

# HOW TO ASSESS A JOURNAL

A.K.A. How not to publish in an undesirable journal

## Key Things to Consider When Assessing a Journal\*

\*It's up to you to weigh these factors in order to make your decision.



### Don't trust unsolicited emails

- If a call for submission does not come from a trusted source, treat it as spam.



Be similarly wary of unsolicited offers to join editorial boards or conference invitations.



### Review several issues of the journal

- Check for writing and research quality, relevance to discipline and adequate copy editing.

### While you're at it...

If your research grant or institution requires that your article be openly available, make sure the journal's policy allows this.



### Review the journal website. It should contain:

- a clear and appropriate scope;
- an editorial board with recognized experts and current contact information for them;
- a description of the peer review process;
- transparent information about whether article processing charges (APCs) or other fees are charged.



Two journals can have similar names but different reputations; don't mistake one journal for another.



### Check that any impact metrics listed by the journal are recognized and reputable

e.g. Journal Impact Factor, H-index, Eigenfactor



Beware: there are a number of made-up metrics on the Internet.

OPEN  ACCESS

Check to see if OA journals are listed at **doaj.org**

Note: Very new journals will not be listed.

## Still Unsure?



Check with your colleagues and peers in your field.



Get help from a librarian at your institution.



Visit [thinkchecksubmit.org](http://thinkchecksubmit.org) for more useful tips.

## Neutral Factors

The following factors are not indicative of journal quality:

### Lack of impact metrics

- Not all reputable journals display impact metrics.

### Geographical location of publisher

- Journal publishing is a global pursuit.

### Article Processing Charges (APCs)

- Reputable open access journals operate under a variety of business models, including many who use APCs.

### Reputation of other journals by the same publisher

- A publisher can be responsible for both highly respected and less reputable journals.



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