authors are expected to cooperate with the editorial team to ensure smooth and timely publication.

## 13. Copyright Policy

Upon acceptance of the manuscript, authors may be required to grant the Journal the **right to publish the work**.

Authors will retain the **intellectual ownership of their research**, but any subsequent publication of the same work should acknowledge its first publication in the ILRF Journal.

## 14. Ethical Standards and Publication Integrity

The Journal adheres to strict publication ethics and expects authors to comply with the highest academic standards.

Authors must avoid:

- plagiarism
- duplicate submissions
- fabrication or manipulation of research findings
- improper attribution of sources

Any violation of these standards may result in **rejection, withdrawal of publication, or prohibition from future submissions**.

## 15. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

The **India Legal Research Foundation Journal** recognizes that technological tools, including artificial intelligence (AI), are increasingly being used to assist in research and writing. While such tools may support the research process, authors remain fully responsible for the **accuracy, originality, and integrity of their submissions**.

Accordingly, the following guidelines apply to the use of AI tools in manuscript preparation.

### Permissible Use of AI Tools

Authors may use AI-based tools for **limited assistance**, such as:

- Improving grammar, language clarity, or sentence structure
- Organizing research notes or summarizing background material
- Formatting citations or references

These uses are considered acceptable as long as the **core intellectual contribution, legal reasoning, and analysis remain the author's own work**.

### Prohibited Use of AI Tools

AI tools must **not be used to generate substantive portions of the manuscript**, including:

- Original legal analysis or arguments
- Case law interpretation
- Research conclusions or policy recommendations
- Entire sections of the manuscript

Submissions that appear to be **substantially generated by AI rather than authored by the researcher** may be rejected during the editorial or review process.

### Author Responsibility

Authors are solely responsible for ensuring that:

- All legal citations are **accurate and properly verified**
- Case laws, statutes, and academic sources cited in the manuscript **actually exist and are correctly referenced**
- No fabricated or inaccurate information generated by AI tools is included in the submission

The editorial board reserves the right to verify citations and references during the review process.

### **Disclosure Requirement**

If AI tools have been used in any stage of the manuscript preparation, authors are encouraged to provide a **brief disclosure statement** on the cover page.

For example:

"The author used an AI-assisted writing tool solely for language editing and grammar refinement. All legal research, analysis, and conclusions presented in this manuscript are the author's own work."

### Editorial Review of AI Use

This disclosure promotes **transparency and academic integrity**.

The Journal may use **editorial screening methods or AI-detection tools** to identify manuscripts that appear to be substantially AI-generated.

If significant AI-generated content is identified without disclosure, the manuscript may be:

- returned for clarification, or
- rejected on grounds of academic integrity.

## 16. Rewards and Benefits Policy

**India Legal Research Foundation Journal (ILRF Journal)** shall recognise and reward outstanding academic contributions published in the journal.

### 1. **Paper of the Month Award (Monthly):**

The Editorial Board of the ILRF Journal shall select one article/paper each month as the **"Paper of the Month."** The selection will be based on originality, depth of research, analytical quality, relevance to contemporary legal issues, and overall academic contribution.

2. **Prize Money:**  
The author(s) of the selected Paper shall be awarded a **cash prize of ₹5,100 (Rupees Five Thousand One Hundred only)**.
3. **Feature and Promotion:**  
The selected paper will be **featured and promoted on the official website and digital platforms of the India Legal Research Foundation**, providing the author(s) with enhanced visibility within the legal and academic community.
4. **Editorial Discretion:**  
The decision of the Editorial Board regarding the selection of the Paper of the Month shall be **final and binding**. The Board reserves the right to withhold the award in any month if no submission meets the required standards of academic excellence.
5. **Author Recognition:**  
The author(s) of the awarded paper may also receive a **certificate of recognition** from the India Legal Research Foundation acknowledging their scholarly contribution.

### **17. Registration and Submission Process**

All manuscripts for the **India Legal Research Foundation Journal (ILRF Journal)** must be submitted through the official online submission system.

1. **Submission Link:**  
Authors are required to **click the official submission link** provided on the ILRF Journal website to initiate the paper submission process.
2. **Registration Form:**  
Upon accessing the submission portal, authors must complete the online submission form and provide the following details:
  - o **Category of Submission**
  - o **Author Name**
  - o **Email Address**
  - o **Mobile Number**
3. **Manuscript Submission Requirements:**  
Authors are required to upload **two separate PDF files** as part of the submission:  
**(a) Manuscript File (Blind Review Copy):**  
This file must contain **only the manuscript** and should **not include any personal details of the author(s)** in order to maintain the integrity of the review process.  
**(b) Author Details File:**  
A separate PDF file containing the following author information must be submitted:
  - o Author Name
  - o Contact Details (Mobile number and Email ID)
  - o College/University/Institution
  - o Academic Year / Designation
  - o Residential Address
  - o Bank Details (for the purpose of prize money disbursement, if selected)
4. **Registration Fee:**  
A **registration fee of ₹399 (Rupees Three Hundred Ninety-Nine only)** is required to submit a manuscript to the journal.
5. **Fee Policy:**  
The registration fee is charged **solely for maintaining the authenticity and seriousness of submissions** and to ensure that the journal receives genuine academic contributions. The fee also assists in supporting the administrative and editorial processes involved in manuscript management.
6. **Payment Process:**  
After completing the submission form, **authors will be automatically redirected to the**

**payment page** to complete the registration fee payment. The submission process will be considered **complete only after the successful payment of the registration fee.**

7. **Confirmation of Submission:**

Upon successful submission and payment, authors will receive an **acknowledgment email confirming receipt of the manuscript for editorial review.**

For any queries or doubts, reach out at [publications@ilrf.in](mailto:publications@ilrf.in)