

ECDLR Style Guide

European Copyright & Digital Law Review · Version 1.0 · September 2026

This guide sets the house style for scholarly articles published by ECDLR. It applies to manuscripts in English, German, and Turkish and is intended to ensure a consistent, professional PDF presentation across the journal's continuous-publication model.

Page	A4; margins 25 mm left/right, 23 mm top, 22 mm bottom
Body text	Georgia 11 pt; 1.15 line spacing; justified
Footnotes	Georgia 9 pt; single spacing; continuous numbering
Headings	Numbered; max. three levels; navy house style
Publication model	Continuous publication; Article Number instead of volume/issue
Default licence	CC BY 4.0 for scholarly articles, unless expressly stated otherwise

1. Scope and editorial principle

ECDLR publishes scholarly legal research under a continuous-publication model. The house style is designed to be neutral across jurisdictions while remaining suitable for copyright, artificial intelligence, digital law, platform regulation, technology law, and related fields.

The overriding rule is consistency. Authors may use national citation conventions for legislation and case law where necessary, but the overall structure, typography, footnote logic, and bibliographic presentation must follow this guide.

2. File format and submission

- Submit scholarly manuscripts in Microsoft Word (.docx).
- Use the ECDLR Article Template where possible. Do not use manually created text boxes for body text, headings, footnotes, or page numbers.
- All images, charts, and tables must be editable or supplied at publication quality, with source and rights information.
- The final website PDF is produced by the ECDLR Editorial Team after editorial and metadata checks.

3. Page layout and typography

3.1. Page setup

- Paper size: A4 (210 × 297 mm).
- Margins: 25 mm left/right; 23 mm top; 22 mm bottom.
- Page numbers: footer, Arabic numerals, starting on the first page.
- Headers: abbreviated article title/author on subsequent pages; ECDLR identifier on the right.

3.2. Typeface and spacing

- Body: Georgia 11 pt, justified, 1.15 line spacing.
- First paragraph after a heading: no first-line indent.
- Subsequent body paragraphs: 5 mm first-line indent.
- Footnotes: Georgia 9 pt, single spacing.
- Long quotations: Georgia 10 pt, italic, indented 8 mm left and 5 mm right.
- Use bold sparingly. Underlining is reserved for hyperlinks if automatically applied.

4. First-page structure

- Publication label: SCHOLARLY ARTICLE.
- Main title in the language of the article.
- English title where the article is in German or Turkish.
- Author name, academic position, institutional affiliation, and ORCID.
- Corresponding-author email where appropriate.
- Abstract and keywords in the article language.
- English abstract and English keywords for German- and Turkish-language articles.
- Publication metadata: year, Article Number, DOI, ISSN (Online), page range, and licence.
- Preferred citation supplied by ECDLR.

5. Titles, headings and numbering

Use sentence case for English headings. German and Turkish headings follow normal orthographic rules. Number headings with Arabic numerals where the manuscript has more than two substantive sections.

- Level 1: 1. Introduction

- Level 2: 2.1. Training data and copyright
- Level 3: 2.1.1. Reservation of rights
- Avoid a fourth heading level unless essential.

6. Abstracts and keywords

- Abstract: normally 150-250 words.
- State the problem, legal framework or method, principal argument/findings, and significance.
- Avoid unexplained abbreviations and unnecessary citations in the abstract.
- Keywords: 5-8 terms; prefer established legal and technical terminology.
- For non-English articles, the English metadata must be a genuine translation, not machine-generated text left unchecked.

7. Footnotes and citation style

ECDLR uses a footnote-based legal citation system. Citations should identify the source precisely while avoiding unnecessary repetition. The journal accepts jurisdiction-specific court and legislation formats, provided they are internally consistent and intelligible to an international legal readership.

7.1. General footnote rules

- Use Word's automatic footnote function. Do not type superscript numbers manually.
- Footnotes are numbered consecutively throughout the article.
- Place the footnote marker after punctuation, unless a citation relates only to a specific word or expression.
- Give a full citation on first reference; use a concise short form thereafter.
- Avoid 'op. cit.' and similar ambiguous cross-references. 'Ibid.' may be used only where the immediately preceding footnote contains the same source and there is no risk of confusion.
- Pinpoint references are required for quotations and specific propositions.

