

Journal publishing guide

It is important to publish your research in a legitimate journal. The journal should present your research in the best way and reach the right target audience.

Criteria for selecting a journal

- ❖ Open access journal vs Subscription: In open access the researcher pays to publish so that the readers do not have to pay to access. In the subscription or traditional publishing model, the author does not pay to publish. In this model the reader pays to access the published content
- ❖ Journals aims and scope
- ❖ Is it indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, Scimago, DOAJ or AJOL?
- ❖ Publication timelines- how many issues a year?
- ❖ Quality of accepted articles
- ❖ Is it in any predatory list eg Beall's list
- ❖ Is it in the Library's subscribed databases such as Emerald, Taylor and Francis, Wiley, Springer, Sage etc? (See list of Library subscribed resources)

Where to publish

The following indexing sites assess journals for inclusion based on rigorous editorial process and best practices in publishing.

- ❖ [Directory of Open Access Journals](#): The directory indexes open access journals. You can check if an open access journal is listed in the directory to confirm its legitimacy
- ❖ [Scimago](#): A publicly available database that indexes journals in Scopus. It provides country and journal ranks
- ❖ [Scopus preview](#): Scopus is a citation and abstract indexing service. Although the database is subscription based, the preview interface is freely available. Searching under sources gives a listing of journals indexed by Scopus. You can filter by subject discipline
- ❖ [Web of Science Journal Master List](#): The list comprises of journals with evident rigorous editorial process as well as compliance to best publishing practices. You can search the list by discipline. The interface also provides a match manuscript feature that aids in selecting a journal based on the abstract of your manuscript.
- ❖ [AJOL](#): The platform indexes African-published scholarly journals. The journals are assessed against a set of best practices in publishing and the rating status indicated

against each journal. Clicking on the status provides more detailed information on the rating.

- ❖ [Kenyatta University Journals](#)

Selection tools

Some of the tools aid in selecting a journal based on the abstract of your manuscript. Some of the tools are on trial.

- ❖ [Web of Science Journal Match Manuscript](#)
- ❖ [Emerald find a journal](#)
- ❖ [Elsevier journal finder](#)
- ❖ [Springer Nature Journal Suggester](#)
- ❖ [Wiley Journal Finder](#): Still being developed
- ❖ [Taylor and Francis Journal suggester](#): Still being developed
- ❖ Browsing library subscribed content by subject

Identifying a Predatory Journal

This is a journal that charges Article Processing fees without providing the requisite services such as peer review and editorial services. They exploit the open access model of publishing. You can spot them by checking on the following issues:

- ❖ Does the journal promise more than it can reasonably deliver?
- ❖ Publishing unreasonably high volumes of articles
- ❖ Quality of past issues
- ❖ Is it in our subscribed content?
- ❖ Aggressive indiscriminate solicitation practices
- ❖ Quick acceptance and publication
- ❖ Unrealistically broad coverage
- ❖ Bealls list of fraudulent journals

Summary of dos and don'ts in journal publishing

- ❖ Check that you have targeted the right journal
- ❖ Edit and proof read your work
- ❖ Get a peer to look at your paper before submission
- ❖ Check your citations and references

- ❖ Confirm you have complied with author instructions and guidelines
- ❖ Confirm your facts before submission
- ❖ Get a peer to look at your paper before submission
- ❖ Be ready to revise if advised for acceptance
- ❖ Seek permission for content from co-authors
- ❖ Declare any conflict of interest
- ❖ Check for plagiarism
- ❖ Never submit an article to two publishers concurrently to avoid litigation

Sample publishing guides

- ❖ [Emerald author services](#)
- ❖ [Taylor and Francis author services](#)
- ❖ [Springer Information for journal article authors](#)
- ❖ [Wiley Author Services](#)