Finding Reputable Journals: Library Tools to Identify Credible Publications

Suzanne Cady Stapleton, M.S.
Agricultural Sciences & Digital Scholarship Librarian
Marston Science Library
“…knowledge is acquired cumulatively and collaboratively—and the principal mode for sharing this knowledge is the institution of scholarly publishing.”
Objectives

1. Develop strategies and discover tools to identify credible venues for your research
2. Learn tools to identify prominent publications in your field
3. Understand warning signs of potentially fraudulent publishers
4. Develop skills to build upon trustworthy information
Have you published your research before?
Ethics of Authorship

1. Understand what merits authorship (see 4 criteria recommended by ICMJE)
2. Learn expectations of author order in the discipline (first, last, corresponding)
3. Review the role of the corresponding author
Four Criteria for Authorship from ICMJE

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.

Ethics of Authorship

1. Understand what merits authorship
   (see 4 criteria recommended by ICMJE)
2. Learn expectations of author order in the discipline
   (first, last, corresponding)
3. Review the role of the corresponding author

Ten simple rules for avoiding predatory publishing scams

Michelle Leonard,1 Suzanne Stapleton,1 Perry Collins,2 Terry Kit Selfe,3 and Tara Cataldo1

Scott Markel, Editor

10.1371/journal.pcbi.1009377
Publishing Options Abound


Image: #jp-carousel-387 in Ethics Alarms.com
Journal Selection
Personal Hierarchy of Preference

Consider what publications you & colleagues READ

Top Tier
Second Tier
Third Tier

Consider where mentors & experts in the field PUBLISH

Resource: https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00008243/allvolumes

Journal Selection
Personal Hierarchy of Preference

Journal Selection
Monitor Where Experts & Mentors Publish

Resource for UF/IFAS publications: https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00008243/allvolumes
Author Search
Example in Web of Science
Find Journals by Topic: Examples

- UF Library Catalog
- Ulrich’s Global Serials Directory*
- Third Iron’s Browzine
- Scimago (https://www.scimagojr.com)
- Web of Science Journal Citation Report*

Find Journals with Database Tools

Example: EndNote Manuscript Matcher
(Similar to Elsevier’s JournalFinder)

Example: Scimago Journal & Country Rank, SJR
Find Journals with Publishers’ Tools

Example: Springer Nature Journal Suggester.
https://journalsuggester.springer.com/#
More Tools for Finding Journals

- Enter proposed title and abstract.
- Scramble to protect scooping.
- Request matching authors, articles or publications.

Example: JANE https://jane.biosemantics.org/
Evaluating Possible Publishing Venues

Criteria

1. Appropriate scope
2. Quality content
3. Publisher
4. Scholarly impact
5. Author’s rights
6. Professional ethics
Appropriate Scope

- What is the mission of the publication? Does your research fit within the aims & scope of this venue?

- Are your findings new or novel? Will they stimulate and contribute to conversations on topics covered by the publication?

- See the description about the journal or book series.

- Read recently published articles.
Appropriate Scope

Book proposal

Journal submission
Who ensures the quality of the content published?

The editorial board establishes and maintains the quality of content published.

Who is on the editorial board? Does their expertise complement the scope of the publication?

Are diverse perspectives represented?

https://www.donotedit.com/editorial-board/
Journal of Urban Planning and Development

Aims & Scope

The Journal of Urban Planning and Development covers the application of civil engineering to such aspects of urban planning as area-wide transportation, the coordination of planning and programming of public works and utilities, and the development and redevelopment of urban areas. Subjects include environmental assessment, esthetic considerations, land use planning, underground utilities, infrastructure management, renewal legislation, transportation planning, and evaluation of the economic value of state parks.

Editorial Board

Editor:
Gang-Len Chang, Ph.D., M.ASCE, University of Maryland

Associate Editors:
Miguel Amado, Ph.D., Universidade de Lisboa
Michael D. Anderson, Ph.D., P.E., University of Alabama, Huntsville
Daniel A. Badoe, Ph.D., Tennessee Tech University
Pedro Cabral, Ph.D., Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Tiziano Cattaneo, Ph.D., University of Pavia
Hsun-Jung Cho, Ph.D., National Chiao Tung University
Eddie Chi Man Hui, Ph.D., The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Marcelo Gomes Miguel, Ph.D., Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
Soora Rasouli, Ph.D., Eindhoven University of Technology
Pier Luigi Sacco, Ph.D., IULM University
Xafeng Yang, Ph.D., University of Utah
Darin Yu, Ph.D., Montclair State University
Who ensures the quality of the content published?

Peer Review

Peer Review Process

Once an article is submitted for review, it will be evaluated by ASCE journal staff to ensure it meets our technical requirements for submission. Once the manuscript passes our technical check, the manuscript will be sent to the chief editor of the journal to begin the review process.

Most of our journals follow a review procedure wherein the chief editor will perform an initial review of the article to make sure it fits the aims and scope of the journal. Authors can review each journal’s aims and scope on the journal homepage at ascelibrary.org.