7.2. Citation examples

Book

Jane C. Ginsburg, *International Copyright and Neighbouring Rights*, 3rd ed., Oxford University Press, 2022, p. 145.

Journal article

Eleonora Rosati, "Infringing AI: Liability for AI-Generated Outputs under International, EU, and UK

	Copyright Law”, European Journal of Risk Regulation 16(2) (2025), 603-627, 615, https://doi.org/10.1017/err.2024.72 .
Chapter	Author, “Chapter Title”, in Editor (ed.), Book Title, Publisher, Year, pp. xx-yy, pinpoint.
EU case	CJEU, Case C-476/17, Pelham GmbH and Others v Hütter and Others, EU:C:2019:624, para. 56.
German case	BGH, judgment of [date] - [case number], [report/reference], para. [x].
Turkish case	Yargıtay [Daire], E. [year/no.], K. [year/no.], [date], [pinpoint if available].
Legislation	Directive (EU) 2019/790, Art. 4(3).
Web source	Institution/Author, “Title”, date, URL (last accessed 6 September 2026).

8. Cases, legislation and abbreviations

- Use official or authoritative case identifiers (ECLI, neutral citation, docket/case number) where available.
- Spell out an institution or instrument on first use, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses; thereafter use the abbreviation.
- For EU legislation, use the official title or a recognised short title and identify the relevant article/recital.
- For German and Turkish law, retain accepted national abbreviations where they are standard, but explain unfamiliar abbreviations for international readers.

9. Quotations, emphasis and language

- Short quotations remain within the paragraph and use quotation marks appropriate to the article language.
- Long quotations (about 40 words or more) should be formatted as a block quote without quotation marks.
- Use italics for emphasis, foreign terms, and case names only where appropriate; avoid excessive emphasis.
- The spelling system must be internally consistent (for example, British or American English). ECDLR does not require one English variety, but mixed usage should be corrected.

10. Tables, figures and third-party material

- Number tables and figures consecutively (Table 1, Figure 1).
- Provide a concise title and source line.
- Authors are responsible for obtaining permission for third-party material where required.
- CC BY 4.0 applying to an ECDLR article does not automatically cover third-party images, figures, or other protected material.

11. DOI, Article Number, ISSN and pagination

ECDLR uses continuous publication. Scholarly articles receive an Article Number and, once Crossref registration is active, an individual DOI. Volume and issue numbers are not required unless ECDLR later changes its publication model.

- Article Number format: three digits (e.g., 001, 002, 003).
- Preferred DOI structure: determined only after Crossref assigns the ECDLR DOI prefix.
- ISSN (Online): inserted by the Editorial Team once assigned.
- Page numbering is continuous within each individual PDF, beginning at page 1.
- The website citation should use year + Article Number rather than volume/issue.

12. Licensing and copyright

- Copyright remains with the author.
- Unless otherwise stated, ECDLR scholarly articles are published under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0).
- Third-party material is excluded from the licence unless expressly indicated.
- Authors must disclose prior publication, preprints, working papers, and materially overlapping versions.

13. Editorial production workflow

1. Author submits .docx manuscript and required metadata.
2. Editorial review: scope, originality, legal quality, references, language, and permissions.
3. ECDLR applies the house template and normalises styles.
4. Author receives proofs where substantive or citation changes require confirmation.
5. ECDLR finalises Article Number, DOI, ISSN, preferred citation, licence, and publication date.

6. Final PDF is generated and checked against the website metadata.
7. PDF and landing page are published together; DOI metadata is deposited/updated.

14. Final editorial checklist

- ☐ Title and author names match website metadata.
- ☐ Affiliation and ORCID verified.
- ☐ Abstract/keywords complete; English metadata included where required.
- ☐ Heading hierarchy consistent.
- ☐ Footnotes automatic and consecutively numbered.
- ☐ Case law, legislation, DOI links, and URLs checked.
- ☐ Third-party rights/permissions confirmed.
- ☐ Article Number, ISSN, DOI, page range, and CC BY 4.0 statement correct.
- ☐ Preferred citation matches the landing page.
- ☐ Final PDF visually checked before upload.

15. Contact

Editorial questions concerning formatting and citation style may be sent to editor@ecdrlr.org. Submissions may be sent to submissions@ecdrlr.org. Website: ecdrlr.org.