1 SUMMARY

The widespread adoption of digital media and information technologies has made it exponentially easier and faster to produce, disseminate, and be exposed to false, manipulated, and sometimes hateful content at a global scale.

The *HKS Misinformation Review* offers a new format for peer-reviewed, scholarly publications based on an expedited timeframe, providing up-to-date and reliable research aimed at understanding and responding to the problems of misinformation with real-world implications for researchers and practitioners.

**OACIP FUNDING GOAL**

$201,563/year for three years totaling $604,688
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<th><strong>HKS Misinformation Review</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Journal Website</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Year Established</strong></td>
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| **Journal Subjects**         | Communications  
                                | Political Science 
                                | Media Studies  
                                | Public Health  
                                | Information Technology |
| **DOAJ Record**              | DOAJ Record |
| **Editorial Board**          | Editorial Board |
| **Issues per Year**          | 6       |
| **Average Number of Articles** | 25 per year |
| **Publisher**                | Harvard Kennedy School Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy |
| **Reason for OACIP Funding** | To Sustain Diamond OA Publishing |
| **Annual OACIP Funding Goal** | $201,563 per year |
3 JOURNAL OVERVIEW

3.1 JOURNAL NAME
HKS Misinformation Review, ISSN: 2766-1652 (online)

3.2 JOURNAL WEBSITE
https://misinforeview.hks.harvard.edu

3.3 JOURNAL DESCRIPTION
Misinformation is a complex, largely misunderstood phenomenon that has profound implications for social, cultural, and political life. The public, media, and policymakers need reliable, unbiased research on the prevalence, diffusion, and impact of misinformation worldwide. The HKS Misinformation Review produces content that is “fast-reviewed” by misinformation scientists and scholars, released under open-access licensing, and geared towards emphasizing the practical implications and relevance of the research we publish for a broad readership. President and Fellows of Harvard College is exempt from federal income tax as an educational institution under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

3.4 WHO OWNS THE JOURNAL?
Harvard University

3.5 WHO PUBLISHES THE JOURNAL?
Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School

3.6 WHAT IS THE JOURNAL’S MISSION?
We review and publish high-quality, interdisciplinary research that examines misinformation from different perspectives, from its prevalence and impact to the effectiveness of possible interventions. All content is targeted toward a broad audience of scholars, researchers, journalists, fact checkers, educators, policymakers, and other practitioners working in the information, media, and platform landscape. Over 40 misinformation experts from over 20 different institutions serve on our Editorial Board.

3.7 WHAT DISCIPLINE(S) DOES THE JOURNAL SERVE?
The journal is widely interdisciplinary, spanning political science, communications and media studies, computer science, sociology, and public affairs, among other fields.

3.8 IS THIS JOURNAL CONSIDERED A FLAGSHIP JOURNAL?
Yes
3.9 **How many issues are published each year?**
We publish six regular issues per year. We also publish special issues on themes of particular relevance curated by guest editors.

3.10 **What are the average number of articles published each year?**
The journal was launched in 2020. We published 49 articles in 2020, 35 in 2021, 23 in 2022, and 20 in 2023. In 2024, we anticipate publishing 25 articles.

3.11 **In what language(s) is the journal published?**
English

3.12 **On what platform is the journal hosted?**
WordPress

4 **Finance and Sustainability**

4.1 **Provide a snapshot of Resource and Society/Publisher finances.**
*HKS Misinformation Review* annual budget:

- Staffing & Benefits: $300,000
- General Operating: $68,800
- Miscellaneous: $6,200
- Total Annual Budget: $375,000

4.2 **How is the journal currently funded?**
The journal is currently funded by the HKS Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics & Public Policy.

4.3 **What are the reasons for seeking funding for transition to open access or continued support for open access publication?**
We are seeking continued operational support for providing open-access, interdisciplinary research on misinformation from a global perspective. Our mission is to emphasize the real-world impact of misinformation for scholars, as well as journalists, technologists, educators, and policymakers. Our current publication model allows this broader readership to connect with timely, peer-reviewed research on issues of contemporary importance, as well as compensation for our reviewers’ time and expertise, allowing an expedited time frame for publication.