If a manuscript fits within the journal’s scope and the English is reasonable, the chief editor may send the article to an associate editor who will invite reviewers and make a decision on the manuscript. Once the associate editor submits their recommendation and the reviews, the chief editor will review the recommendation and make a final decision.
Quality of Content Published

Can you think of other indicators of quality content?
Evaluating Publishing Venues

Criteria

1. Appropriate scope
2. Quality content
3. Publisher
4. Scholarly impact
5. Author’s rights
6. Professional ethics
Publisher

- Who owns the publication?
- What are the revenue sources to produce the publication?
- What services does the publisher provide?
Publisher Examples

- **Society publisher**: The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE
- **University Press publisher**: The MIT Press
  
  Established in 1962, the MIT Press is one of the largest and most distinguished university presses in the world and a leading publisher of books and journals at the intersection of science, technology, art, social science, and design.
- **Commercial publisher**: Journalism
  
  Theory, practice and criticisms
Help Finding Information about a Publisher

Access via Databases A-Z
(https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/az.php)

https://portal.issn.org/
Scholarly Impact

- Readership: Who reads this publication? Is this your target audience? Who can read current and archived issues? Is the publication Open Access?

- Indexing: Do reputable subject databases include content from this publication?

- Citation metrics
What is Open Access Publishing?

Open Access (OA) Definition

- Green Self Archiving - authors publish in a journal and archives a freely available version of the manuscript in their institution’s repository, or in a national repository (for example, PubMed Central) or post them on other OA sites. Green journal publishers are those that allow self-archiving.

- Gold OA journals provide free, immediate access to the articles via publisher web sites that may or may not carry author fees. The Public Library of Science (PLOS) is an example.

- There are hybrid OA journals providing Gold OA for authors who pay an up-front-fee to publish on their journal’s web site.
UF Invests in Open Access

A variety of business and sustainability models are emerging to support open access publishing long-term. The Libraries directly support organizations, publications, and initiatives in the following ways:

**Read & Publish:** A Read & Publish agreement is in which the Libraries bundle payments for reading (library users are able to access and read published content) and publishing (authors are able to publish open access with no out-of-pocket costs) into a single contract. These are referred to as "transformational" agreements in that they seek to shift library funding away from traditional subscription-based reading and toward open access publishing. Examples include the Libraries' current agreements with Cambridge University Press and the Royal Society.

**Memberships:** Several content providers offer open access memberships. The Libraries pay annual membership fees which help not only to cover publication costs associated with making content open access, but often provide discounts for UF authors who wish to publish open access. Examples include the Libraries' current memberships with BioMed Central, Luminos, and Open Book Publishers.

**Subscribe to Open:** In this model, the Libraries receive a discount from publishers for annual subscription fees. If enough libraries continue to subscribe, the publisher will make the content open access and available to non-subscribers. An example is the Libraries' current agreement with Annual Reviews.

**Status of UF Open Access Publishing Fund:**
After the conclusion of a four-year program, the UF Open Access Publishing Fund is now on indefinite hiatus. Administered by the Smathers Libraries and the Faculty Senate University Libraries Committee with support from the Provost's Office, the fund has supported nearly 400 open access publications since 2017.

Authors may wish to inquire with their departments about other sources of funds, or with journals about potential fee waivers.

**Memberships & Discounts**
The Libraries partner with a range of publishers to pass on savings for open access publishing costs to our authors. In most cases, this comes in the form of a percentage discount on the article processing charge (APC); in other cases, all publications from UF authors may be published at no cost thanks to the Libraries' investments.

**American Chemical Society:** The Libraries subscribe to the complete journal package from the American Chemical Society and UF authors receive a 25% discount on APCs to make individual articles OA.

**arXiv:** The Libraries support this popular preprint archive by paying an annual fee. UF consistently ranks in the top 100 universities using arXiv.

**BioMed Central:** The Libraries pay a membership fee to BioMed Central.

https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/openaccess/ufinvests
Scholarly Impact

- Readership: Who reads this publication? Is this your target audience? Who can read current and archived issues? Is the publication Open Access?
- Indexing: Do reputable subject databases include content from this publication?
- Citation metrics
Indexing by Reputable Databases

The journal evaluation process for the Web of Science Core Collection

1. Initial Triage
   - ISSN
   - Journal Title
   - Journal Publisher
   - URL (online journals)
   - Content Access
   - Presence of Peer Review Policy
   - Contact Details

2. Editorial Triage
   - Scholarly Content
   - Article Titles and Article Abstracts in English
   - Bibliographic Information in Roman Script
   - Clarity of Language
   - Timeliness and/or Publication Volume
   - Website Functionality/Journal Format
   - Presence of Ethics Statements
   - Editorial Affiliation Details
   - Author Affiliation Details

3. Editorial Evaluation
   - Editorial Board Composition
   - Validity of Statements
   - Peer Review
   - Content Relevance
   - Grant Support Details
   - Adherence to Community Standards
   - Author Distribution
   - Appropriate Citations to the Literature

Impact Criteria

- Comparative Citation Analysis
- Author Citation Analysis
- EBSCO Citation Analysis
- Content Significance

Inclusion criteria by Web of Science

Inclusion criteria by Elsevier’s Compendex
Scholarly Impact

- Readership: Who reads this publication? Is this your target audience? Who can read current and archived issues? Is the publication Open Access?