As an open-access journal without publication or subscription fees, our work is widely available to any researcher or practitioner who wishes to benefit from the research of our authors. This is especially important for people at underrepresented and underfunded academic and media institutions, as well as institutions outside the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Europe.
4.4 **Provide a summary of your funding request though OACIP. Include total dollar value sought per year.**

The *HKS Misinformation Review* seeks contributions to cover its annual costs. The expenses undertaken by the journal primarily support staff time spent to see manuscripts through the peer review, revision, and publication processes; maintain the website and internal databases; manage external communications (e.g., newsletters and social media), metadata, and indexing as well as archiving policies; and solicit special issues and commentaries.

Our total annual costs amount to $375,000 per year. We have secured a three-year commitment of up to $562,500 from the Harvard Kennedy School’s Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy. Therefore, we request funding to support the remainder of the journal’s expenses for these three years. In the three-year plan, existing support will be split equally between each year, supporting the *HKS Misinformation Review* at 50%. We are seeking an additional $187,500 per year to equate to 100% funding year over year. Please see a breakdown of the fundraising plan in the table below, as well as details regarding the make-up of our annual budget.

### Three-Year Fundraising Plan

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<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2026</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising Ask</strong></td>
<td>$187,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Portion of Annual Budget</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
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**HKS Misinformation Review Annual Budget**

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4.5 **What is the journal’s commitment to innovation and research & development?**

Our expedited peer-review model allows us to keep pace with publishing the latest in misinformation research. Our calls for papers include topics such as disinformation, propaganda and media manipulation; media business models, news quality, and misinformation; health and science misinformation; hate speech, content moderation, and platform accountability; international disinformation, security, and warfare; and online misinformation, offline narratives, and real-life impact.

Our recent introduction of article metrics and the Scholastica peer-review platform will help us continue to increase the number of submissions and journal outputs, improve the quality of published manuscripts, diversify our authorship, reviewer pool, and the research agendas featured, and further streamline and professionalize the journal’s existing editorial and publication processes.
4.6 Please describe how the journal demonstrates operational and financial stability or provide a plan for such.

The HKS Misinformation Review has operated successfully since its inception in 2020. It has weathered not only the uncertain landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic but also the looming recession and changing needs of academia as misinformation further contributes to interactions within societies. Our journal is backed by the staff and resources of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy and by the Harvard Kennedy School’s commitment to longevity. The journal’s content is guided by peer reviewers from a wide variety of fields, allowing for a veritable smorgasbord of perspectives and novel, relevant topics to be explored within the journal’s publications.

With regard to staff regularly contributing to the journal’s success, we have the advantage of a diverse team of experienced editors and academics who collaborate nimbly via remote and in-person communication channels, preventing stagnation due to physical location from becoming an issue. Finally, we benefit from the support of Harvard University’s larger infrastructure, which assists with such aspects of the journal’s administration as data security and storage, fiscal management, staffing, and an array of field experts available to consult on any unusual issues and/or topics that may or may not arise in the field of misinformation.

5 Impact

5.1 Disciplinary Impact

The journal has continued to expand its reach domestically and internationally since its inception. In 2022, the journal was cited more than 20 times in publications geared toward an international policymaker audience, including briefings, white papers, and parliamentary reports prepared for institutions such as the European Union, the World Health Organization, the RAND Corporation, and the United Nations Development Program. Common themes are related to health misinformation, predominantly COVID-19. Other strong themes include politics and partisanship, platforms and personal data, and how misinformation can be effectively combated. We are also cited in a number of fact-checking resources, e.g., in Brazil, France, and Taiwan. Overall, the data we have collected shows that our policy and international impact has increased since 2020 as evidenced by the number of citations.

5.2 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Impact

The HKS Misinformation Review engages in a number of different strategies for collecting baseline information on the journal’s Inclusion and Diversity (I&D) attributes and ensuring that our reviews and authors represent the full range of contributions in misinformation research. Current strategies include attending to gender parity with regard to reviewer requests, working with underrepresented authors and/or topical issues to improve these manuscripts during the peer review process, and broadly disseminating existing research on diversity and misinformation published in the journal via social media and our newsletter.
5.3 Faculty Impact or Student Success
As of 2023, all of the journal’s publications now display article metrics, including Altmetric scores and Crossref citations, which allow faculty to view the impact of their research in real time. For example, our article “The causes and consequences of COVID-19 misperceptions: Understanding the role of news and social media” has 161 Crossref citations and an Altmetric score of 193, and the article “The different forms of COVID-19 misinformation and their consequences” has 84 Crossref citations and an Altmetric score of 45.

6 Organization and Governance

6.1 What is the Governance Structure of the Journal and, if Applicable, the Society/Publisher.
The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for overseeing the publication process as well as a two-person team, including a Managing Editor and a Special Editor for Commentaries. They are also responsible for the journal’s communication and outreach activities. The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Committee determine final publication decisions collaboratively. The journal’s Editorial Board members come from top-ranked institutions from a diverse set of academic disciplines and broadly advise on the journal’s activities and contributions.

6.2 Please provide a link to a list of your journal’s editorial board.
https://misinforeview.hks.harvard.edu/editorial-board/

6.3 Provide a statement on editorial independence or whether investors have a say in governance or article selection/journal direction.
Our journal maintains strict editorial independence in order to preserve the integrity of our peer review process. Investors do not have input in the governance of the journal or article selection.

6.4 Describe the journal’s commitment to advancing social justice and diversity.
We have recently re-opened our special issue submissions and plan to put out calls for special issues related to intersectional perspectives as well as misinformation research in the Global South. We are also in the process of evaluating trends over time with regard to gender, race and ethnicity, career stage, and geographic location, as well as creating a system of self-checks at the desk review, reviewer selection, and revision stages to ensure that our outputs are an accurate reflection of the increasing diversity of the scope of misinformation studies.
7 POLICIES AND STANDARDS

7.1 WHAT IS THE JOURNAL’S PEER REVIEW PROCESS?
All articles and research notes are subject to a double-blind peer review process. Once a manuscript has been revised to address reviewer and editorial questions and comments, it is sent to the Editorial Committee for evaluation and a final publication decision is issued.

The HKS Misinformation Review is unique in its organization around an expedited peer review process. Essays are limited to 3,000 words. Articles are submitted in a structured format that emphasizes real-world implications, and reviewers and editors receive compensation for their diligence. This process allows us to publish research findings on a rolling basis within two to three months after submission.

7.2 IS YOUR JOURNAL INDEXED ON DOAJ?
Yes: https://doaj.org/toc/2766-1652

7.3 DESCRIBE THE JOURNAL’S AUTHOR RIGHTS RETENTION POLICY.
The HKS Misinformation Review operates under the Creative Commons License CC-BY. Under Creative Commons licenses, authors retain copyright to their articles.

7.4 WHAT COPYRIGHT IS ASSIGNED TO THE JOURNAL ARTICLES?
The HKS Misinformation Review operates under the Creative Commons License CC-BY. A CC-BY license allows for the reproduction of articles, free of charge, for non-commercial and commercial use, and with the appropriate citation information. All authors publishing with us accept these as the terms of publication.

7.5 DESCRIBE HOW THE JOURNAL IS COMPLIANT WITH RELEVANT TECHNICAL STANDARDS.
Data are important products of the scientific enterprise, and at the HKS Misinformation Review, we believe that they should be preserved and usable for decades in the future. The journal requires, as a condition for publication, that all data necessary to replicate published results should be archived in the Harvard Dataverse repository (https://dataverse.harvard.edu), within IRB restrictions. By default, data deposited in the Harvard Dataverse will be given a Creative Commons 0 waiver, thereby allowing it to be reused for any purpose, including commercial, with the expectation that the data will be cited when reused. To guarantee long-term digital preservation, content published in the HKS Misinformation Review is also deposited in DASH, Harvard’s central, open-access repository. In addition, each published article is issued a DOI.

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A