- Indexing: Do reputable subject databases include content from this publication?

- Citation metrics: Journal Impact Factor, Journal Citation Report, Scopus, SciMago, Eigenfactor.org, Publish or Perish, CWTS Leiden University, altmetrics, h-index, etc.
Research Metrics Examples

Journal level metrics

Article level metrics

Author level metrics
Evaluating Publishing Venues for Quality

Criteria
1. Appropriate scope
2. Quality content
3. Publisher
4. Scholarly impact
5. Author’s rights
6. Professional ethics
Author’s Rights

• Copyright and licensing: who owns the published content? Is the author permitted to post pre-prints? Are permissions for re-use detailed with a Creative Commons license?

• Transparency of all author-provided fees (Article Processing Charges, APCs)

• What is the expected duration for the review process?

https://creativecommons.org/
Professional Ethics

- How are alleged instances of research misconduct handled?
- Is the publisher a member of a scholarly publishing ethics organization such as Committee on Publishing Ethics (COPE)?
- Does the publication have a unique name and secure website to avoid mimicry?

https://publicationethics.org/
Do Your Due Diligence to Avoid Untrustworthy Publishers

Assess the journal’s
• Editorial Board Composition
• Peer Review Policy
• Transparent Fees

Assess the publisher and publication before committing funds or losing rights to your research
Dear Stapleton, SC,

Hope that you’re having a good day.

We get to know your research paper titled “[title]”, which has been published in [Journal Name], and the topic of the paper has impressed us a lot.

Due to your rich academic experience and excellent research accomplishments, we will feel honored if you could submit papers to our journal and join as an Editorial Board Member or Reviewer.
Examples of Mimicry

This is NOT published by Frontiers in Research Foundation!
Predatory Publishers: The Case of OMICS Group

The New York Times

The Price for ‘Predatory’ Publishing? $50 Million

The Federal Trade Commission accused Omics International, a publisher in India, of operating hundreds of questionable scientific journals. A federal judge agreed.
Predatory Publishers: The Problems with Lists

Predatory Publishing Lists

• Jeffrey Beall’s list today
• Cabell’s Journalytics / Predatory Reports
Carefully choose where to share your scholarship

https://thinkchecksubmit.org/
https://vimeo.com/151882443

Choose the right journal for your research

https://thinkcheckattend.org/
Develop your skills as a scholarly author

• Evaluate others’ publications
• Complete trainings & tutorials
• Request reviews of your writing

As your experience grows,
• Offer to serve as a peer reviewer

https://www.springernature.com/gp/authors/campaigns/how-to-submit-a-journal-article-manuscript
Publishers’ Guidance for Book Authors: Example Wiley’s Book Proposal Checklist

https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/book-authors/prepare-your-proposal.html
I hope you are now better able to…

• Use strategies and tools to identify credible outlets for your research
• Understand warning signs of potentially fraudulent publishers
“It is a common assumption that publications are the output of research. This is a simplistic understanding of the role of publication in science. Publication can just as well be seen as a (vital) part of the research process itself. Publications and citations constitute the scientific discourse.”

Larsen & von Ins, 2010
doi: 10.1007/s11192-010-0202-z
Selected Relevant Resources

Search for Journals
• ISSN Portal [https://portal.issn.org/](https://portal.issn.org/)
• Web of Science InCites Journal Citation Reports [http://journalprofile.clarivate.com/jif/home/](http://journalprofile.clarivate.com/jif/home/)
• Scimago [www.scimagojr.com](http://www.scimagojr.com)
• Journal/Author Name Estimator (JANE), [https://jane.biosemantics.org/](https://jane.biosemantics.org/)

Publishing Ethics
• Ethics of Authorship and Peer Review tabs in Responsible Conduct of Research LibGuide: [http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/stemcr/](http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/stemcr/)
• Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), [https://publicationethics.org](https://publicationethics.org)
• Think. Check. Submit. [https://thinkchecksubmit.org/](https://thinkchecksubmit.org/)
• Think. Check. Attend. [https://thinkcheckattend.org/](https://thinkcheckattend.org/)
• Navigating Questionable Publishing Practices (UF Faculty Senate presentation, 1/30/2020, 17 min) [https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00011093/00001](https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00011093/00001)
• Deciding Where to Publish recording (version 3/18/2020, 43 min) [https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00011124/00001](https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00011124/00001)
Thank you!

Suzanne C. Stapleton
Email: suzanne@ufl.edu
Twitter: @stapletonUF